

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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**Coastal Commission Statement on Depositing Mudslide Debris on Santa Barbara County Beaches**

Date: January 19, 2018

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The Coastal Commission has been coordinating closely with the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which are the lead agencies undertaking the emergency removal of mudslide sediment from the roadways, debris basins and drainages, and disposing of it on local beaches. There is an exemption in the Coastal Act from permit requirements during a disaster or emergency situation that allows individuals and public agencies to move forward with work to protect life and public property from imminent danger, or to restore, repair or maintain public roads or services. They are, however, required to promptly give the commission the location, extent of the work and other details. To date, the amount on two separate beaches in Santa Barbara County at Carpinteria and Goleta Beach has not exceeded 10,000 cubic yards. The Flood Control District and Army Corps of Engineers are removing debris, rocks, vegetation and larger materials before depositing the mud. The county also has monitors on the beach, is conducting water quality testing and has created buffers around the area to ensure the safety of members of the public while surfing and swimming. All the agencies involved are trying to do this work as responsibly as possible under these unusual and tragic circumstances.