



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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19 January 2005

Ronald C. Coons
Director, Public Works Agency
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009-1600

Dear Mr. Coons:

This letter is a follow-up to our meeting of 14 January 2005. On that day, Jim O'Tousa (geologist for Ventura County) escorted Pam Irvine, Janis Hernandez, Terry Jones (all from the California Geological Survey) and myself on a tour of the La Conchita landslide. Jim provided an outstanding overview and was extremely knowledgeable about the site. We were able to access all parts of the slide and get a very good exposure to the hazards it poses. We especially enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you and other County officials to discuss our observations and insights. The La Conchita landslide certainly poses a spectrum of challenges for all parties. Repeated episodes of movement having very different styles is particularly difficult to deal with from a hazard perspective.

As a result of our meeting, I am pursuing the following issues within the Landslide Hazards Program of the USGS:

1. Release of a brief report of my observations and findings within a few weeks. (I hope to have an early draft for your comment within the next several days.)
2. Development of a fact sheet for local residents that provides information on when damaging landslides might occur, possible warning signs, and appropriate responses.
3. Explore the possibility of a longer term research project to develop rainfall threshold criteria that could be used in the development of a regional warning system.

I appreciate the opportunity to work with you on this challenging problem and hope to be able to provide you with some useful tools for dealing with it. Let me know what else I can do to help.

Sincerely,

Dr. Randall W. Jibson
Research Geologist

cc: Jim O'Tousa
Pam Irvine