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PAUL SEO, COUNCILMEMBER

August 8, 2024

Tesla Headquarters  
Attn: Mr. Elon Musk  
1 Tesla Road  
Austin, TX 78725

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SOLAR AND POWERWALL BATTERIES FOR RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY THE GREATER PORTUGUESE BEND COMPLEX LANDSLIDE**

Dear Mr. Musk,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you as the Mayor of Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV), a coastal community in Los Angeles County known for its commitment to sustainability and innovation. Recently, a significant challenge has arisen that I believe Tesla, with its visionary leadership in renewable energy, can help us address.

Rancho Palos Verdes is a small community with a major infrastructure problem on its hands. It is working against one of the largest landslides in North America. Reactivated in 1956, the ancient Greater Portuguese Bend Landslide Complex has been slowly moving for decades, damaging homes, utilities, and roads along the way. However, historic rainstorms in 2023 and 2024 accelerated its movement to an unprecedented rate of 9-12 inches per week.

In particular, the landslide has significantly damaged utilities including gas, power, sewer, and communication lines. On July 29, 2024, SoCalGas abruptly cut natural gas service to 135 homes, with no indication it will be restored in the future; on July 30, Southern California Edison notified over 500 homes that power may also be discontinued if conditions warrant. Since then, residents have been scrambling to find alternate means of heating water, cooking meals, and warming homes in preparation for a potentially rainy winter season.

While our community is resilient, this situation presents a unique opportunity to turn a setback into a showcase of sustainable living. Given Tesla's advancements in solar technology and energy storage solutions, we see a potential partnership to equip these homes with solar panels and Powerwall batteries. This initiative would not only provide these residents with immediate relief, but also demonstrate the viability of clean energy solutions in a real-world scenario, further solidifying Tesla's role as a leader in the green energy revolution.

By working together, we can turn this challenge into a powerful statement on the future of energy, showing the world that sustainability is not just an ideal, but also a practical solution to the problems of today.

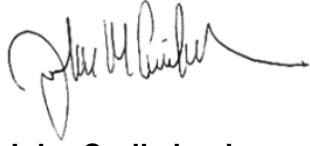
**Tesla, Inc.**  
**August 8, 2024**  
**Page 2**

We invite you and your team to tour the landslide with us to truly understand the scale of this disaster, and it would be an honor to discuss this potential partnership with you at your earliest convenience.

For more information on this issue, please read this [article that was in the Los Angeles Times](#). It includes some telling photographs and news about the recent gas shutoffs.

Thank you for considering our request and for your continued contributions to the advancement of renewable energy.

Warm regards,



**John Cruikshank**  
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**cc:** Rancho Palos Verdes City Council  
Ara Mihranian, City Manager  
Catherine Jun, Rancho Palos Verdes Deputy City Manager