UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DISASTER RESILIENCE NETWORK

CSSC: Written Public Comment for the Record - 12MAR2026

My name is Nicolás Alberto Pascal, Founder and Director of the University of California's Disaster Resilience Network - where we are dedicated to bridging institutional silos and connecting expertise across and beyond the University of California system in service of disaster resilience and public safety.

I regret that I am unable to join the Commission in person today and am grateful to Executive Director Sara McBride for kindly submitting this written comment on my behalf. I very much look forward to joining the Commission in person at its April meeting at Caltech in Pasadena, where I hope to expand on these remarks in detail.

UCDRN is pleased to recognize the Commission's foresight in appointing Executive Director McBride to lead your vital organization. Her visionary leadership bodes well for those of us working to advance collective efforts to address the significant and rapidly increasing threats that compounding disasters and broader polycrisis dynamics pose to communities across California and around the world.

In this spirit, we also wish to recognize the leadership of Scott Wiener and his colleagues in advancing California Senate Bill 895, which represents, among other things, an important opportunity to extend California's longstanding leadership in seismic safety toward a broader "seismic-plus" framework capable of most effectively addressing interconnected and cascading risks across infrastructure, climate, public health, and community systems. Efforts such as SB 895 reflect the kind of integrated, systemwide approach to hazard and risk reduction that UCDRN was created to advance.

The University of California is uniquely positioned to support this work. With 10 campuses, three national laboratories, and six academic health centers, our unparalleled system is home to more than 300,000 students. With the proper organization and support, the extraordinary breadth of this talent can represent the most powerful disaster-risk-reduction cluster in the world.

UCDRN stands ready to work alongside colleagues, stakeholders, and community partners across and beyond the University of California to help realize the vision of a

more resilient California that efforts such as SB 895 and the California Seismic Safety Commission seek to advance.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this comment for the record.



Nicolás Alberto Pascal

Founder and Director
UCDRN

Note submitted on behalf of UCDRN, led by Chairs ***Dr. LeRoy Westerling,*** *Professor and Chair of Management of Complex Systems at UC Merced;* ***Dr. Amir AghaKouchak,*** *Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth System Science at UC Irvine;* ***Secretary Janet Napolitano****, Professor of Public Policy and Founder of UC Berkeley's Institute for Security and Governance* ***Dr. David Oglesby****, Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at UC Riverside; and* ***Dr. Raquel Izumi****, resilience strategist and advisor*