

COUNTY OF MONTEREY

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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March 11, 2023

Director Nancy Ward
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
3650 Schriever Avenue
Mather, CA 95655

Subject: State of Emergency and California Disaster Assistance Act Request- March 2023 Atmospheric River

Dear Director Ward,

An atmospheric river event carried rain across Monterey County beginning on March 9, 2023, which caused widespread localized flooding and power outages across the County. Most notably the massive amount of water caused a failure of the Pajaro Levee which has caused flooding of the entire town of Pajaro along with wide swaths of agricultural land. More than 1,700 residents have been displaced, and the town is likely to remain uninhabitable for a significant amount of time while debris removal and repairs are conducted. Flooding is also occurring along the Salinas River and another atmospheric river is anticipated to arrive on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, which will further exacerbate dangerous river conditions along the Salinas River. The Department of Emergency Management activated the Emergency Operations Center for the County to its highest level which necessitated assigning staff from County departments, other cities, state agencies and disaster assistance organizations. Extensive flood damages and flood fighting efforts still taking place across the County and further impacts are still anticipated, which will likely continue to cause damage to public infrastructure, homes, agricultural land, and impact communities across Monterey County.

Local resources are insufficient to manage this incident and we are seeking continuing support from the State of California. On March 8, 2023, the Governor added Monterey County in his State Proclamation of Emergency. The County respectfully requests the opportunity to apply for California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) and that CDAA be made available for Operational Area agencies who responded to the storm and who suffered damages. Additionally, due to the extensive damages, the County requests the State request a Presidential Disaster Declaration and explore if there may be other assistance measures available for individual community members and public agencies affected by flooding impacts.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:


Tracy Molino

Interim Emergency Services Manager

Cc: Ryan Buras, Deputy Director, Recovery Operations
Edward Westfall, Deputy Director, Response Operations
Byron Green, Emergency Service Coordinator, Coastal Region II, Response Division
Derick Earl, Disaster Assistance Program Specialist II
Chris Valenzano, Emergency Services Coordinator, Southern Region