



CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

March 17, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1020 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Pro Tem, California State Senate
1020 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly
1020 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Atmospheric River Flooding Disaster Relief for Undocumented Residents

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

On behalf of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, we are writing to respectfully request emergency resources for undocumented residents in Monterey County who have been severely impacted and displaced due to flooding resulting from the current Atmospheric River the State is experiencing.

Many areas of Monterey County, most significantly the small, severely disadvantaged community of Pajaro, have been devastated by flood impacts and is home to a significant population of our undocumented families. A breach of the Pajaro River levee resulted in the evacuation of 2,000 residents and impacted 800 homes, and the flood event is still underway. Other communities within the County that have similar populations of disadvantaged farm workers that have been similarly impacted.

Monterey County is home to a large group of undocumented community members and has the highest percentage of noncitizens of any California County at 21.7% (2018 Public Policy Institute of California report). The County's immigrant population, including undocumented immigrants, is a critical component of the community and labor force, especially for the County's two largest industries – agriculture and hospitality. The contributions of immigrants to the economic, cultural, and social well-being of our community are a source of pride for the County.

While the federal government is assisting our State and residents with aid to address the storm disasters we have experienced this year, it falls short of helping one of the most vulnerable populations in the Nation and State; undocumented residents. Undocumented residents do not have access to many of the most needed FEMA disaster relief funds and assistance, such as FEMA Individuals and Households cash award, rental assistance, and Disaster Unemployment Assistance, unless they have U.S. citizen children or qualified non-citizen children.

(CHAIR)

Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes

(VICE CHAIR)

Senator Lena A. Gonzalez

SENATORS

Marie Alvarado-Gil, Bob Archuleta, Anna Caballero, María Elena Durazo, Susan Talamantes Eggman, Melissa Hurtado, Monique Limón, Caroline Menjivar, Steve Padilla, Susan Rubio

ASSEMBLYMEMBERS

Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, David Alvarez, Joaquin Arambula, Mia Bonta, Lisa Calderon, Juan Carrillo, Wendy Carrillo, Eduardo Garcia, Liz Ortega, Blanca Pacheco, Sharon Quirk-Silva, James Ramos, Speaker Anthony Rendon, Eloise Gómez Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Freddie Rodriguez, Blanca E. Rubio, Miguel Santiago, Esmeralda Soria, Avelino Valencia, Carlos Villapudua, Rick Chavez Zbur

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Additionally, many undocumented community members in Monterey County will be out of work for an extended period. The flooding has damaged over 20,000 acres of local agriculture and farm lands, causing a significant loss of jobs. The County's undocumented agriculture workers are also not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits, leaving those individuals and families struggling without resources and access to their basic needs.

For these reasons, the California Latino Legislative Caucus respectfully requests emergency resources for our undocumented residents in the State of California. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Should you have further questions or concerns, please contact Dulce Ramirez, Principal Consultant for the California Latino Legislative Caucus, in Assemblymember Cervantes's Capitol Office at 916-319-2058 or Dulce.Ramirez@asm.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

SABRINA CERVANTES
Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus
Assemblymember, 58th District

LENA GONZALEZ
Vice Chair, CA Latino Legislative Caucus
Senator, 33rd District

ROBERT RIVAS
Assemblymember, 29th District

ANNA CABALLERO
Senator, 14th District

CC: Luis A. Alejo, Board Chair, Monterey County Board of Supervisors

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