

# County of Monterey



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May 15, 2023

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Room 5250  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 513 (Rodriguez) California Individual Assistance Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Rodriguez:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support your measure Assembly Bill (AB) 513, which will establish the California Individual Assistance Act to be administered by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). This measure will provide timely and direct assistance to families and individuals who have suffered harm due to local and state declared disasters – but would not be eligible for or may not warrant federal disaster assistance for individuals.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Cal OES have been unable to provide assistance to the most vulnerable communities where survivors have few paths to recovery. If a local disaster doesn't meet the criteria for federal assistance, critical aid from FEMA will be out of reach for many families and individuals who have survived a disaster and California does not have a program in place to help.

FEMA, in evaluating a Governor's request for a major Presidential Disaster Declaration, considers whether a state has an individual assistance program for disaster survivors. FEMA recommends states establish such a program as it is inherently beneficial to those impacted by a disaster and enhances the likelihood of FEMA approving a Governor's request for a major Presidential Disaster Declaration. AB 513 satisfies a recommendation from FEMA for states to establish an individual assistance program and enhances the likelihood of future approval of requests from the Governor for major Presidential disaster declarations.

This bill also recognizes and leverages the capabilities of local governments and community-based organizations to deliver culturally competent emergency response and recovery services to displaced residents. Specifically, this bill will assist with local agency and community-based organization personnel costs, equipment costs, translation services, and the cost of supplies and materials used during disaster response activities, incurred as a result of a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor.

AB 513 provides local governments, community-based organizations, and individuals, with the assistance they need to quickly recover from a disaster. It is for these reasons that the County of Monterey supports AB 513.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County of Monterey's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis A. Alejo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "A".

Luis A. Alejo, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Anna Caballero, 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)