

MONTEREY COUNTY



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June 6, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Request to Extend Operations of Pajaro FEMA Disaster Recovery Center through July 20, 2023

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, Congressman Panetta and Congresswoman Lofgren:

On behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, we write to request your assistance in working with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to allow the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Pajaro to continue to operate in the community until the deadline for disaster victims to register for Individual Assistance (IA) for DR-4699-CA on July 20, 2023.

Currently, the FEMA Disaster Services Assistance Team is planning to demobilize the DRC at the Pajaro Park on June 17, 2023 and has communicated their intention to not extend the operations of the program beyond that date either at the Pajaro Park location or any alternate location.

The continued physical presence of FEMA in the community is necessary to aid community members in disaster recovery, response to assistance denials, and to answer other disaster recovery related recovery questions. Additionally, much of the Pajaro community has access and functional needs – particularly those who speak Indigenous languages, those who are not literate, and those who experience a digital divide and do not have access or the ability to utilize technology for telephonic or online FEMA IA registration.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey respectfully requests your assistance in working with FEMA to continue operations of the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center in Pajaro until July 20, 2023. Thank you in advance for your assistance and support of the community of Pajaro.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair
Monterey County Board of Supervisors