



COUNTY OF VENTURA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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January 9, 2024

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

Dear Director Ward,

On December 21, 2023 between 1:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m., residents in the cities of Port Hueneme, Oxnard, and Ventura were awakened by a severe rainstorm that produced more than 6 inches of rainfall in the city of Oxnard alone. According to the National Weather Service, the reported rainfall was as much as 3.17 inches in one hour, which is the highest rate recorded for the Oxnard and Port Hueneme area in at least 100 years. To make matters worse, many of the locations that experienced flooding are not within Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood zones, therefore most residents did not carry flood insurance. This torrential rain caused extensive street flooding as well as flood damage to many homes, businesses, and vehicles within the cities of Port Hueneme, Oxnard, and Ventura. The significant flooding caused a mandatory evacuation of the Hueneme Bay neighborhood, a senior community of 773 homes.

According to our Ventura County Office of Emergency Services, flood damage has been reported to 422 residences so far, multiple commercial structures, and municipal facilities. In addition, over 600 motor vehicles were damaged and/or destroyed due to extensive street flooding in areas noted with the highest poverty percentile according to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

The Cities of Port Hueneme and Oxnard declared a "Local State of Emergency" via Resolution on December 27, 2023, and January 2, 2024 respectively. In addition to their emergency proclamations, both jurisdictions have prepared memos requesting State and Federal Assistance.

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors is requesting your assistance with funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA), the Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program and the FEMA Individual Assistance Program. Given the lack of flood history and subsequent lack of flood insurance policy holders, this disaster assistance will be crucial to an effective recovery. Alternatively, we are also requesting that the Governor explore options for a one-time funding with the intent to establish a local assistance grant program. This critical funding would be methodically distributed to those vulnerable members of our community most severely impacted by this disaster.

For questions or additional information, please contact Ventura County Office of Emergency Services Director Patrick Maynard at (805) 797-3623 or email Patrick.maynard@ventura.org.

Sincerely,



Vianey Lopez
Supervisor, Fifth District



Matt LaVere
Supervisor, First District



Jeff Gorell
Supervisor, Second District



Kelly Long
Supervisor, Third District



Janice Parvin
Supervisor, Fourth District

CC: California Governor Gavin Newsom

Congressmember Julia Brownley, 26th Congressional District Federal Representative

Congressmember Salud Carbajal, 24th Congressional District Federal Representative

State Senator Monique Limon, 19th Senate District State Representative

State Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 38th Assembly District State Representative

State Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, 42nd Assembly District State Representative