



COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Elsa Jimenez, Director of Health

Administration Clinic Services Public Health
Behavioral Health Emergency Medical Services Public Administrator/Public Guardian
Environmental Health/Animal Services

Nationally Accredited for Providing Quality Health Services

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR THE MARCH 2023 STORMS

WHEREAS, commencing in early March 2023, severe storms impacted Monterey County communities and residents resulting in storm damage and flooding, particularly in areas adjacent to rivers and other waterways in the county; and

WHEREAS, damage and breach of levees in the county caused localized flooding in certain communities, including the community of Pajaro, which resulted in intrusion of water into structures including businesses and homes; and

WHEREAS, the Storms have caused damage to open spaces, structures and dwellings, thus compromising containers with hazardous waste, which represents a substantial present or potential threat to human health and the environment.

WHEREAS, circumstances of potential release of hazardous materials from containers compromised by storm damage and flooding, by reason of the magnitude and frequency of the storms, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and will require the combined forces of a mutual aid region, regions, and state; and

WHEREAS, I, Dr. Edward Moreno, am the Health Officer of the County of Monterey; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code, I find that conditions of potential exposure to hazardous waste exist, resulting in an immediate threat to the health and safety of the public in the areas impacted by the flooding; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 101085 of the California Health and Safety Code, Monterey County needs other political subdivisions and State agencies to provide mutual aid, including personnel, equipment, and other available resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors' next regular meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Edward Moreno, Health Officer of the County of Monterey, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and state statute, particularly California Health & Safety Code sections 101080 and 101085, HEREBY DECLARE A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY to exist in the affected areas of the County of Monterey due to the March 2023 Storms; and

IT IS HEREBY RECOGNIZED, in accordance with section 101085 of the California Health and Safety Code, that other political subdivisions have full power to provide mutual aid to areas affected by this local health emergency, and that state agencies, in particular the California Office of Emergency Services and the California Environmental Protection Agency and its departments including the Department of Toxic Substances Control, may provide mutual aid, including personnel equipment, and other available resources, to assist political subdivisions during this local health emergency; and

PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 101080, the local health emergency shall not remain in effect for a period more than seven days unless it has been ratified by the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors. If the emergency has not been ratified within seven days by the Board of Supervisors, I may declare a new local health emergency. If ratified by the Board of Supervisors, section 101080 requires the Board of Supervisors to review, at least every 30 days until the local health emergency is terminated, the need for continuing the local health emergency and shall terminate the local health emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant the termination; and

I DIRECT, that as soon as hereafter possible this declaration be filed with the Board of Supervisors and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this declaration; and

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I set my signature to be affixed this 22nd day of March 2023.

Edward Moreno, MD, MPH
Health Officer of the County of Monterey