

Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Resolution

Resolution No.: 23-178

Adopt a Resolution Recognizing the Dedicated Work of County of Monterey Employees, County of Santa Cruz. Employees, First Responders, Community-Based Organizations, Community Volunteers, the, Red Cross Private Contractors and Local, State and Federal Agencies during the January and March 2023 storms and floods.....

WHEREAS, During January and March 2023, a series of major storms and floods devastated the County of Monterey causing hundreds of millions in damage to homes, businesses, agriculture and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, On March 11, 2023, just around midnight, the Pajaro River levee breached, resulting in the mass flooding in the community of Pajaro and causing the immediate evacuation of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of people were displaced and evacuated to the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville and eventually other local emergency shelters in Salinas, Castroville, Cabrillo College in Aptos and the Veterans Hall in Watsonville, of which the Fairgrounds Shelter operated for a total of 65 days; and

WHEREAS, The storm impacts included: 1 injury, 300 rescues, 3,000 homes threatened and nearly 10,000 people evacuated; and

WHEREAS, There were a total of 240 damaged structures (42 single-family residence, 81 multi-family residence, and 76 commercial) and 7 destroyed structures; and

WHEREAS, A Local Assistance Center, a Community-based Resource Center, and two Disaster Recovery Centers at Pajaro Park and the Old Watsonville City Hall have provided key resources to storms and flood victims after the March storms; and

WHEREAS, State contractor, Emerson General Engineering Contractors, rapidly resealed the Pajaro River levee breach working 24/7 around the clock while county contractors, such as Granite Construction and Don Chapin Construction, provided key services to stabilize the levees throughout the storms; and

WHEREAS, Over 200 County of Monterey employees and dozens of County of Santa Cruz employees were activated to work and assist alongside multi-agencies in various capacities during these recent winter storms and atmospheric river events, including providing a wide range of critical services at our various emergency evacuation shelters; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of other dedicated employees from first responder agencies, communities-based organizations, the Red Cross and local, state and federal agencies from around the state and nation came to provide critical assistance and services; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of dedicated local community volunteers, non-profits, philanthropic foundations, businesses and artists provided donations, food, financial contributions and volunteered countless hours to assist our residents and small businesses in need; and

WHEREAS, The ability of the County of Monterey to be responsive and effective depends on the outstanding performance and collaboration with its dedicated employees, community volunteers and many partners.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the county and all residents thereof, hereby commends the County of Monterey Employees, County of Santa Cruz Employees, First Responders, Community-Based Organizations, Community Volunteers, the Red Cross, Private Contractors and Local, State and Federal Agencies for their dedicated work during the January and March 2023 storms and floods. We thank you for your unyielding and dedicated public service to the people of Pajaro and other flood impacted communities throughout Monterey County, and we express our sincere gratitude for your exemplary service during our communities' greatest time of need.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 23rd day of May 2023



Handwritten signatures and printed names of Chair Supervisor Luis A. Alejo, Vice Chair/Supervisor Glenn Church, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Supervisor Wendy Root Askew, and Supervisor Mary L. Adams.