

During the March event, the massive amount of precipitation overwhelmed the watershed and waterways brought by the atmospheric river caused a breach of the Pajaro River Levee which has caused flooding of the entire town of Pajaro along with wide swaths of agricultural land. Approximately 3,000 residents were displaced and approximately 300 people were rescued from the flood waters.

Approximately 250 residential structures were damaged or destroyed by the flood, in addition to major damage to the local middle school and 80 commercial structures. While the damage assessments concluded around 250 homes with major damage or destroyed, it is important to note that the impacts to the community far exceed the reported numbers. Nearly every home in Pajaro has been impacted.

Many residences are likely to remain uninhabitable for a significant amount of time while debris removal and repairs are conducted. As such, census counts at the emergency shelter which remains open, have remained consistently high, as it was hazardous for community members to remain in their homes or renters are unable to return home.

The series of atmospheric river events of March 2023 resulted in a Federal Disaster Declaration, as well as state, county and local emergency proclamations.

Since March 9, 2023, the conditions warranting and necessitating the initial proclamation of the existence of a local emergency have not been resolved and immediate action continues to be necessary to mitigate the effects of the local emergency. Therefore, an extension of the Proclamation of the Local Emergency is being requested and would last another sixty (60) days from the date of its ratification.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Numerous County departments and other agencies have participated in the response to the emergency including the Department of Emergency Management, Sheriff Department, Information Technology Department, Department of Social Services, Health Department, County Administrative Office, Public Works, Facilities, and Parks Department, County Counsel, the US Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA-National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Services, CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, CA Coastal Commission, and the Water Resources Agency.

FINANCING:

The Finance Section of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated and continues to compile costs associated with response and recovery related to this emergency. The costs and the impacts to the County have been presented and will continue to be evaluated and presented under separate financial reports and request for funding augmentations to the Board by the EOC Finance Section.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

- Economic Development
- Administration
- Health & Human Services
- Infrastructure
- Public Safety

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Attachments:

Draft Resolution