

MEMORANDUM

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From: Maytak Chin
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By Electronic Mail

To: Board of Administration and its Committees
Federated City Employees' Retirement System

Date: March 16, 2023

Re: **Board of Administration's Factual Findings for Teleconferencing Under California Assembly Bill 361 ("AB 361")**

Dear Board and Committee Members:

Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 361 into law as an urgency bill, which became effective October 1, 2021. AB 361 allows legislative bodies, such as public retirement boards, to meet virtually and remotely using abbreviated teleconferencing procedures *only if* the legislative bodies make certain factual findings. Gov't Code § 54953(e)(1). Legislative bodies include the full Board and each of its separate standing committees. Gov't Code § 54952. Accordingly, if there is a proclaimed state of emergency, both the full Board and each of its committees must separately make the factual findings specified under AB 361 after October 1, 2021 until January 1, 2024 (the date on which AB 361 sunsets), if the legislative body seeks to avail itself to AB 361's abbreviated teleconferencing procedures.

I. AB 361's Required Factual Findings

To elect to utilize AB 361's abbreviated teleconferencing procedures, the factual findings a legislative body must are:

- A state of emergency has been formally proclaimed; *and*
- *Either:*
 - State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing at the time the legislative body holds the meeting (Gov't Code § 54953(e)(1)(A)); *or*
 - "The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees." (Gov't Code § 54953(e)(1)(B)).

The legislative body must continue to make such factual findings by majority vote every 30 days thereafter to justify the continuance of meeting virtually and remotely under AB 361.

II. Materials for Board's Consideration to Aid Factual Findings

Enclosed with this memorandum, we have included the following materials to aid you in making factual findings in light of AB 361's requirements, which provide as follows:

- **Exhibit A: Proclamation of a State of Emergency, dated March 8, 2023** – Governor Newsom's proclamation of a state of emergency in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and other Northern Bay Area counties as a result of winter storms, including an atmospheric river system, pursuant to Government Code § 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act.
- **Exhibit B: San José City Council Resolution No. 2023-39, dated February 28, 2023** – City Council's extension of the proclamation of a local emergency based on a continuing public safety risk for high water flows and flooding in waterways throughout the City, which relevantly finds that:
 - "The National Weather Services has predicted that February and March 2023 would remain wet and produce higher than normal rainfall." Resolution No. 2023-39 at p. 2.
 - "The threat of flooding continues along the waterways, as the reservoirs remain full and the ground remains saturated, which creates significant runoff from the mountains." *Id.*
 - "The prediction of above average rain through the rainy season indicates public safety along the waterways remains at risk due to high flows in the waterways, with the potential for flooding." *Id.*
 - "[T]he City Council does hereby find that the above described conditions of extreme peril are on-going and the emergency should not be terminated at this time[.]" *Id.*
- **Exhibit C: City of San José Flash Report #1: Atmospheric River Preparation and Monitoring, dated March 9, 2023** – City of San José Emergency Operations Center's communication that the City activated an Incident Management Team to prepare for impacts of the upcoming atmospheric river, and that the National Weather Service issued a flood watch and a high wind advisory related to the winter storms.
- **Exhibit D: Flood Watch Advisory, dated March 9, 2023** – The National Weather Service's flood watch advisory for the San Francisco-Bay Area, including the Santa Cruz

Mountains and the Santa Clara Valley. The advisory specified that the “flood watch remains in effect” and that potential impacts include “[e]xcessive runoff [that] may result in flooding of rivers, creeks, streams, and other low-lying and flood-prone locations.” Flood Watch Advisory at p. 1.

- **Exhibit E: Flood Safety Brochure** – Santa Cruz County’s brochure on flood safety, which specifies that during all storms:
 - Individuals should not “try to cross a flowing stream where water is above [their] knees. Even water as low as 6 inches deep may cause [individuals] to be swept away by strong currents.” Brochure at p. 1 (Section Titled, “During All Storms”).
 - Individuals should not “try to drive over a flooded road. This may cause [them] to be both stranded and trapped.” *Id.*
 - “If [an individual’s] car stalls, abandon it IMMEDIATELY and seek higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.” *Id.*
 - “Avoid unnecessary trips. If you must travel during the storm, dress in warm, loose layers of clothing. Advise others of your destination.” *Id.*

Based on the above, it appears that a proclaimed state of emergency is in effect due to winter storms and that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees, including affected trustees of this Board who would need to travel from Santa Cruz County.

If these factual findings are accepted and determined by majority vote based on the materials presented, the Board and its committees would be allowed to continue to meet virtually and remotely under AB 361’s abbreviated teleconferencing procedures for the next 30 days until April 15, 2023. However, if the Board and/or its committees’ next meeting comes after April 15, 2023, then the Board and/or its committees with such meetings must hold a Special Meeting under AB 361 before April 15, 2023 and make additional factual findings to meet virtually after April 15, 2023.

Exhibit A

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS on March 1, 2023, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in 13 counties as a result of winter storms that struck California beginning in late February, and which have continued to significantly impact those 13 identified counties, as well as several additional counties across California; and

WHEREAS these storms, including an atmospheric river system, are forecasted to continue through mid-March, and, in addition to previously issued freeze warnings and frost advisories due to rapidly declining temperatures, the National Weather Service has issued flood watch warnings in recent days; and

WHEREAS heavy rain, snow, and gusty winds caused by these storms continue throughout the State, especially in the mountains and foothill regions, resulting in significant travel impacts and residents being snowed in or stranded; and

WHEREAS these storms continue to bring significant precipitation, avalanche and flood concerns, and triggered evacuation warnings; and

WHEREAS these storms continue to damage and force the closure of federal and state highways and roads, and have also damaged and continue to threaten critical infrastructure, homes, and buildings; and

WHEREAS these storms, including the forecasted atmospheric river system, will compound the complexities of recovery in the affected counties that are still responding and continue to respond to impacts of these storms; and

WHEREAS due to the sustained force and longevity of persistent heavy rain and snow, there are multiple cumulative and compounding effects which have already strained local and state resources, and the impacts of these storms will be exacerbated by the upcoming atmospheric river system; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to these storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by these storms, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625, I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by these storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of these storms.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and

statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Lake, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Yuba counties.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All operative provisions contained in my March 1, 2023, State of Emergency Proclamation are hereby incorporated and applicable, as appropriate, to Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Lake, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Yuba counties as a result of the storms identified in this and the previous Proclamation.
2. Any fairgrounds the Office of Emergency Services determines suitable to assist individuals impacted by these storms in the counties identified in this and the March 1, 2023, State of Emergency Proclamation, shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, Government Code section 8589. The Office of Emergency Services shall notify the fairgrounds of the intended use and may immediately utilize the fairgrounds without the fairground board of directors' approval.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have
hereunto set my hand and caused
the Great Seal of the State of
California to be affixed this 8th day
of March 2023.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
Secretary of State

Exhibit B

RESOLUTION NO. RES2023-39

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SAN JOSE TO EXTEND THE PROCLAMATION OF
EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY ISSUED BY THE
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES ON JANUARY 3,
2023, BASED UPON A CONTINUING PUBLIC SAFETY
RISK FOR HIGH WATER FLOWS AND FLOODING IN
WATERWAYS THROUGHOUT THE CITY**

WHEREAS, Section 8.08.210 of Chapter 8.08 of Title 8 of the San José Municipal Code empowers the Director of the Emergency Services (City Manager or Designee) to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency if the Council of the City of San José ("City") is not in session, and requires that the City Council shall take action to ratify the proclamation within seven (7) days thereafter, or the proclamation shall have no further force or effect; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Government Code Section 8680.9, a local emergency is a condition of extreme peril to persons or property proclaimed as such by the governing body of the local agency affected by a natural or manmade disaster; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of a local emergency proclamation is to provide extraordinary police powers, immunity for emergency actions, authorize issuance of orders and regulations, and activate pre-established emergency provisions; and

WHEREAS, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen and continue to be present within the City, based on the following:

1. The City activated its Emergency Operations Center ("EOC") on December 30, 2022 in anticipation of potential flooding from multiple significant atmospheric rivers, producing heavy rains and causing inflows into waterways throughout the City, including but not limited to Ross, Los Gatos, Fisher, Coyote, and Penitencia Creeks

and the Guadalupe River, that could result in high stream flows and potential flooding in surrounding areas.

2. The National Weather Services has predicted that February and March 2023 would remain wet and produce higher than normal rainfall.
3. The threat of flooding continues along the waterways, as the reservoirs remain full and the ground remains saturated, which creates significant runoff from the mountains.
4. The prediction of above average rain through the rainy season indicates public safety along the waterways remains at risk due to high flows in the waterways, with the potential for flooding.
5. High wind conditions add additional threats as tree roots in saturated soils cannot grip the soil and may topple onto structures and residents.
6. The current conditions of saturated soils and significant run off will contribute to increased water in waterways throughout the City, including but not limited to Ross, Los Gatos, Fisher, Coyote, and Penitencia Creeks and the Guadalupe River.
7. The most significant concern is for our unhoused residents who live anywhere within the banks of waterways throughout the City, including but not limited to the areas listed above.

WHEREAS, the City Council does hereby find that the above described conditions of extreme peril are on-going and the emergency should not be terminated at this time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE THAT:

1. The Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency, as issued by the Director of Emergency Services on January 3, 2023, and affirmed by the City Council on January 10, 2023 is hereby extended.
2. The City Council has reviewed the need for continuing the declaration of local emergency and finds based on substantial evidence that the public interest and

necessity require the continuance of the proclamation of local emergency related to significant rainfall resulting from the anticipated atmospheric rivers.

3. Said local emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until terminated by the City Council of the City of San José.
4. The Director of the Office of Emergency Services is hereby directed to report to the City Council within sixty (60) days on the need for further continuing the local emergency.

ADOPTED this 28th day of February, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: BATRA, CANDELAS, COHEN, DAVIS, DOAN, FOLEY,
JIMENEZ, ORTIZ, TORRES, KAMEI, MAHAN.

NOES: NONE.

ABSENT: NONE.

DISQUALIFIED: NONE.

ATTEST:



TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk



MATT MAHAN
Mayor

Exhibit C

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Emergency public information notifications and updates will be provided below.

Translations available in: [Español](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [中文](#)

ATMOSPHERIC RIVER PREPARATION AND MONITORING

Date/Time of Update: March 9, 2023, 2:30 p.m.

SUMMARY:

On Wednesday, March 8, the City activated an Incident Management Team as part of the Emergency Operations Center to prepare for impacts of the upcoming atmospheric river. The National Weather Service (<https://www.weather.gov/>) has issued a flood watch and a high wind advisory from Thursday at 1:00 p.m. through Friday at 4:00 p.m.

Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency on Wednesday, March 8 to support storm response and relief efforts in 21 counties, including Santa Clara County.

The City will continue communicating with Valley Water (<https://www.valleywater.org/>) and the National Weather Service (<https://www.weather.gov/>) to actively monitor rain, wind and potential flooding concerns. City staff are engaging with the community and unhoused residents living in potentially impacted areas to ensure their safety.

Proclamation of Local Emergency and Evacuation Order:

On Tuesday, January 3, the City of San José issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency and Evacuation Order (<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showdocument?id=93284>). The order is still in effect as it was renewed for 60 days, beginning February 28.

Evacuation Announcements along San José Creeks and Waterways:

On Thursday, March 9, the San José Police Department, in support of the Office of Emergency Management, will use long-range acoustic devices (LRAD) and loudspeaker announcements to communicate existing evacuation orders to unhoused residents along Guadalupe River, Coyote, and Penitencia Creeks.

Potential Flood Hot Spots:

Valley Water and City Field Inspection Teams are monitoring all creeks and rivers in San José. Areas with the highest risk of water rising rapidly include:

- Ross Creek at Cherry Avenue
- Guadalupe River at West Alma Avenue
- Upper Penitencia Creek at Mabury and King Roads
- Coyote Creek downstream (north) of Berryessa Road
- Berryessa Creek at Cropley Avenue

The potential areas of swiftly rising water are not limited to only these locations. To learn if your home or business is in a Special Flood Hazard Area, please visit <http://www.valleywater.org/floodzone>.

24-Hour Emergency Evacuation Center:

The City of San José and American Red Cross are opening a 24-hour emergency evacuation center at Seven Trees Community Center (3590 Cas Drive). The center will be open for intake by 4:00 p.m. today. Individuals, families, pets and service animals are welcome. No prior referral or reservation is needed. Hand washing stations, portable restrooms, showers, cots, and laundry stations are available onsite.

Warming Centers:

Warming Centers are available to anyone who needs to dry off, warm up, use a restroom, and charge devices during the storm. Amenities include heated rooms, Wi-Fi, and power outlets to charge devices. Service animals only are allowed at warming center locations.

All libraries and community centers are warm spaces open to the public during regular hours. Visit <https://www.sjpl.org/locations-table> for library hours and <http://bit.ly/sjcommunitycenters> for community center hours.

Overnight Warming Locations (OWLs) are available at Roosevelt Community Center (901 East Santa Clara Street) and West Valley Branch Library (1243 San Tomas Aquino Road). OWLs are open nightly from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Spots are by referral only and the public can call 408-539-2105 or email owlreferrals@homefirstscc.org.

The County offers additional shelters. Unhoused individuals seeking shelter can call the County's Here4You Call Center at 408-385-2400 to find placement within the County.

Power Outages:

For information on power outages in your area visit the PG&E Outage Center Map (<https://pgealerts.alerts.pge.com/outagecenter/>).

Stay Informed:

- Monitor the news and follow the City of San José on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CityofSanJose/>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/CityofSanJose>) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/cityofsanjose/>) for regular updates.
- Be flood ready if your home is in an area prone to flooding (<https://www.valleywater.org/are-you-flood-ready>).
- If flooding occurs in the streets, road closure information will be shared at <http://bit.ly/SJStormPrep>.
- For information about City of San José park and park facility closures, visit <https://bit.ly/SJParkClosures>.
- For more storm preparedness resources and tips, visit <http://bit.ly/SJStormPrep>.

Be Prepared:

- For sandbag locations, visit <http://www.valleywater.org/flooding-safety/flood-ready/sandbags>. Filled sandbags are available at the City of San José Alviso, Central Service, Mabury, and South Corporation Yards.

Loose sand and bags are available at the City's West Yard – bring your own shovel.

- Move vehicles to higher ground if you are parked in a potential flood hot spot.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Saturated soil and high winds create risk for downed trees.
- Place valuable items in the safest and highest place in your home.
- Be ready to leave with any medications and personal items on a moment's notice.
- Pack a bag with important documents, medicines, and spare clothes.
- Charge devices and locate flashlights and batteries.
- Report blocked storm drains, downed trees, and other storm-related issues by calling 311 or 408-794-1900.

Road Safety During Floods:

- When driving, turn your car around if you encounter water on the road that looks to be 6 inches or deeper—or if you can't tell how deep it is. Be especially cautious at night or in low-visibility conditions. Remember – Turn around, don't drown!
- Stay away from creeks, rivers, and other areas subject to sudden flooding.
- Move your vehicle to higher ground if you are parked in a potential flood hot spot.

Sign up for Text & Email Alerts:

Residents are advised to opt in to AlertSCC, the Santa Clara County emergency alert system. Sign-up at <http://bit.ly/2BzQxt0>. AlertSCC is a free, easy, and confidential way for anyone who lives or works in Santa Clara County to get emergency warnings sent directly to their cell phone, email, or landline.

Flash Report Archive



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SUBMIT

Exhibit D

National Weather Service

Watches, Warnings & Advisories

2 products issued by NWS for: 3 Miles NW San Jose CA



Flood Watch

Flood Watch

National Weather Service San Francisco CA
1206 PM PST Thu Mar 9 2023

CAZ006-502>506-508>510-512>518-528>530-102015-
/O.CON.KMTR.FA.A.0005.230309T2100Z-230312T1700Z/
/00000.0.ER.000000T0000Z.000000T0000Z.000000T0000Z.00/

San Francisco-Marin Coastal Range-Sonoma Coastal Range-North Bay
Interior Mountains-Coastal North Bay Including Point Reyes National
Seashore-North Bay Interior Valleys-San Francisco Bay Shoreline-San
Francisco Peninsula Coast-East Bay Interior Valleys-Santa Cruz
Mountains-Santa Clara Valley Including San Jose-Eastern Santa Clara
Hills-East Bay Hills-Southern Salinas Valley/Arroyo Seco and Lake
San Antonio-Santa Lucia Mountains and Los Padres National Forest-
Mountains of San Benito County And Interior Monterey County
including Pinnacles National Park-Northern Salinas Valley/Hollister
Valley and Carmel Valley-Northern Monterey Bay-Southern Monterey Bay
and Big Sur Coast-

Including the cities of Cordova Ridge, Tamalpais-Homestead, Hayward,
Antioch, Petaluma, Daly City, Pacifica, Walnut Creek, Concord,
Pleasanton, Pittsburg, Boulder Creek, Livermore, San Ramon,
Lagunitas-Forest Knolls, Marina, Novato, South Santa Rosa, Santa
Cruz, Rohnert Park, Angwin, Scotts Valley, Salinas, Berkeley, San
Jose, Sausalito, Fremont, Napa, Santa Rosa, Greenfield, Monterey,
Seaside, Day Valley, Watsonville, Woodacre, Oakland, Blackhawk, King
City, San Francisco, San Rafael, and Live Oak
1206 PM PST Thu Mar 9 2023

...FLOOD WATCH REMAINS IN EFFECT THROUGH SUNDAY MORNING...

* WHAT...Flooding caused by excessive rainfall continues to be possible.

* WHERE...Entire San Francisco Bay Area and Central Coast including Monterey and San Benito Counties.

* WHEN...Through Sunday morning.

* IMPACTS...Excessive runoff may result in flooding of rivers, creeks, streams, and other low-lying and flood-prone locations. Creeks and streams will see rapid rises. Flooding may occur in poor drainage and urban areas. Low-water crossings may be flooded. Storm drains and ditches may become clogged with debris.

* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...

- Rainfall totals will range from 1.5 to 3 inches for most urban areas with 3 to 6 inches in the coastal ranges and inland hills. Up to 6 to 8 inches over the Santa Cruz

Mountains and locally up to 10-12 inches over favored peaks and higher terrain of the Santa Lucia Mountains where prolonged moderate to heavy precipitation and higher rain rates are currently forecast. Pre-existing saturated soils will not be able to absorb much of this rainfall and therefore will quickly turn into runoff. Urban and small stream flooding is expected along with a 25% exceedance probability that some main stem rivers may rise above flood stage.

- <http://www.weather.gov/safety/flood>

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

Continue to monitor the latest forecasts and be alert for possible Flood Warnings. Those living in areas prone to flooding should be prepared to take action should flooding develop.

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CW

Wind Advisory

URGENT - WEATHER MESSAGE

National Weather Service San Francisco Bay Area

535 AM PST Thu Mar 9 2023

CAZ006-502>506-508>510-512>518-528>530-092300-
/O.CON.KMTR.WI.Y.0013.230309T2100Z-230311T0000Z/
San Francisco-Marine Coastal Range-Sonoma Coastal Range-
North Bay Interior Mountains-
Coastal North Bay...Including Point Reyes National Seashore-
North Bay Interior Valleys-San Francisco Bay Shoreline-
San Francisco Peninsula Coast-East Bay Interior Valleys-
Santa Cruz Mountains-Santa Clara Valley...including San Jose-
Eastern Santa Clara Hills-East Bay Hills-
Southern Salinas Valley...Arroyo Seco...and Lake San Antonio-
Santa Lucia Mountains and Los Padres National Forest-
Mountains of San Benito and Interior Monterey County including
Pinnacles National Park-
Northern Salinas Valley...Hollister Valley...and Carmel Valley-
Northern Monterey Bay-Southern Monterey Bay and Big Sur Coast-
535 AM PST Thu Mar 9 2023

...WIND ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT FROM 1 PM THIS AFTERNOON TO
4 PM PST FRIDAY...

* WHAT...Southerly winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts up to 50 mph
expected.

* WHERE...Entire San Francisco Bay Area and Central Coast
including Monterey and San Benito Counties.

* WHEN...From 1 PM Thursday to 4 PM PST Friday.

* IMPACTS...Gusty winds could blow around unsecured objects.
Tree limbs could be blown down and a few power outages may

result.

* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Locally stronger wind gusts greater than 60 mph will be possible in in the favored coastal areas, higher terrain and coastal gaps.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

Use extra caution when driving, especially if operating a high profile vehicle. Secure outdoor objects.

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For more information from the National Weather Service visit <https://weather.gov/mtr>

Exhibit E

What kind of flooding affects Santa Cruz County?

Within the County of Santa Cruz there are numerous areas subject to flooding due to rivers, creeks and coastal storms. The two main rivers in the County that are subject to flooding are the Pajaro River and the San Lorenzo River. Other major creeks in Santa Cruz County adjacent to rural and urban development that are subject to flooding include Aptos Creek, Trout Creek Gulch, Valencia Creek, Salsipuedes Creek, Corralitos Creek, Soquel Creek, and their tributaries. Coastal flooding along the heavily developed Monterey Bay coastline of Santa Cruz County may occur as a result of large waves and storm swells during the winter. Storm centers from the southwest direction produce the type of storm pattern most responsible for the majority of severe coastal flooding. Strong winds combined with high tides create storm surges, and are usually accompanied by heavy rains resulting in coastal flooding and hazardous conditions.

Is your home located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)?

The County of Santa Cruz maintains the most current flood maps published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These maps are available on the Geographic Information System (GIS) on our website, located at www.sccoplanning.com. Instructions for using the GIS program can be found on our website by clicking “Flood Information” and then selecting “Instructions on Using the County GIS.”

In addition to the free information available on the website, we offer a Map Information Service for a small fee. For more information, visit www.sccoplanning.com, click on “Flood Information” and select “Map Information Service.” Elevation Certificates are available for some properties. The County of Santa Cruz has maintained elevation certificates for new and substantially improved structures in the SFHA since January 1, 1987.

Please keep in mind that not all areas subject to flooding have been mapped. Your property may be subject to flooding even if it is not located within a SFHA.

How can you be prepared?

Purchase flood insurance for your property. Flooding is not covered by a standard homeowner’s insurance policy. A separate flood insurance policy is required to cover damages incurred by flooding. Coverage is available for the building itself as well as for the contents of the building. The County of Santa Cruz participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that makes available federally-backed flood insurance for all structures, whether or not they are located within the floodplain. Note that there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect. More than 25 percent of NFIP claims are filed by properties located outside the SFHA. Contact your insurance agency for more information.

Protect your property from the hazards of flooding. Various methods may be used to minimize damage from flooding. If the floor level of your property is lower than the Base Flood Elevation (BFE, the elevation of the 1-percent-annual-chance flood), consider elevating your structure, if possible. Cost sharing programs for elevation projects are available from FEMA and are detailed here: <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/hazard-mitigation/pre-disaster-flood-mitigation>. If a flood is imminent, property can be protected by sandbagging areas subject to the entry of water into living spaces. Visit <http://sccounty04.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/oes/Sandbag%20Locations.htm> for a list of locations where sandbags are available. Valuables and furniture may also be moved to higher areas of the structure to minimize damages.

Meet improvement requirements. The NFIP requires that if the cost of reconstruction, additions, or other improvements to a building in the SFHA equals or exceeds 50% of the building’s market value, the building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards. For example, a

residence damaged (by flooding, landsliding, a tree falling, etc.) so that the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the building’s value before it was damaged must be elevated above the BFE.

Meet permitting requirements. All development within the County requires a permit. Always check with the Zoning (831) 454-2130 and Building (831) 454-2260 Counters before you build on, alter, fill, or grade on any portion of your property or within any easement or right-of-way. Also, visit www.sccoplanning.com and click on “Report Code Violations” to report any suspected permitting violations.

Make sure you can access important documents. Keep insurance policies, documents and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.

Keep an emergency supply. Store supplies at work, home and in your car in handy locations:

- First aid kit and essential medications
- Canned, dry, packaged food for special diets
- Non-electric can opener
- Keep some cash on hand. ATM machines may not be working.
- Portable radio, flashlights and extra batteries (stored in water-tight plastic bag)
- Store drinking water in closed, clean containers in case water service is interrupted. Allow one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.

What should you do during a flood?

When a Flood WATCH is Issued

- Move valuable household possessions to the upper floors of your home.
- Fill your car's gas tank in the event an evacuation order is issued.

When a Flood WARNING is Issued

- Tune in to local radio and TV stations for information and advice.
- When told to evacuate, do so as quickly as possible.

When a flash flood WATCH is Issued

- Watch for signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

When a Flash Flood WARNING is Issued

- If you believe flash flooding has begun, evacuate immediately as you may have only seconds to escape.
- Move to higher ground and away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades. These are placed to keep you out of harm's way.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

During All Storms

- Avoid areas that are subject to sudden flooding.
- Do not try to cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees. Even water as low as 6 inches deep may cause you to be swept away by strong currents.
- Do not try to drive over a flooded road. This may cause you to be both stranded and trapped.
- If your car stalls, abandon it IMMEDIATELY and seek higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.
- Do not "sightsee" in flooded areas. Do not try to enter areas blocked off by local authorities.
- Avoid unnecessary trips. If you must travel during the storm, dress in warm, loose layers of clothing. Advise others of your destination.
- Use telephone ONLY for emergency needs or to report dangerous conditions.
- Tune to local radio or television stations for emergency information and instructions from local authorities.
- If flooding is likely, and time permits, move valuable household possessions to the upper floors of your home.
- If advised by local authorities to leave your home, move to a safe area before

access is cut off by flood water. Establish an out of state "family contact" so that friends and relatives will know who to call to get information about where you are.

- Before leaving, disconnect all electrical appliances, and if advised by your local utility company, shut off electric circuits at the fuse panel and gas service at the meter.

What should you do after a flood?

DO NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOURSELF.

- Rely on utility crews.
- Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come in contact with flood waters.
- Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil or purify water before drinking. Have wells pumped out and the water tested before drinking.
- Avoid disaster areas; your presence could hamper rescue and other emergency operations, and you may be in danger.
- Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas.
- If electrical equipment or appliances have been in contact with water, have them checked before use.
- Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them immediately to the electric or gas company, police or fire department.
- Use flashlights--NOT lanterns, matches or candles--to examine buildings; flammables may be present.
- Check for injuries. Apply first aid. Do not move seriously injured individuals unless they are in immediate danger.
- Do not use the telephone immediately unless there is a serious injury or fire.
- Check buildings for structural damage prior to entering--be sure they are not in danger of collapsing.
- Turn off any outside gas lines at the meter or tank.

- Do not turn on any lights or appliances until an electrician has checked the system for short circuits.
- Cover broken windows and holes in the roof or walls to prevent further weather damage.
- Refrigerators, stoves and other hard goods should be hosed off and kept for the adjuster's inspection.
- Take all wooden furniture outdoors but keep it out of direct sunlight to prevent warping.
- Shovel out mud while it is still moist.
- Flooded basements should be drained.

Recognize the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains to help reduce flooding:

Floodplains are a natural component of Santa Cruz County. Understanding and protecting the natural functions of floodplains helps reduce flood damage and protect resources. When flooding spreads out across the floodplain, its energy is dissipated, which results in lower flood flows downstream, reduced erosion of the streambank and channel, deposition of sediments higher in the watershed and improved groundwater recharge. Floodplains are scenic, valued wildlife habitat, and suitable for farming. Poorly planned development in floodplains can lead to streambank erosion, loss of valuable property, increased risk of flooding to downstream properties and degradation of water quality.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/Environmental/FloodInformation.aspx>
<http://www.ready.gov/floodawareness>
<https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>

This information is provided by the County of Santa Cruz and is applicable to properties within the limits of the County. If you reside in a jurisdiction other than the County of Santa Cruz, contact your regulatory authority for information. If you believe you received this notice in error, please contact the County of Santa Cruz Planning Department at (831) 454-3164.

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Flood Safety

In Santa Cruz County

Prepared by the Santa Cruz
County Planning Department for
residents and owners of
properties in or near areas of
historic or potential flooding

