

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Subject: Support for Major Disaster Declaration

Dear President Biden,

We are writing in strong support of the State of California's request for a major disaster declaration, which includes individual and public assistance and hazard mitigation funds for Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

We are grateful for the swift support your Administration has afforded to our region in the wake of the severe winter storms. We were pleased to see the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) instantaneously move on our request to approve California's ask to amend the January 9, 2023, Emergency Declaration to include Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

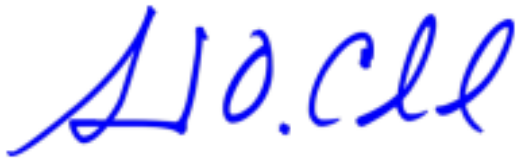
However, more help is needed to support families and businesses impacted by flooding, debris flows, and mud flows directly related to the storms. A major disaster declaration would provide relief, like housing assistance, disaster unemployment assistance, and crisis counseling to individuals impacted by these storms.

Public assistance is required to help Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties with debris removal, restore access to roads damaged by the floods, and continue their emergency protective measures. In Santa Barbara County, they estimate that approximately 500,000 cubic yards of material must be moved and disposed from up to six debris basins in Montecito and Carpinteria. These basins are critical to the safety of the residents who live in area, as well as state highway 101, state route 192 and all of the county roads.

In San Luis Obispo County there was a mud flow in Los Osos that resulted in 12 homes being flooded with mud and nearly all possessions destroyed or damaged. There is flooding of residential and commercial properties throughout the County, and the community of Avila Beach is inaccessible despite being the primary access road to Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

Again, we strongly support Governor Newsom's request for a major disaster declaration and ask that you make all federal resources necessary available. We stand ready to provide any support to you in expeditiously approving this request and provide the necessary resources to the impacted communities.

Sincerely,



SALUD CARBAJAL
Member of Congress



JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress