

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 9, 2023

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

Subject: Emergency Declaration for Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties

Dear President Biden,

We are writing in strong support of the State of California's request to amend your emergency declaration to include Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, as they have already issued their own local emergency declarations due to emergency conditions resulting from severe winter storms, flooding and mud slides that began on January 8, 2023. We urge your Administration to move expeditiously to approve California's request for an emergency declaration and federal aid. Time is of the essence. Federal support is necessary to save lives, protect public health and safety, and defend property from damage in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

The County of Santa Barbara has experienced multiple fires, including the Thomas and Alisal Fires, making the region susceptible to potential debris flows and severe flooding. Five years ago, to this day, the Montecito community experienced a catastrophic debris flow that took the lives of 23 individuals.

In San Luis Obispo County, 6,000 households are without power, the Highway 101 is closed to flooding around Avila beach, there is at least one confirmed fatality, and rescuers have ended the search for a 5-year-old boy who was swept away by floodwaters due to unsafe conditions.

Therefore, we strongly support Governor Newsom's request for an emergency declaration. We echo his ask that you make all federal resources necessary. 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