

California Legislature

January 23, 2025

The Honorable Gov. Gavin Newsom
1021 O St., Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Letter of Support for a State Emergency Proclamation Following December 2024 Winter Storm

Dear Governor Newsom:

As the legislators representing the 17th Senate District and 28th Assembly District, including Santa Cruz, we write to urge you to declare a statewide emergency in response to the recent and unprecedented storm surge event that impacted the Central California coastline on December 23, 2024.

The devastating storm surge that battered our state's waterfront has caused damage in excess of \$43 million. Impacts include collapse of a 150-foot section of the iconic Santa Cruz Wharf, extensive damage to critical marine infrastructure (including pilings, docks, and utility service) and extensive Countywide marine debris removal. The extent of the damage prompted a local emergency proclamation that was ratified by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on December 27, 2024.

Current emergency conditions are beyond the control and capability of the services, personnel, and equipment of the County of Santa Cruz. Local resources are insufficient to successfully restore critical infrastructure and ensure that imminent threats to public health and safety are expeditiously addressed.

A State Emergency Proclamation will allow the County of Santa Cruz, City of Santa Cruz, City of Capitola, and Santa Cruz Port District to access urgently needed California Disaster Assistance Act funding to make emergency repairs and restore critical infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your continued support for our community.

Sincerely,



JOHN LAIRD
Senator, 17th District



GAIL PELLERIN
Assemblymember, 28th District