



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Melodye Serino

Melodye.serino@santacruzcounty.us

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DECLARES LOCAL DISASTER

Santa Cruz County has declared a local emergency due to damage to county roads and infrastructure from the December 30th and 31st Atmospheric River Winter Storm.

The storm caused widespread flooding, partially due to significant debris in the waterways, mudslides and debris flows, road washouts and road collapses, and power outages throughout the County. Damages include the failure of Glenwood Drive, Granite Creek Road, and Highland Way, flooding in Soquel Village and flooding along Corralitos Creek and Salispuedes Creek.

The Board of Supervisors is expected to ratify the declaration at the January 10, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting. The action will allow the County to request disaster assistance funding under the California Disaster Assistance Act to assist with public infrastructure repairs due to the storm event that are beyond the County's ability to fund. Currently damages are estimated to be at least \$10 million. The County continues assessing damage from the event and may add additional costs as they become known.

While the additional emergency event began on December 30, 2022, the emergency is ongoing. An additional atmospheric storm event is expected on January 4 and 5, 2023, increasing the likelihood of further damage, including the potential for flooding; as soil conditions in the County of Santa Cruz remain saturated as a result of the December 2022 Atmospheric River Winter Storm. Damage costs are expected to escalate with the coming storm.

For storm related information, go to: <https://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/OR3/Emergency.aspx>