



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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FUNDING APPROVED FOR MARCH STORM DAMAGE REPAIRS

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce that State and federal governments have committed funding to help pay for repairs to roads damaged by El Niño-related rains.

In March, severe weather caused more than \$9.7 million in damage to area roadways. Though Gov. Jerry Brown declared an emergency, the County has been awaiting word on whether State and federal officials would commit the funding necessary to repair the roads. The California Office of Emergency Services recently agreed to fund a substantial portion of repairs on local roads, and the Federal Highway Administration has agreed to fund a separate portion for federal aid-eligible routes.

“We’d like to thank our partners at the State and federal government for stepping up to help us out during a time of need,” Santa Cruz County Public Works Director John Presleigh said. “This will allow to get started on these projects and help get things back to normal for residents impacted by the storms.”

“Through the collective efforts of County staff and our CalOES partners we were able to secure funds to help restore critical infrastructure and perform much needed repairs, making travel for all our residents and visitors much smoother. We are grateful to the governor for providing this essential help,” said Rosemary Anderson, the County’s Emergency Services Manager.

Occurring March 5-6 and March 12-13, the storms drenched the County with significant amounts of rain, causing flooding and small-scale evacuations, downing trees and powerlines and damaging multiple roadways. About \$6.3 million of damages were on



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local roads and are eligible for State funding, while roads eligible for federal funding saw \$3.4 million in damages.

Damaged roads include Buena Vista Drive, Buzzard Lagoon Road, Cathedral Drive, China Grade, Coward Road, East Zayante Road, Eureka Canyon Road, Kings Creek Road, Miller Cut Off, Mountain Charlie Road, Rider Road, Trout Gulch Road, Valencia School Road, West Hilton Drive and Schulties Road.