



# 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: Jason Hoppin

Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcounty.us

### PRESIDENT DECLARES MAJOR DISASTER FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

President Biden declared a major disaster for the State of California and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts for areas affected by severe winter storms beginning on February 21, 2023 and continuing. The declaration included Kern, Mariposa, Monterey, San Benito, Tulare and Toulumne as well as Santa Cruz County.

The President's action makes Federal funding available to affected individuals in Santa Cruz County including grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and businesses owners recover from the effects of the disaster. Applications for assistance should be submitted within 60 days of the Federal declaration.

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) will open in Santa Cruz and Watsonville for in-person assistance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) claims. Further information on DRC locations and hours will be forthcoming. FEMA support is also available via telephone or online. Contact <https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov>, call 800-621-FEMA (3362), or use the FEMA app for assistance.

Additional information and resources, including updates on Disaster Recovery Centers, are available at the Virtual Recovery Center at <https://santacruzcounty.us/OR3/Emergency.aspx>.