



January 2, 2023

## **County of Monterey Residents Urged to take Precautions for Next Storm**

*County Department of Emergency Management working ahead of the storm to reduce risks, next storm expected to bring potential for flooding and damaging winds*

County of Monterey staff and departments are preparing for a severe storm this coming Wednesday and Thursday and are urging the public to also be prepared. The weather event our area will experience is known as an atmospheric river and will produce a significant amount of rain over several hours. Flooding is expected in some localized areas, of greatest concern are locations which experienced impacts during the most recent storm.

### **Next Storm Preparation**

Monterey County's rain event last month caused flooding and road closures. The County's Operational Area Emergency Operations Center, which was activated at a low level since December 27, 2022, will increase to a Level 1 (High) Activation beginning Wednesday, January 4, 2023 through the duration of the storm impacts. The Emergency Operations Center includes Department of Public Works, Facilities and Parks, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Sheriff's Office, Department of Emergency Management and cooperators.

County departments and staff are proactively taking preemptive measures for the next weather system. This work includes storm inspections and cleaning of culverts in the County's service areas, post-storm street sweeping in urbanized areas, river levee patrols, stream gauge monitoring and continuing to pre-position tens of thousands of sandbags and tons of sand throughout the County.

The County, in concert with the National Weather Service, will be issuing multiple advisories and alerts to help residents prepare and stay safe during this weather event. Should these alerts include the need for evacuations, county emergency agencies are creating contingencies for evacuation shelters should they be needed.

### **What is Happening Now**

The County is constantly assessing the updating the public on road closures. Culverts under roadways are being cleaned again as a precautionary measure. The County has enlisted the help of on-call private contractors to help expedite the clean-up efforts after the storm.

County teams, including Monterey County Water Resources Agency, are actively engaged in active storm monitoring, performing further assessments and taking appropriate measures to prepare for the additional rains.

Homeowners are encouraged to use the next few days to stock up on and place sandbags around their properties especially in areas immediately adjacent to natural water courses such as rivers and streams.

### **Resources for Residents**

#### **Alert Monterey County**

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/administrative-office/office-of-emergency-services/ready-monterey-county/sign-up-for-alerts>

#### **Free Sandbag Locations**

[https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/106154/637964278693600000?fbclid=IwAR1nZws\\_vQHE\\_3sXWgf-aCZFpkzj\\_00du8IE3SoO7GHohL20nhpEKa7Cqw](https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/106154/637964278693600000?fbclid=IwAR1nZws_vQHE_3sXWgf-aCZFpkzj_00du8IE3SoO7GHohL20nhpEKa7Cqw)

#### **Free Sand Stockpile Locations**

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/106222/638022234123930000?fbclid=IwAR3fSo5SB9KezGrtdpabkUspBp5DTpxMgb-vKA1JB8KFPTZhFrhHb0br0>

#### **Winter Storm Preparedness Website**

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/administrative-office/office-of-emergency-services/ready-monterey-county/winter-storm>

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