



COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SALINAS RIVER ANTICIPATED FLOODING INFORMATION SITUATIONAL UPDATE 1/11/2023 2:30 PM

SALINAS, CA – The County of Monterey Sheriff’s Office in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management, California Office of Emergency Services, other local and Federal partners, is urging the public to heed the warnings of County officials as it concerns the potential for flooding along the Salinas River from southwest of Chualar, to Spreckels and the River Road corridor, and then to the Salinas River Lagoon.

An Evacuation Order remains in effect until further notice for the areas noted above. It is likely that if flooding occurs these communities could be cut off from essential services. Residents and businesses need to act now to protect life and property. Using predictive models from the National Weather Service and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, the Salinas River will be in “monitor phase” at or around 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, and will be at flood state at or around 3 p.m. on Thursday, January 12. Based on the same models State and local officials are preparing for continued flood stage thru 9 p.m. Sunday, January 15.

Officials are confident that bridges will weather the storm impact as they are of a newer variety of construction. The flooding concerns on the roadways will likely impact the approaches to the bridges, low lying intersections, and local surface streets. Roads that are expected to be affected include State Route 68, River Road, Reservation Road, Blanco Road, multiple secondary roads, and potentially **CA 1**. Residents both on the

peninsula and in the Salinas, area should expect to be cut off for two to three days. If you see road closure signs it is imperative that you do not attempt to traverse those roads. “Turn around, Don’t Drown.

Residents should seek shelter at one of the County Evacuation Shelters, with family or friends. Additionally, many hotels on the Peninsula are offering discount accommodations for evacuees. Information is available by calling 211 or on the Winter Storm 2023 website:

<https://tinyurl.com/WinterStormMC>

Residents and businesses are encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts at Alert Monterey County,

<https://member.everbridge.net/453003085611217/new> . Up to date and accurate information is available on social media as well. The County of Monterey has very active Facebook and Instagram pages. Do not listen to rumors, the facts are at your fingertips online.

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