

DAMAGE SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

DISASTER CA24-2
DECEMBER 2023 WINTER STORMS

HUMBOLDT, IMPERIAL, MONTEREY, SAN DIEGO, SAN
MATEO, SANTA CRUZ, AND VENTURA COUNTIES

COMMENCING DECEMBER 28, 2023

Prepared by:
California Department of Transportation
Division of Budgets
Federal Resources Office

Introduction

This Damage Survey Summary Report (DSSR) has been prepared for submission to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in response to a series of winter storm systems impacting Humboldt, Imperial, Monterey, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Ventura counties, which first began on December 28, 2023. According to FHWA's Emergency Relief Manual (May 2013), the purpose of this DSSR is to "summarize the damage assessment and provide information and documentation for the FHWA Division Administrator to make a finding that a natural disaster or catastrophic failure has occurred within the intent of 23 U.S.C. 125." The DSSR also "provides the Division Administrator with a basis to make a finding that the disaster is eligible for funding under the FHWA ER program."

Damage Description

Beginning December 28, 2023, a series of severe winter storm systems struck the State of California, bringing high winds, substantial precipitation, and flooding across many counties. The storms affected communications and other critical infrastructure, resulted in power outages to thousands of households and businesses, and caused trees and tree limbs to fall, damaging structures and obstructing major highways and local roads. These storms resulted in mud and debris flows, particularly on burn scars from recent wildfires, damaged and forced the closure of dozens of major highways and local roads and necessitated the repositioning of emergency response resources.

On January 23 and February 2, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency for the series of winter storm systems events impacting counties across the state. The copies of the Governor's State of Emergency Proclamations are included in this Damage Survey Summary Report.

Damage Estimate

To date, the estimated cost to repair or reconstruct the damage to federal-aid highways in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 125 is \$73.49 million for State facilities and an additional \$13.16 million for Local facilities.

Additional Information

The following attached information describes the winter storm system damage in additional detail:

- Governor's State of Emergency Proclamation January 23 and February 2, 2024.
- State and Local damage estimates (to date).
- Sampling of newspaper articles.
- Sample pictures of reported damage sustained

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GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATIONS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS in late December 2023 and early January 2024 severe winter storms struck southern California bringing intense rainfall to San Diego and Ventura counties; and

WHEREAS on January 22, 2024, San Diego County experienced historic rainfall for the month of January; and

WHEREAS these winter storms caused widespread flooding, mudslides, and debris flows threatening life and safety, structures, and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the impacts from these winter storms also caused evacuations, road and school closures, and widespread damage to public and private property; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to these winter storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by these winter storms, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by these winter storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of these winter storms.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in San Diego and Ventura counties due to these winter storms.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.



2. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to local governments, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.
3. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of these winter storms. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of these winter storms.
4. Any fairgrounds the Office of Emergency Services determines suitable to assist individuals impacted by these winter storms shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, Government Code section 8589. The Office of Emergency Services shall notify the fairgrounds of the intended use and may immediately utilize the fairgrounds without the fairground board of directors' approval.
5. Any state-owned properties the Office of Emergency Services determines are suitable to address the impacts of these winter storms shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services for this purpose in accordance with Government Code section 8570.
6. The provisions of Unemployment Insurance Code section 1253 imposing a one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance applicants are suspended as to all applicants who are unemployed as a direct result of these winter storms and apply for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning December 21, 2023, and ending on the close of business on June 21, 2024, in San Diego and Ventura counties, and who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.
7. Vehicle Code sections 9265(a), 9867, 14901, 14902, and 15255.2, requiring the imposition of fees, are suspended with regard to any request for replacement of an identification card, driver's license card, vehicle registration certificate, certificate of title, or registration stickers, by any individual who loses such records as a result of these winter storms in San Diego and Ventura counties. Such records shall be replaced without charge.
8. The provisions of Vehicle Code sections 4602 and 5902, requiring the timely registration or transfer of title, are suspended with regard to any registration or transfer of title by any individual who is unable to comply with those requirements as a result of these winter storms in San Diego and Ventura counties. The time covered by this suspension shall not be included in calculating any late penalty pursuant to Vehicle Code section 9554.



9. Health and Safety Code sections 103525.5 and 103625, and Penal Code section 14251, requiring the imposition of fees, are suspended with regard to any request for copies of certificates of birth, death, marriage, and dissolution of marriage records, by any individual who loses such records as a result of these winter storms in San Diego and Ventura counties. Such copies shall be provided without charge.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 23rd day of January 2024.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.
Secretary of State

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS on January 23, 2024, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in San Diego and Ventura counties due to the late December 2023 through early January 2024 winter storms; and

WHEREAS these severe winter storms also struck Humboldt, Imperial, Monterey, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz counties bringing intense rainfall; and

WHEREAS these winter storms caused widespread river and coastal flooding, flash flooding, high surf conditions, mudslides, and debris flows threatening life and safety, structures, and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the impacts from these winter storms also caused significant damage to roadways and widespread damage to public and private property; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to these winter storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by these winter storms, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by these winter storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of these winter storms.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in Humboldt, Imperial, Monterey, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz counties due to the impacts of these winter storms.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All operative provisions contained in my January 23, 2024 State of Emergency proclamation are hereby incorporated and applicable to Humboldt, Imperial, Monterey, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz counties as a



result of the storms identified in this and the previous Proclamation.

2. The California Department of Transportation shall formally request immediate assistance, as appropriate, through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program, United States Code, Title 23, section 125, in order to obtain federal assistance for highway repairs, reconstruction, or restoring access to roadways impacted by these winter storms.
3. The restrictions set forth in Penal Code section 396, which are automatically triggered upon proclamation of a State of Emergency, are suspended, and no such restrictions are imposed, for Monterey County for these winter storms.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 2nd day of February 2024.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:



SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.
Secretary of State

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STATE & LOCAL
DAMAGE ESTIMATES

State Damage Estimate CA24-2:

District	Date of Incident	DO (Y/N)	EA #	County	TOTAL COST TO DATE
5	1/2/2024			MON	\$ 66,500,000
7	1/8/2024			VEN	\$ 1,000,000
1	1/13/2024	Y	0N940	HUM	\$ 3,290,000
11	1/22/2024	Y	43243	SD	\$ 800,000
11		N	3A810	SD	\$ 380,000
11		N	3A806	IMP	\$ 380,000
11		N		SD	\$ 380,000
11		N	3A811	SD	\$ 380,000
11		N	3A809	SD	\$ 380,000

Local Damage Estimate CA24-2:

County	Federal-Aid Roadway	Sent to CalOES	Declaration	IDE Federal Aid Roads Estimate
Santa Cruz	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$8,190,000
Humboldt County	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$3,485,000
Santa Cruz	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,480,000

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SAMPLING OF NEWS ARTICLES

WEATHER

Bomb cyclones, atmospheric rivers and a hurricane. Here's how extreme California weather got in 2023

By Jack Lee
Dec 29, 2023



Dec 29, 2023 — Heavy downpours from extreme storms brought repeated rounds of flooding to the Bay Area and California Central Coast.

Last December, California was heading into a fourth year of drought, with La Niña conditions portending another dry winter. But, as Californians know all too well, the next months defied expectations. “A heavy rainfall season was not on people’s radar,” said Jan Null, a meteorologist with Golden Gate Weather Services and adjunct professor at San Jose State University.

A parade of storms impact Bay Area.

[Weather.gov](#) > [San Francisco Bay Area, CA](#) > A parade of storms impact Bay Area.

San Francisco Bay Area, CA

Weather Forecast Office

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Overview - Atmospheric Rivers - December 26, 2022 - January 17, 2023

A parade of storms battered the West Coast from late December through mid January

From the beginning of the water year (Oct 1, 2022) through Christmas, the Bay Area had received generally 5" to 7" of rain. This mainly came from weak fronts moving across the region. December 26, 2022, saw a change to the pattern as it ushered in the first in a series of storms that tapped into the high moisture content of the sub-tropics. This storm series engulfed the Bay Area and Monterey Bay regions, and much of the state, from late December through mid-January. While “breaks” in the main storms did occur, there remained lingering showers, which dotted the area. This left many residents feeling exhausted from near constant rainfall.

From late December through mid-January there were approximately six storm systems that brought a wide variety of hazardous weather to the Bay Area and Central Coast. These systems varied in dynamic set-up from narrow cold-frontal rain bands (NCFR), atmospheric rivers and even included a low-pressure center that underwent “[bomb cyclogenesis](#)”. The result of these storms produced hazardous weather over a three-week period which included: large surf over 30 feet, wind gusts over 100 mph, widespread flooding which included river flooding, gusty thunderstorm outflow winds, small hail, two waterspouts and several reported shallow landslides, just to name a few. Unfortunately, there was loss of life experienced from these storms, while other people’s lives forever will forever be changed.

Drier conditions returned after January 19th, but not without a lasting impact throughout the State of California. Between December 26th, 2022, and January 17th, 2023, Downtown San Francisco received 17.64" of rain. SFO Airport set a 23-day rainfall record at 15.28", while the city of Oakland set their own 23-day rainfall record with 18.33" of rain. The State maximum total rain was in Honeydew, California (Humboldt County) which received 47.74" since December 26th. Many of the area coastal peaks as well as the Sierra Nevada received between 20" to 35" of rain! All of this rain saw a modest improvement in drought monitoring as well as much greener satellite imagery.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



This Photograph Shows: MON-1-7.1/7.9 Collapsed gabion baskets



This Photograph Shows: MON-1-7.1/7.9 Drone image showing RSP loss



This Photograph Shows: MON-1-8.7/9.2: Mud Creek: Degraded catchment access road, filled catchment, rockfall damaged pavement and RSP loss



This Photograph Shows: Culvert failure and erosion at HUM-101-67.55



This Photograph Shows: Typical exit of a concrete box culvert blocked with mud, sediment and driftwood (at System Number 521010004187 at ET 1).



This Photograph Shows: Typical blocked entrance of a concrete box culvert filled with mud and sediment from the mountain side. The debris flow was stopped due to the exit and inside of the box culvert being filled with debris (at System Number 521010004187 at ET 3).

7-VEN-101 typical washout and undermining culverts

Provide photographs of the damage as support for the need for immediate emergency response.



570050005415
101-001
01/22/2024 04:47 PM

This Photograph Shows: Photo taken by the Culvert Inspection team inside the failed culvert.



SD 5
670050005415
ET 001 RT
Jan 22, 2024

This Photograph Shows: Storm water running underneath the culvert instead of inside the culvert due to rusted invert at the culvert outlet.

11-SD-5 typical washout and failed culverts