

DAMAGE SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

DISASTER CA24-4
MARCH 2024 WINTER STORMS

ALAMEDA, CONTRA COSTA, LOS ANGELES, MARIN,
MENDOCINO, MONTEREY, NAPA, NEVADA, PLUMAS,
SAN BERNARDINO, SAN MATEO, SANTA BARBARA,
SANTA CLARA, SANTA CRUZ, SOLANO, SONOMA,
TRINITY, AND VENTURA COUNTIES

COMMENCING MARCH 1, 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 Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Trinity, and Ventura counties, which first began on March 1, 2024. 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 March 1, 2024, 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 May 3, 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 \$85.21 million for State facilities and an additional \$21.06 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 May 3, 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 March 2024 California experienced multiple storms bringing heavy rains, mountain snow, thunderstorms, flooding, landslides, and high winds threatening life and safety, public and private property and structures, and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the impacts from the series of March 2024 storms caused severe damage to roads and highways in Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Trinity and Ventura Counties; and

WHEREAS impacts from the storms caused shoulder erosion, road damage, and slip-outs in both Trinity and Monterey County; and

WHEREAS a slip-out near Monterey County's Rocky Creek Bridge on scenic Highway 1 and a landslide in Los Angeles County on Topanga Canyon Boulevard forced partial and full closure, respectively, of the roadways; and

WHEREAS California's Department of Transportation continues to assess the condition of the roadways and work diligently to reopen the roads for safe transit; 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 the March 2024 storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by the March 2024 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 the March 2024 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 the March 2024 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 Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, San Bernardino,



San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Trinity, and Ventura Counties due to the impacts of the March 2024 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 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 or reconstruction.
3. 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 the March 2024 storms and apply for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning March 30, 2024, and ending on the close of business on September 30, 2024, in Monterey County, and who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.
4. 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, with respect to the March 2024 storms in Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Trinity, and Ventura Counties.

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 3rd day of May 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 CA23-1:

District	Date of Incident	DO (Y/N)	County	TOTAL COST TO DATE
1	3/7/2024	Y	MEN	\$ 2,500,000
1	3/19/2024	Y	MEN	\$ 1,000,000
1	3/10/2024	Y	MEN	\$ 2,000,000
1	3/6/2024	Y	MEN	\$ 1,000,000
1	3/7/2024	Y	MEN	\$ 850,000
7	3/5/2024	Y	VEN	\$ 1,030,000
7	3/11/2024	Y	VEN	\$ 1,830,000
7	3/11/2024	Y	VEN	\$ 2,650,000
7	3/16/2024	Y	LA	\$ 2,815,000
7	3/26/2024	Y	LA	\$ 440,000
7	3/11/2024	Y	LA	\$ 360,000
4	3/7/2024	Y	ALA	\$ 1,950,000
4	3/15/2024	Y	SM	\$ 762,000
4	3/15/2024	Y	SCL	\$ 2,038,000
4	3/6/2024	Y	SCL	\$ 2,860,000
4	3/22/2024	Y	SCL	\$ 700,000
4	3/13/2024	Y	CC	\$ 700,000
4	3/21/2024	Y	ALA	\$ 1,170,000
4	3/27/2024	N	SCL	\$ 450,000
4	3/22/2024	N	SCL	\$ 580,000
5	3/30/2024	Y	MON	\$ 26,700,000
8	3/2/2024	TBD	SBD	\$ 2,800,000
3	3/2/2024	Y	NEV	\$ 8,000,000
5	3/3/2024	Y	SB	\$ 750,000
7	3/3/2024		VEN	\$ -
7	3/3/2024		VEN	\$ 2,900,000
7	3/3/2024		LA	\$ 10,000,000
7	3/3/2024		LA	\$ -
7	3/3/2024		LA	\$ -
7	3/3/2024		LA	\$ -
7	3/3/2024		VEN	\$ -
7	3/3/2024	Y	VEN	\$ 1,380,000
7	3/3/2024		VEN	\$ -
7	3/3/2024		LA	\$ -
7	3/3/2024		LA	\$ -
7	3/3/2024		LA	\$ -
3	3/3/2024		NEV	\$ -
2	3/5/2024	Y	PLU	\$ 3,700,000

Local Damage Estimate CA23-1:

County	District	Federal-Aid Roadway	IDE Federal Aid Roads Estimate
Santa Cruz	5	Yes	\$1,127,000
Trinity	2	Yes	\$19,930,000

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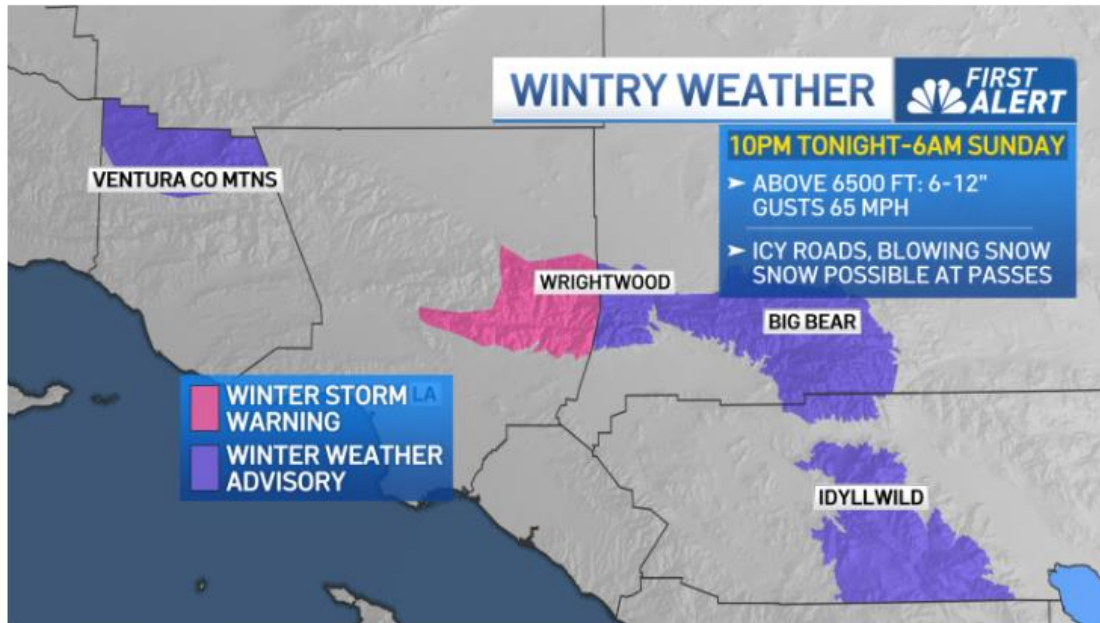
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SAMPLING OF NEWS ARTICLES

Edge of winter storm will bring Weekend rain, snow and wind to Southern California

A strong storm that prompted a rare blizzard warning in the Sierra Nevada Mountains will bring more rain and mountain snow to the Los Angeles area.

By Jonathan Lloyd, Scott Sonner and Olga R. Rodriguez • Published March 1, 2024 • Updated on March 1, 2024 at 8:29 am



Winter storm warnings and advisories go into effect for Southern California's mountains.

A powerful and cold Pacific storm expected to bring up to 10 feet of snow in the Sierra Nevada Mountains will bring snow, wind and rain to parts of Southern California as it brushes the region this weekend.

Central and Northern California will see significant rain and snowfall from the storm, which forced residents to take shelter and prompted Yosemite National Park and at least one Lake Tahoe ski resort to close. The storm that arrived Friday in Northern California is expected to close major highways and raise the potential for power outages. Elevations above 6,500 feet in SoCal could see 6 to 12 inches of snow. Drivers will likely encounter icy roads and blowing snow through the mountain passes. Snow levels will drop as low as 4,500 feet.

A winter storm warning will be in effect in the Los Angeles County mountains. Other mountain areas, including Big Bear in the San Bernardino County mountains, the Ventura County mountains and Idyllwild in the San Jacinto Mountains, are under winter weather advisories Friday night through 6 a.m. Sunday.

"You really want to avoid traveling in the mountains, and if you must, you've got to bring the chains," De Leon said.

Torrential snow storm leaves Northern California covered in powder

Saman Shafiq, USA TODAY

A powerful, multiple day winter storm in California's Sierra Nevada mountains over the weekend brought with it as much as 10 feet of snow and wind gusts of almost 200 mph causing power outages, closing highways and burying ski resorts.

The blizzard began late last week but its most intense conditions occurred on Sunday, when wind gusts reached 190 mph and whiteout conditions left hundreds of people stranded in their cars for several hours.

Yosemite National Park closed down and a 50-mile stretch of Interstate 80 was also shut down due to the storm. Schools were canceled Monday and National Weather Service meteorologist William Churchill warned of "life-threatening concern" for residents near Lake Tahoe, calling the storm an "extreme blizzard."

Here's what it looked like in parts of Northern California as the blizzard pushed through.



Melion Gausad shovels his driveway in Reno, Nevada on Saturday, March 2, 2024. Jason Bean/RSJ



Arroyo Street in Reno, Nevada shows the effects of the snowstorm on Saturday, March 2, 2024. Jason Bean/RSJ



A person walks as snow falls north of Lake Tahoe in the Sierra Nevada mountains during a powerful winter storm on March 01, 2024 near Truckee, California. Mario Tama / Getty Images



Vehicles are covered in snow at Emerald Mountain Resort, currently shuttered due to the storm, following a massive snowstorm in the Sierra Nevada mountains on March 04, 2024 in Soda Springs, California. Mario Tama / Getty Images

Winter storm brings strong showers and thunderstorms to Southern California
A storm that originated in the Gulf of Alaska brought more rain to Southern California Wednesday, with forecasters warning of possibly hazardous cells that could result in thunder, lightning, hail and heavy downpours in some areas — along with snow in local mountains.

The National Weather Service issued a “special weather statement” early Wednesday afternoon for much of Southern California, warning of the potential for “strong showers and thunderstorms this afternoon and evening.”



“Individual showers and thunderstorms will track inland toward the foothills after moving ashore, and will likely maintain moderate to strong intensity 20 to 40 miles inland from the coast,” according to the NWS. “The most intense activity will be capable of producing wind gusts to 55 mph, small hail, dangerous lightning, and heavy downpours. While highly uncertain, there is a small possibility for one or two tornadoes to occur with this activity, along with damaging straight-line winds.”

A winter weather advisory will be in effect through 6 a.m. Thursday in the San Gabriel Mountains and the 5 and 14 freeway corridors. According to the National Weather Service, as much as 8 inches of snow could fall at elevations over 6,500 feet, up to 5 inches as low as 5,500 feet and up to 2 inches at 4,500 feet.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



05-MON-1 Typical roadway/pavement damage, PM 60.0



05-MON-1 Typical Masonry wall failure, PM 60.0



This Photograph Shows: NEV-20-30.1 Slide material from slope and large diagonal crack caused by slip out/undermining of the slope.

03-NEV-20 Slip PM 30.1



This Photograph Shows: NEV-20-30.1 Side view of slide material and large diagonal crack/undermining of the slope.

03-NEV-20 Slip PM 30.1



This Photograph Shows: MEN 1 PM 75.0 - Landslide adjacent to Blue Slide Gulch Viaduct (10 - 0166) as a result of rainfall and high surf.

01- MEN -1 typical washout and Landslide, PM 75.0



This Photograph Shows: MEN 1 PM 78.25 - Large slipout resulting in roadway settlement and culvert damage. A geotech investigation is needed for this location.

01-MEN -1 Culvert damage, PM 78.25



This Photograph Shows: Multiple surface cracks on the side slope

07-VEN -150 Multiple surface cracks along the side slope, PM 6.1



This Photograph Shows: (Left) The slope failure has caused the right side of the curb/shoulder lane to crack and slide down the slope. (Right) large cracks and separation at the surface of the side slope that is sliding down.

07-VEN -150 Slope failure, PM 6.1