

# MONTEREY COUNTY

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Office of Supervisor Glenn Church, District 2

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May 18, 2023

### Pajaro Community Meeting 5/3/23

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. When will the streets in Pajaro be cleaned? What is the schedule for the street sweeping in Pajaro?

The next phase of street cleaning will happen over the next 2-3 weeks. During this phase, Monterey County Public Works will focus on cleaning the gutters, drain inlets and storm drain lines. They will also use street sweepers to assist in the cleaning of the gutters.

### 2. Where can I get information about resources and events going on in the County?

There are several ways that you can stay up-to-date about resources and get news from the County:

- Websites: [glennchurch.com](http://glennchurch.com), [tinyurl.com/2023pineappleexpress](http://tinyurl.com/2023pineappleexpress)
- Social Media:
  - County of Monterey: [Facebook.com/MontereyCoInfo](https://www.facebook.com/MontereyCoInfo), [Instagram.com/MontereyCountyCA](https://www.instagram.com/MontereyCountyCA), [Twitter.com/MontereyCoInfo](https://twitter.com/MontereyCoInfo)
  - Supervisor Church: [Facebook.com/SupervisorGlennChurch](https://www.facebook.com/SupervisorGlennChurch), [Instagram.com/SupGlennChurch](https://www.instagram.com/SupGlennChurch), [Twitter.com/SupGlennChurch](https://twitter.com/SupGlennChurch), Nextdoor: search for "Supervisor Glenn Church"
- Supervisor Church's email newsletter: [tinyurl.com/SupChurchNewsletter](http://tinyurl.com/SupChurchNewsletter)

### 3. What help is available for undocumented people?

Many organizations provide aid and do not question immigration status. Telephone the organizations of interest and ask if they support undocumented residents. Regarding Federal aid, FEMA states that "to qualify for assistance, you or a member of your household must be a US citizen. Undocumented families with only one family member including a minor child who is a US citizen and has

a Social Security number may qualify for assistance for the whole family”. There is also rapid response funding coming from the State of California. The County will share more information when it is available.

Undocumented people are also eligible for the financial assistance that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors has set aside for flood victims. It will be distributed by Community Bridges (831-688-8840) and Catholic Charities (831-722-2675). Please call those organizations for information about how to apply.

#### **4. What is the best way to stay informed about emergencies?**

The best way to stay informed about local emergencies is ALERT MONTEREY COUNTY. You will be alerted about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for Emergency Alerts. You will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages and more. Sign up today at [www.alertmontereycounty.org](http://www.alertmontereycounty.org).

#### **5. My FEMA application was denied. What are my options?**

FEMA states that you may need to submit additional information for FEMA to continue processing your application. Examples of missing documentation: Proof of insurance coverage; Settlement of insurance claims; Proof of identity; Proof of occupancy; Proof of ownership; and Proof that the damaged property was your primary residence at the time of the disaster. If you have received the maximum grant from FEMA, your application will be automatically transmitted from FEMA to the State Supplemental Grant Program (SSGP). For questions about FEMA’s determination, call the Disaster Assistance helpline at 800-621-3362, or go online at: [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov). For information about the State Supplemental Grant Program (SSGP) contact: 800-759-6807.

#### **6. What information does FEMA need from me to determine my eligibility?**

As a US Federal Agency, FEMA requires standardized information from every applicant. You are advised not to compare your case to the case of your neighbors because no two cases are alike. For assistance about your application call 800-621-3362.

#### **7. What financial assistance is the County of Monterey providing for Pajaro residents and how can I get it? How can I apply for the funds that the Board of Supervisors put aside for Pajaro?**

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors set aside money for flood victims that will be available soon. It will be administered by Community Bridges (831-688-8840) and Catholic Charities (831-722-2675). Please call those organizations for information about how to apply.

**8. Can I qualify for food stamps even if I worked a few days during the disaster?**

Qualifying for regular food stamps depends on your income. The special disaster relief CalFresh program is no longer available. If you have questions about qualifying for food stamps, Catholic Charities offers free counseling. You can reach them at 831-393-3110.

**9. What has been done in the last 10 years to prevent the levee breach?**

Since the flooding of 1997, there has been a multi-agency effort to strengthen the levee to reduce flooding. In 2021, Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency (PRFMA) was established, and a project was approved to begin construction in 2025. State Senator John Laird played a big role in this. In 2022, Congressman Jimmy Panetta secured \$67 million in federal funding for the Pajaro River levee infrastructure improvement. While construction was originally intended to begin in 2025, Congressman Panetta and Senator Alex Padilla met with Tommy Williams of the Army Corps of Engineers to request that the proposed project be expedited to begin as soon as Summer of 2024.

**10. What is the County's plan to protect Pajaro before the levee is repaired?**

This year the Army Corp of Engineers will fix where the levee broke at three places. They will also repair weak spots that need immediate attention before the next winter. \$500-600 million will be spent on rebuilding the levee. It will be rebuilt with stronger materials and will be expanded to 100 feet wide.

**11. How can people get help replacing furniture that was damaged in the floods?**

All-In Monterey will help distribute furniture for Pajaro residents affected by the flood. The address for the warehouse will not be publicized to reduce crowding and to more efficiently assist flood-affected residents. For more information and to request assistance visit [Allinmonterey.org](http://Allinmonterey.org) or email [help@allinmonterey.org](mailto:help@allinmonterey.org)

**12. What resources are available to people without a place to live?**

Various organizations are helping with rental assistance or rehousing efforts for displaced flood-affected residents:

- Casa de la Cultura: 831-763-0702
- ECHO Housing: 831-566-0824 or 855-275-3246
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey: 831-422-0602
- Housing Resource Center of Monterey County: 831-424-9186
- Housing Authority of Monterey County: 831-775-5000
- CHISPA: 831-757-6251

**13. Where can I report my landlord for not fixing the house I live in?**

Several resources are available for free legal services to help with landlord/tenant issues and/or direct you to the right place for assistance.

- Watsonville Law Center - 831-722-2845
- California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. - 831-757-5221
- Disaster Legal Assistance Collaboration - 888-382-3406

**14. How can I access mental health services?**

Free Crisis Counseling is available to help disaster survivors cope with trauma. Call or text 1-800-985-5990. This program provides counseling and support 24/7, 365-days-a-year. For more information, visit [DisasterDistress.samhsa.gov](https://DisasterDistress.samhsa.gov). You can also contact Monterey County Behavioral Health - Access Services at: 888-258-6029 or 831-755-4510.

**15. Will there be a Committee of Citizens to help with recovery planning? How can I join the committee?**

Yes. Supervisor Church and the County of Monterey will be forming a committee of citizens to help with recovery planning. If you are interested in being a part of the committee, please email the District 2 office at: [District2@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:District2@co.monterey.ca.us).