



February 7, 2024

Honorable Todd Gloria, Mayor
City of San Diego
220 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Honorable Nora Vargas, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mayor Gloria and Supervisor Vargas:

The NAACP San Diego Branch is gravely concerned about the recent floods that caused serious damage to housing and other property in the Encanto, Casa del Oro, Mountain View, Rolando, Southcrest, other Southeastern, Southern, and other East County neighborhoods. Many families in these areas are low-income people of color already suffering disparate treatments.

Several historic and current factors led to this catastrophic flooding. One of the primary factors was the lack of proper maintenance of the storm drainage canal through those areas. The clearing of the channel was so infrequent that the trees grew roots significantly impacting the flow of waters when the storm occurred. There was so much debris in the channels that flood waters breached walls and caused significant damage to homes, businesses, the Jacob Center (where our office is located), personal property (automobiles, etc.) and trolley lines. The full extent of the damages cannot be fully affirmed at this time due to potential health risks.

NAACP San Diego Branch calls on the City and County of San Diego to immediately undertake the following actions so that affected areas may quickly return to functioning communities of San Diego County:

- Work in consultation with community leaders, organizations, and residents to assess the immediate and long-term needs of the residents and businesses to return to normal operations.
- Initiate protocols to facilitate home and business repairs or restoration, and establish a support process that clearly lays out the eligibility, terms, and conditions to ensure the affected properties are brought back to regulatory codes and standards for habitation and operations.
- Develop a comprehensive restoration and preventive maintenance plan for city or county infrastructures, facilities, and channels to mitigate the impact of future situations.

NAACP San Diego Branch
PO Box 152086, San Diego, CA 92195-2086
619.742.5742 | www.NAACPSanDiego.org

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- Advocate for state and federal relief for impacted flood victims who due to economic and socio dynamics were unable to maintain sufficient insurance coverage for their properties.
- Implement an oversight process to ensure insurance companies fulfil their obligations to policy holders to enable repairs to homes, businesses, and personal property.
- Coordinate the assessment and reporting of ongoing treatment of (1) physical health needs, including Infectious disease reporting and control; and (2) behavioral health needs of residents or community members.
- Monitor unethical and persuasive efforts of predatory home flippers to take advantage of homeowners in flood ravaged areas and use enforcement policies to prevent unfair or unlawful treatment of flood victims.
- Prevent the abuse of senior citizens and other protected classes affected by the flood by unscrupulous predators.

The NAACP San Diego Branch is requesting a response to our letter soonest. We look forward to ongoing communication and partnerships with the City and County of San Diego officials to assure that affected communities receive needed attention and assistance to become thriving communities. Additionally, we stand ready to assist your staff in resolving this unfortunate situation as a community resource.

Sincerely,



Kenya Taylor, President
NAACP San Diego Branch

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