



COUNTY OF MONTEREY  
**CAO Weekly Report**

**In This Edition:**

- > Big Sur special delivery powers safety
- > Film festival a voice for community issue

**SPECIALREPORT**



*A flight to repower critical communications in an area of Big Sur isolated by a damaged bridge and mudslides readies for take-off.*

**County Notes**

- > Stay in touch with the latest weather conditions this weekend with the [National Weather Service](#).

## Special Delivery Powers Big Sur Safety Communications

By now, we have all read the ongoing story of the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge, irreparably damaged by winter storm landslides.

We have also heard about the dozens of slides south of Big Sur that, combined with the damaged and unpassable bridge, have left a portion of the community isolated.

Monterey County leaders and Office of Emergency Services are in constant communication with the Big Sur community, assessing needs and looking for both long and short term solutions. One short term need came to light this week and a crisis was averted thanks to quick work by county departments.

“I was notified by the Big Sur Fire Chief that Post Ranch (in isolated area) wanted to run its generators only 12 hours a day to conserve fuel and asked how this would affect the radio systems there,” explains Brian Landacre, Communications Technician, for Information Technology. “The problem is that the site houses three primary communication systems for law, fire and EMS. The site is also a relay station for two systems that exist at Point Sur Lighthouse. If the Post Ranch site were to lose power, then we would lose public safety communications between the agencies in Big Sur and 911”

Complicating matters was that fuel tanks powering generators at nearby Anderson Peak were also running low. If those stopped working, the emergency communication system back-up system would go off line as well as an AT&T site for telephone and internet service to Big Sur, which are a communications lifeline right now for residents who are both isolated and without power.

While a request for assistance went to CalOES, a solution was needed right away. Not waiting for state help, county departments worked together along with the California Highway Patrol to airlift power into that area.

Quickly airlifting large amounts of fuel could not be done, but what about mega batteries to power these services until fuel could be delivered? Departments quickly leapt into action and got results: Information Technology sent out a ‘mission request’ to OES this past Tuesday and within 24 hours, batteries were purchased, arrangements were made with the Highway Patrol to use their helicopter and a technician and eight 110 AH batteries (weighing 544 pounds!) were delivered to the site.



*Batteries are loaded into the CHP helicopter for delivery to the county communications site in Big Sur.*

Brian Landacre, the technician who alerted agencies to the problem was tapped to fly in to deliver and install the batteries. Here he describes the mission, which was on limited time, as the CHP helicopter had to return to regular service.

“I had to make sure I had everything I could possibly need for the mission, there’s no going back to the truck for parts or tools,” he says. “The Sheriff’s Office shut down a section of Highway 1 for a landing zone. Due to weight restrictions, we loaded five batteries and my tools and flew those in first, then flew back to get the remaining batteries. Once at Post Ranch, I got to work, removing the two older batteries from the

site and installing the eight new batteries and a high Amp charger. Lots of pressure to get this set up, working, and tested before my ride came back. As the helicopter returned I was cutting the site over to the new batteries and testing. I grabbed my tools and made my way down the hill to the helicopter. Mission complete.”

Kudos to Contracts/Purchasing, Information Technology, Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff, 9-1-1, the CAO's Office and our partners at the California Highway Patrol for working quickly to ensure key services remain in place for this area that has already endured so much.

The isolated area of Big Sur may still have road problems, but its emergency communications are secure.



*Here are some images from Landacre's flight into Big Sur to replace batteries for critical communications. The helicopter approaches the Post Ranch landing site (above). The spectacular view from the cockpit (upper right) and work to clear an unexpected landslide on Highway 1 at Hurricane Point (right) so that the technician and batteries could reach the take-off spot.*

# Health Department Collaborative Film Festival Supports Community Voices

There are many kinds of film festivals. A festival running this weekend in Salinas gives a voice and presence to the LGBTQ community.



**LATINX  
L.G.B.T.Q.  
FILM  
FESTIVAL  
2017**

**FEB 24 VIERNES 6:30PM**  
Tres Gotas de Agua: Corto / Short  
MOSQUITA Y MARI: Largometraje / Feature

**FEB 25 SABADO 12:30PM**  
Story Corps Audio: Corto / Short  
SALIR: Documental / Documentary  
Libertad: Documental / Documentary  
Panel Discussion / Panel de Discusion

**FEB 25 SABADO 3:30PM**  
RAISING ZOEY: Largometraje / Feature  
Panel Discussion / Panel de Discusion

**EVENTO GRATUITO  
FREE EVENT**

**MAYA CINEMAS  
153 Main St. Salinas**

**MÁS INFORMACIÓN  
MORE INFO**  
Anna Rick  
857.757.5221  
Organized by Bioritmo

The Monterey County LGBTQ Collaborative, which works to raise awareness about the challenges impacting LGBT people and their families, has organized a festival of films featuring lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, including LGBTQ youth, in Latino communities in California and Mexico.

The Festival runs February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at the Maya Cinema in Salinas. The films are in both Spanish and English and are free to the public.

Organizations involved in the collaborative include members from Monterey County Public Health, California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), the Epicenter, Urban Arts Collaborative, MILPA, Community Human Services and others. The festival explores themes of love and caring relationships in the context of family, friendship and budding romance; themes shared by people of all walks of life.

“These films make a positive difference in the lives of countless people who see them,” says Amanda Mihalko, Management Analyst at the Monterey County Health Department. “They reflect the struggles and the resilience that many LGBTQ people and their families experience. The affirmation of LGBTQ lives in these films has a healing power for communities that have been long stigmatized and relegated to the margins of society.”



The festival is supported by a sponsorship from the California Endowment.

Images from some of the films that will be shown at the festival. “Salir,” a documentary, will air Saturday (at left) and Mosquita Y Mari, a feature film, will air Friday evening (above).