



COUNTY OF MONTEREY
CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



A county-organized airlift in February ferried much-needed supplies to the isolated area of Big Sur.

County Notes

- > This week marked California Voter Registration Day. [It's never too late to register](#) or check your registration status.

County Storm Efforts Honored

This year's winter storms, which wreaked havoc throughout Monterey County, seem like a distant memory for some, but it is something those working during and after the crisis will never forget.

During the height of the crisis, the County's Emergency Operations Center was coordinating and directing efforts to safeguard lives and property. In the aftermath, extraordinary efforts were made to help impacted communities.

Those efforts are being commended by the California Emergency Services Association (CESA), which is honoring the county and one employee in particular with two Exceptional Service Awards.



Office of Emergency Service Director Gerry Malais holds both Exceptional Service Awards the County has received (above). Supplies are helicoptered in to Big Sur during a humanitarian airlift arranged by the County (right).



One award is for the extraordinary efforts by the Office of Emergency Services to help the Big Sur community which suffered a catastrophic bridge loss and road closures, leaving a portion of the community isolated and without access to jobs, school or supplies. Among the key efforts made by OES were:

- The development of a Unified Command of state, local and community agencies to address emerging issues and keep lines of communication open
- Organization of an emergency medical airlift for victims in the isolated area
- Organization of a lifeline helicopter flight to bring mail, medications, food, fuel, equipment, portable heaters, even books and school work for children
- Assisting in the development and construction of a pedestrian access trail to eventually allow foot access into and out of the area

During the winter storms, conditions created an atmospheric river which delivered tremendous amount of rainfall. The Soberanes burn scar suffered mudslides and for a tense time, the Pajaro and Salinas rivers were at dangerous levels. For his cool expertise, management and contributions to emergency efforts, Water Resources Agency Senior Hydrologist Franklin Howard was honored with an Exceptional Service Award.

OES Director Gerry Malais says Howard's award is very well deserved, honoring 'behind the scenes' work that saves lives and prevents damage.

"During the worst of the storms in January, Franklin spent 36 hours in the EOC monitoring the Pajaro River, using his experience and surveillance equipment to direct field crews where to make their best efforts and identify potential flooding threats."

Malais says again, during the February rains, Howard was instrumental in guiding the county response to potential flooding and community preparation for possible evacuations in Pajaro. The Salinas River was also at extremely high levels during this time, and his monitoring of the river's 100-mile-long watershed and tributaries as well as controlling and manipulating the timing and quantity of releases from Lake Nacimiento helped prevent inundation and damage in the surrounding area.

Congratulations to OES and Franklin Howard for these well-deserved commendations.



*Remember these images?
The Pajaro River (top right)
and the Salinas River (right)
during torrential rains this past
winter.*



Energy Savings Earns Beacon Award

Good news - county efforts to address energy use and promote sustainability practices have resulted in state-wide recognition.

The County joined the Beacon Program this past June. The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative and provides

support and recognition to California cities and counties working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and adopt policies and programs that promote sustainability.



Supervisor Jane Parker (l) and Sustainability Coordinator Dan Bertoldi (r), show the County's Beacon Award for energy savings.

Each year, the Beacon Program honors local government participants for their achievements in sustainability.

This year, the County was awarded a Gold Level Beacon Spotlight Award for achieving a 15% reduction in agency energy savings.

"This is quite an accomplishment and a significant savings because of how large the county building stock is and the thousands of workers employed to provide services," says Sustainability Coordinator Dan Bertoldi. "It's like powering a small city."

The projects that contributed to the savings were implemented between 2010 and 2016. Bertoldi gives kudos to the Resource Management Agency and its staff who were directly involved in implementing those

projects. He also thanks the Association of Monterey Bay Area Government's (AMBAG) Energy Watch staff which provides energy assessments and audits among other services and helped with the Beacon Award application.

And the Final Giving Campaign Winner is...

It's never too late for good news. There is one last winner and fundraising information to share for this year's campaign.

Elizabeth Garcia from the Health Department was the lucky winner of the FitBit2 and Portable Bluetooth Speaker drawing from Social Services, which raised \$287.50. This department also held a bake sale and offsite pizza fundraiser, which raised \$380.00.



Congratulations Elizabeth and thanks again to everyone who helped in this year's campaign efforts.

Elizabeth Garcia.