January 31, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Eric K. Dargan
Chief Operating Officer
City of San Diego
EDargan@sandiego.gov

Re: STORM RECOVERY EFFORTS IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Dear Mr. Dargan,

The County of San Diego and the City of San Diego have a history of working closely to respond to local emergencies caused by storms, fires, and epidemics. As our region recovers from last week’s devastating storm and prepares for those to come, the County will continue to support to the City and its residents.

In times of crisis, our residents look to their government to lead—and are not concerned with traditional jurisdictional responsibilities. In this spirit, the Board of Supervisors yesterday took action to adopt a package of measures, some of which will directly benefit impacted City residents—including restrictions on residential evictions and rent increases in the affected areas. Other measures benefit unincorporated residents which the City may want to consider adopting as well, such as waiving your permit fees as City residents begin the process of rebuilding. Also, in anticipation of additional rain this week, we are heartened that the City accepted the County’s offer of 5,000 filled sandbags for distribution to City residents.

Historically, the City has led within its jurisdiction by standing up its own local assistance centers (LAC) for its residents (after the 2004 and 2007 wildfires, for example). Yesterday, City staff requested relocation of the County’s entire local assistance center operations to the City. As has been shared with City representatives, the County will provide support at a LAC designated and run by the City. The County will provide staff and County agency representation at your proposed City LAC located at Mountain View Community Center from February 1-8. These agencies include: Assessor, Public Health, Self Sufficiency Services (CalFresh/CalWORKs), Behavioral Health Services, Recorder/County Clerk, and Registrar of Voters. As you prepare the City LAC, the facility should have basic amenities to support community members and staff from all agencies including, but not limited to: ADA accessibility, parking, wi-fi, tables and chairs, restrooms, translators, security, and other logistical support staff.

The County will also provide the LAC intake survey so data can be tracked consistently and shared. This is important so that needs of individuals affected by the flooding can be known, shared, and addressed.
The County has requested that the State provide the following state agencies from February 1-8 to your City LAC: California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, Contractors State License Board, Department of Insurance, Department of Housing and Community Development, DMV, Employment Development Department, and Franchise Tax Board.

The County will also be requesting the following non-governmental/other agencies participate in the City LAC: 2-1-1, Red Cross, Air Pollution Control District, San Diego Food Bank, SDG&E, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Team Rubicon, Tzu Chi, Feeding San Diego, Salvation Army, and All Hands and Hearts.

As you know, the County has been in constant communication with City officials during this emergency. During an emergency, effective communication is critical. Please ensure that all requests from the City are entered into the regional software program used to track resource requests from the 18 cities to the County (Web EOC) and are clearly defined and then communicated internally to any appropriate City personnel we will need to coordinate with.

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

[Signed]

SARAH E. AGHASSI
Interim Chief Administrative Officer
County of San Diego