



February 5, 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:

NAACP San Diego Branch must share its concerns with you about the recent floods that caused serious damage to housing and other property in the Encanto, Casa de Oro, Mountain View, Rolando and Southcrest, and other Southeaster and Southern and other East County neighborhoods. Many families in these areas are low-income people of color. Several historic and current factors came together set the stage for the catastrophic flooding to occur.

Chief among those factors was insufficient maintenance of the storm drainage canal through those areas. Clearing the channel happened so infrequently that trees took root channels and grew to maturity by the time the storm hit. There was so much debris that water in the channels breached the walls and inundated homes, businesses, the Jacob Center (where our office is located), and trolley lines. Along with the property damage we cannot access because of health risks.

NAACP San Diego Branch urges the City of San Diego and the County of San Diego, within their areas of responsibility, undertake the following recommended actions as communities affected by the flood undertake efforts needed to return to functioning communities of San Diego County:

- Consult with community members/residents in affected areas to clearly determine the needs of those communities so they can resume normal lives;
- Facilitate home rebuilding or restoration so that residences meet all the standards and regulations for dwellings to be considered habitable;
- Restoration and ongoing preventive maintenance on city or county infrastructure, facilities and channels so that predictable storms will not cause damage to the neighborhoods they were designed to protect;
- Facilitate the repair and reconstruction of businesses damaged or destroyed during the flood so that the services these businesses provided to their communities can resume or possibly expand to better serve the needs of those communities;

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

NAACP

San Diego Branch

- 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

KT: BAB: bb