



COUNTY OF MONTEREY
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



ASSEMBLY BILL 102 PAJARO FLOOD RELIEF PROJECTS

Annual Progress Report
December 2024

DIRECTORS MESSAGE

**“When levees break,
hopes wash away.”**

– Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas

The storms of March 2023 caused both emotional and physical devastation in the Monterey County community. The destruction of protective barriers represents a deeper loss—of safety, stability, and trust in the systems meant to protect us. In the aftermath, rebuilding requires not only reconstructing physical infrastructure but also restoring the community's sense of security, unity, and faith in the authorities that serve them.

Following extensive community outreach and the Board of Supervisors' approval of AB 102 projects in the Fall and Winter of 2023, the County established its priorities for implementing these projects. The primary focus was to distribute relief funds to vulnerable populations and provide economic support to individuals, households, and small businesses in Pájaro that need it most.

Over the past 11 months, the Department of Emergency Management has been actively working to administer recovery and resilience programs in Pájaro. Managing such large-scale grant funds involves navigating complex processes, ensuring regulatory compliance, meticulous planning, stakeholder coordination, and implementing robust systems to track fund allocation, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Both statewide and nationwide, there has been limited precedent for creating a post-disaster economic assistance program at the County level. With minimal guidance, the County leveraged local expertise to develop a new direct service program, expediting payments while ensuring effectiveness. Before the distribution of AB 102 funds, approximately \$14 million in relief assistance had been provided to Pájaro residents through philanthropic, local, state, and federal programs. This included close to \$400,000 directly from the County's General Fund. Upon the completion of the Pájaro Unmet Needs Disaster Assistance Program, a total of \$24 million in direct assistance will be injected into the community to support flood recovery.

The Pájaro Unmet Needs Disaster Assistance Program is designed to complement existing federal disaster relief efforts, addressing the remaining recovery costs that burden survivors. The final stage of recovery is often the most challenging and demands careful attention. The need for economic assistance in the community remains urgent and ongoing. Disaster Case Managers have been working closely with households to develop personalized recovery plans, navigate FEMA and insurance processes, advocate for additional resources, and identify remaining recovery gaps that AB 102 can help fill. Since the program started in March 2024, over \$1 million in total relief funds have been distributed to households and about \$1.6 million to business. After thoroughly reviewing all eligible applications and ensuring sufficient funds to meet the community's unmet needs, the County is pleased to announce that another round of Evacuation Assistance (Phase 1) will be distributed to the community in early 2025.

However, direct financial relief alone cannot address the broader social and economic challenges faced by Pájaro. To help address these deep-rooted issues, the County strategically allocated \$10 million of these state funds for long-term investments in the community including significant infrastructure projects which will serve as a key turning point in the recovery process.

In partnership with the Community Foundation for the County of Monterey, the Department of Emergency Management is excited to announce awardees for the Pájaro Community Grant Program. These projects will focus on community priorities, offering education, mental health resources, and other support services. A total of \$2 million in projects and programs will be rolled out over the next year.

While we have made meaningful progress, the journey is not over. Recovery will require continued collaboration, commitment, and compassion as we work together to rebuild. We are grateful to all who have contributed to this recovery mission, and we look forward to the next chapter of healing and transformation. We remain ever more steadfast in our commitment to supporting the community and ensuring that Pájaro's strength and resilience lead to a brighter, more prosperous future.

Sincerely,

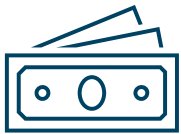
Kelsey Scanlon
Director of Emergency Management

Fund Administration Priorities

Recovery Goals: resilient, self-sufficient, and thriving communities in the aftermath of disaster

2024

1. Economic Recovery and Livelihood Support



Disasters disrupt local economies, leaving individuals and businesses struggling. In vulnerable communities, post-disaster aid often falls short of meeting complex needs. The County aims to prioritize these populations and provide economic support for the unmet flood recovery needs of individuals, households, and small businesses.

2. Community Engagement



The County's intention is to focus on community engagement in planning and decision-making for recovery efforts and ensuring equity in recovery efforts, addressing the needs of marginalized groups.

2025

3. Community Resilience and Social Safety Net



Recovery extends beyond physical rebuilding to include emotional and social healing, ensuring communities can withstand future events. The County's intention is to focus on community support, strengthening social networks, and preparedness for future disasters.

4. Restoration & Improvement of Critical Infrastructure & Key Resources



Essential services like transportation, water, energy, healthcare, and communication are crucial for recovery. The County aims to use this opportunity to 'build back better' with sustainable, disaster-resistant strategies.

Assembly Bill 102

Requirements

- Disbursed in the community of Pájaro
- No duplication or replacement of benefits available or received through other existing assistance programs
- Must be expended by December 31, 2025
- Subject to State Audit

Purpose

- Community support and impact
- No other funding available
- Immediate recovery needs
- Feasibility
- One-time project



Community Project Development Meeting #1

August 30, 2023

Over 70+ project ideas brainstormed with over 80 residents and community partners

Community Project Development Meeting #2

October 4, 2023

22 project ideas prioritized with close to 100 residents and community partners

Community Project Development Meeting #3

October 30, 2023

Final list of project ideas presented and voted on by close to 150 residents and community partners

Board of Supervisors Project Approval

December 6, 2023

Final project list presented to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors for Approval

FINAL PROJECT LIST

Approved by the Board of Supervisors in December 2023

Focus Area	Project	Project Partner	Status	Budgeted	Obligated	Expended
Individual & Economic Recovery	Individuals and Households Disaster Assistance	Catholic Charites, Community Bridges	In Progress	\$6,000,000	\$3,285,283	\$2,714,717
	Small Business Disaster Assistance	Workforce Development Board	In Progress	\$4,000,000	\$312,785	\$1,633,848
Community Resources	Community Grants	Community Foundation for Monterey County	In Progress	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$0
Infrastructure	Safe Streets	Public Works	In Development	\$2,000,000	\$65,112	\$0
Natural & Cultural Resources	Pajaro Library/ Community Space & Resilience Center	Public Works, Monterey County Free Libraries	In Development	\$3,500,000	\$344,588	\$0
	Pajaro Parks	Pajaro Sunny Mesa CSD, Public Works	In Development	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0
Emergency Preparedness & Response	Emergency Response & Flood Fighting	North County Fire Protection District	In Progress	\$500,000	\$11,330	\$9,906
	Digital Message Board	Pajaro Valley Unified School District	In Development	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
	Emergency Preparedness & Recovery Planning	Department of Emergency Management	In Progress	\$300,000	\$0	\$109
			Contingency (2%)	\$400,000		
Total				\$20,000,000	\$6,019,098	\$4,358,580



INDIVIDUAL & ECONOMIC RECOVERY

FOCUS AREA

PAJARO UNMET NEEDS DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Individuals and Households

Small Businesses

Phase 1: Evacuation Support

EVACUATION FOOD SPOILAGE

\$200-\$1000 per eligible household

Phase 1: Losses and Damages

STOREFRONT BUSINESSES

\$85,000 Maximum

Inventory, Equipment, Lost Revenue, and Building Damages

HOME-BASED BUSINESSES

\$5,000 Maximum

Computers, Laptops, Tablets, Inventory, and other equipment

Phase 2: Flood Losses

HOME REPAIR ASSISTANCE

Max Award based on actual repair cost

VEHICLE REPAIR/ REPLACEMENT

Max Award based on actual repair cost

Phase 2: Beautification

STOREFRONT BUSINESSES

\$15,000 Maximum

Exterior / Interior Painting, Landscaping, Fascia / Signage

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

*Max Award of \$15,000**

PERSONAL PROPERTY

*Max Award of \$15,000**

*Personal Property and Housing Assistance has a combined maximum of \$15,000 per household.

Application Center

The County of Monterey Department of Emergency Management and Workforce Development Board opened an application center for small businesses and households in March 2023. Information sessions were held for interested community members prior to the opening of the application center.



Pajaro Disaster Assistance

Were you impacted by the 2023 Winter Storm Pajaro floods? Join us for an informational meeting on the assistance program!

Meeting Dates:
 Wednesday - March 6, 2024
 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
 Thursday - March 7, 2024
 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
 Wednesday - March 13, 2024
 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
 Thursday - March 14, 2024
 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Informational meetings will explain the program and requirements. Each meeting will cover the same material. Please join us for one of the 4 meetings!

All meetings will be held at: Our Lady of the Assumption Church
 100 Salinas Road, Pajaro, CA 95076

For more information, please call (831) 755-3400

Logos for County of Monterey, Workforce Development Board, Community Bridges, and Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey are included at the bottom.



Individuals and Households Disaster Assistance

Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey & Community Bridges

In Progress

\$6,000,000

Budget

\$3,285,283

Obligated

\$2,714,717*

Expended

Project Description: The Pajaro Unmet Needs Individuals and Households Disaster Assistance Program provides support to households impacted by the March 2023 Pajaro Levee breach, covering the gap between disaster-caused damages and available aid from insurance, federal, state, county, and non-profit sources.

Progress Tracker

- ✓ Community Informational Meetings | Complete
- ✓ Registration and Application | Complete
- ✓ Phase 1 - Documentation Collection | Complete
- ✓ Phase 1 – Fund Distribution | Complete
- **Phase 2 - Documentation Collection | In Progress**
- **Phase 2 – Fund Distribution | In Progress**

Next Steps

- Close Out

Summary: The program aims to address remaining unmet needs post-flood. Community Bridges distributed Phase 1 assistance and is working with Catholic Charities to gather documentation and distribute Phase 2 assistance. Disaster Case Managers are helping households develop recovery plans, navigate FEMA and insurance, advocate for resources, and assess unmet needs. As of November 2024, **over \$1 million** in assistance has been provided to affected families since the program started in March 2024 (an average of \$125,000 a month in assistance). Home repair assistance is anticipated to fully roll-out over the next few months.

	Phase 1: <i>Evacuation Food Spoilage</i>	Phase 2: <i>Unmet Needs Flood Recovery</i>	Totals
Status	Complete	In Progress	
Approved Applications	688/757	84/342	
Funds Distributed	\$464,600	\$633,975	\$1,098,575
Administrative Costs	\$52,745	\$63,397	\$116,142

Phase 2 Assistance	Total Distributed
Housing Assistance	\$32,554
Personal Property	\$544,878
Vehicle Repair	\$56,543
Total	\$633,975

*Total amount expended includes total assistance distributed and the \$1.5 million dollar advance to Catholic Charities and Community Bridges to ensure available capital to expediate individual assistance payment.





Small Business Disaster Assistance

Monterey County Workforce Development Board

In Progress

\$4,000,000

Budget

\$312,785

Obligated

\$1,633,848

Expended

Project Description: The Pajaro Unmet Needs Small Business Disaster Assistance Program aims to assist small businesses impacted by the March 2023 Pajaro Levee breach, supporting their recovery and preventing permanent closure.

Progress Tracker

- ✓ Registration and Application | Complete
- **Phase 1 – Documentation Collection | In Progress**
- **Phase 1 – Business Losses | In Progress**
- **Phase 2 – Documentation Collection | In Progress**
- **Phase 2 - Business Beautification | In Progress**

Next Steps

- ☐ Close Out

Summary: The Monterey County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) received a total of **92 applications** from business and is working with applicants to validate claims and distribute checks to approved Pájaro businesses. Staff continue in-person follow-ups at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, and the Executive Director maintains regular communication with the business community, attending weekly meetings to address concerns. The goal is to review and approve applications promptly while ensuring due diligence.

	Phase 1: <i>Business Flood Losses & Damages</i>	Phase 2: <i>Business Beautification</i>
Status	In Progress	In Progress
Applications	89	58
Approved Applications	34	29
Amount Approved	\$1,258,016	\$517,717
Funds Distributed	\$1,204,090	\$258,859*
Administrative Costs	\$170,899	

*\$517,717 has been approved in Phase 2 Assistance. Businesses receive 50% of approved beautification funds upfront and the remaining 50% upon completion.





Community Resources

FOCUS AREA



Pajaro Community Grant Program

Community Foundation for Monterey County

In Progress

\$2,000,000

Budget

\$2,000,000

Obligated

\$0

Expended

Project Description: This program aims to support community projects that enhance Pajaro's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters, leveraging local non-governmental organizations.

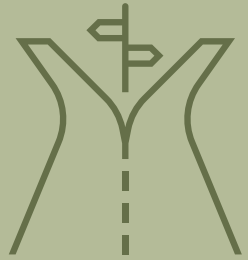
Progress Tracker

- ✓ Request for Proposals | Complete
- ✓ Award Selection | Complete
- ✓ Agreement Development | Complete
- ✓ Agreement Ratified | Complete
- ✓ Community Outreach | Complete
- ✓ Application Submission | Complete
- ✓ Application Review | Complete
- ✓ Committee Selection | Complete
- ✓ **Award Announcement | In Progress**

Next Steps

- Project Implementation – December 2024 – September 2025

Summary: The County partnered with the Community Foundation for Monterey County, whose mission is to inspire philanthropy and strengthen local communities. With extensive experience in grantmaking, the Foundation conducted outreach through sessions, emails, and social media to announce the application period, which ran from September 2023 to October 18, 2024. The Pajaro Community Grant Program received 39 applications requesting nearly \$4 million. A review committee of residents selected the final awarded projects, which will offer workshops, art, greening, mental health services, and more to residents. Once announced on December 18, 2024, the list of awarded grantees will be available on the Community Foundations website.



Infrastructure

FOCUS AREA



Safe Streets

Monterey County Public Works, Facilities, & Parks

Development

\$2,000,000

Budget

\$65,112

Obligated

\$0

Expended

Project Description: The Safe Streets program is intended to enhance transportation safety and improve public infrastructure through initiatives that increase overall community resilience.

Progress Tracker

- ✓ Community Listening Session | Complete
- ✓ Community Safe Streets Workshop | Complete
- **Project Design and Scoping | In Progress**
- **Contractor Identification | In Progress**

Next Steps

- Construction
- Close Out

Summary: In June, Public Works and the Department of Emergency Management hosted a Safe Streets Workshop to gather community input. The County is developing infrastructure improvements for Pájaro, focusing on pedestrian enhancements, such as sidewalk repairs, street crossing upgrades, accessible curb ramps, traffic signal improvements, and street safety lighting. The project, currently in development, is expected to begin construction by mid-2025.

Tentative improvements include:

- 27 accessible ramps and sidewalk repairs- Various locations
- 24 Additional streetlights- Various locations
- Refreshed red curbs, STOP markings, and lane lines
- Curb extension and pedestrian flashing beacon at San Juan Rd/Salinas Rd
- Radar feedback signs (2) on San Juan Road
- Radar feedback signs (2) on Railroad Ave
- Radar feedback signs on (2) Lewis Rd
- Traffic signal upgrades at Salinas Rd/Pajaro Middle School
- Traffic signal upgrades at Porter Dr/San Juan Rd



Natural & Cultural Resources

FOCUS AREA



Pajaro Park Upgrade

Pajaro Sunny Mesa Community Services District

Development

\$1,200,000

Budget

\$0

Obligated

\$0

Expended

Project Description: The Pajaro Park Upgrade aims to revitalize the park, making it a more accessible community gathering space with improved access to government services during disasters.

Progress Tracker

- ✓ Site Assessment | Complete
- **Project Scoping and Design | In Progress**

Next Steps

- Project Agreement
- Contractor Identification
- Construction

Summary: To meet grant deadlines, the County has initiated discussions with the Pajaro Sunny Mesa Community Services District about using existing County contracts for the proposed work. Monterey County Parks and the Department of Emergency Management recently conducted a site assessment and are developing an agreement with the District. Detailed cost estimates are being prepared, with construction anticipated for Spring/Summer 2025. Additionally, staff are exploring placing remaining funds into an escrow account to cover future operations and maintenance costs.

Project Budget

Turf Replacement	\$700,000
Playground Refurbishment	\$250,000
New Benches & Tables	\$50,000
Operations and Maintenance	\$200,000





Pajaro Library/ Community Space and Resilience Center

Public Works, Facilities, & Parks

Development

\$3,500,000

Budget

\$344,588

Obligated

\$0

Expended

Project Description: The Community Space and Resilience Center project aims to renovate and expand the Pajaro Library, creating a more accessible and welcoming space for community gatherings and access to government services.

Progress Tracker

- ✓ Renderings | Complete
- ✓ Pre-Review| Complete
- ✓ 50% Construction Documents | Complete
- ✓ Preliminary Cost Estimate | Complete

Next Steps

- Complete Flood Repairs
- 100% Construction Documents
- Contractor Selection
- Construction
- Close Out

Summary: The Pajaro Library renovation includes adding access to the second and third floors with an interior lift and exterior stairs, as well as creating space for community programming and service providers. Public Works staff are developing plans, preparing construction documents, submitting permits, and refining cost estimates.

The library was heavily damaged during the 2023 Pajaro Levee Breach, with repairs expected to begin in January 2025. Due to the cost of required repairs, flood repairs are only partially funded. In early 2025, the Board will consider reallocating renovation funds for these repairs.





Emergency Preparedness & Response

FOCUS AREA



Emergency Response & Flood Fighting

North County Fire Protection District

In Progress

\$500,000

Budget

\$11,330

Obligated

\$9,906

Expended

Project Description: This project aims to enhance the flood-fighting capabilities of North County Fire Protection District, the local fire agency for Pájaro. Acquiring specialized equipment and training will improve their ability to respond to emergencies in the community.

Progress Tracker

- ✓ Equipment Identification | Complete
- **Procurement | In Progress**
- **Agreement Development | In Progress**

Next Steps

- Agreement Execution
- Delivery

Summary: The Department of Emergency Management and North County Fire staff have identified the required equipment specifications and are working on selecting vendors, collecting quotes, developing agreements, and submitting purchase orders.

Project Items

Tractor for Sand & Debris	\$90,000
Flood Rescue Boat	\$25,000
Flood Safety Equipment	\$9,906
Command Trailer Generator	\$10,000
Emergency Mobile Radios	\$111,330
High Water Recue Vehicle	\$350,255
Flood Safety Training	\$10,000





Digital Message Board

Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Development

\$100,000

Budget

\$0

Obligated

\$0

Expended

Project Description: Installation of a Digital Message Board at Pajaro Middle School will allow the School to share daily as well as emergency/recovery information with residents on behalf of the County.

Progress Tracker

- ✓ Letter of Intent to Fund | Complete
- ✓ Hire Architect | Complete
- **Project Scoping and Design | In Progress**
- **Agreement Development | In Progress**

Next Steps

- Agreement Execution
- HCD & DSA Plan Review and Permitting
- PVUSD Board Review and Approval
- Contractor Award & Contract
- Installation
- Close Out

Summary: The Department of Emergency Management sent a letter of intent to fund the Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD). PVUSD and County staff are collaborating on the project scope and design. PVUSD has hired an architect to design the sign, create construction documents, and manage the permit process, and Emergency Management is drafting an agreement for reimbursement and joint use of the sign. Construction and installation are expected to be completed during summer break 2025.





Emergency Preparedness & Recovery Planning

Department of Emergency Management

In Progress

\$300,000

Budget

\$0

Obligated

\$109

Expended

Project Description: The Emergency Preparedness & Recovery Planning program aims to enhance community resilience by creating and implementing plans to mitigate disaster impacts, ensure effective response, and promote rapid recovery.

Progress Tracker

- ✓ Wildfire Preparedness Community Event | Complete
- ✓ Flood Preparedness Community Event | Complete
- ✓ Alert and Warning Billboard Advertisements | Complete
- ✓ CERT Backpack Delivery | Complete
- **CERT Training | In Progress**

Summary: The Department of Emergency Management is implementing several preparedness initiatives that are in progress including:

- Billboards promoting Alert Monterey County.
- Community flood and wildfire preparedness events
- **Pájaro Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):** In collaboration with Community Bridges, bi-lingual CERT training is being procured and will be offered for free to the community.
- **CERT Backpacks:** 200 backpacks have been delivered to Community Bridges for distribution to Pájaro residents completing CERT training.
- **Pajaro Levee Emergency Action Plan:** Emergency Management staff are participating in a US Army Corps of Engineers-led effort to plan emergency responses for the Pajaro Levee.





**Pájaro Residents & Businesses
County Agencies & Non-Profit Partners**

Thank You

