



Gregg Dieguez <mccgreggd@gmail.com>

Fwd: FEMA

Gregg Dieguez <gadieguez@gmail.com>
To: Gregg Dieguez <mccgreggd@gmail.com>

Sun, Feb 5, 2023 at 5:59 PM

Follow-up: it was stated at MWSD Board meeting 2/2/23 that the FEMA contacts EXCLUDED Special Districts, but included cities. That might explain the lack of communication with S.A.M. - Gregg

From: **Gregg Dieguez** <mccgreggd@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 1, 2023 at 1:25 PM
Subject: Fwd: FEMA
To: <aely@smcgov.org>
Cc: Ray Mueller <rmueller@smcgov.org>, <dmattei@smcgov.org>

Adam,

Thank you for your efforts to advance disaster relief on the Midcoast from this storm. I want to augment my prior email with a list of factors I hope FEMA and the County can research for remediation and prevention while they are here.

As you will see from the graphs in the attached article (*which come from the Sewer Authority Mid-coastside (SAM) presentation cited in the article*)...

<https://www.coastsidebuzz.com/the-storm-of-23-a-learning-experience/>

... the SAM plant was flooded by a sudden upsurge of water from Pilarcitos Creek. Not only was the SAM plant damaged, but in an effort to reduce the flows at the plant, operators held back the flows from the north of the plant, and the extra pressure burst the IPS (pipes), and overloaded wet weather storage facilities and pumps. In addition, local neighborhoods in Half Moon Bay and the Midcoast were flooded (Oak St. and Moonridge, for example), though the creek was not a factor in every flooded neighborhood. What occurred at Pilarcitos Creek is likely tied to upstream conditions at Stone Dam and the reservoir. The monitoring and management processes there, as well as the conditions of that infrastructure, are key factors to be analyzed.

Below are our first thoughts on areas to be analyzed - and hopefully funded for remediation and prevention:

1. The SAM plant and upstream sewer system, including the IPS, pump stations, and wet weather storage
2. The storm drain capacity (or lack thereof) of the Midcoast, Pacifica, and Half Moon Bay, and the level of infiltration and inflow from stormwaters into the sewer systems.
3. The planning, permitting, funding, and auditing/enforcement practices related to sewer and stormwater.
4. The condition, monitoring, and management practices of Pilarcitos Reservoir and attendant dams and spillways.
5. The condition of trees, especially those at risk of blocking evacuation and first responder routes along Hwy 1 (e.g. *Frenchman's Creek, and north of the Lantos Tunnel*), and near dwellings (e.g. *in the El Granada medians*). Related thereto, please evaluate the planning and permitting practices related to tree cutting and removal.
6. The adequacy of power supply, internet connectivity, and wireless communications during storm conditions, and provisions for emergency capacity.
7. The adequacy of storm drainage on Caltrans roads, e.g culvert and drainage capacity along Hwy 1 at the airport, and the adequacy of planned drainage capacity in the upcoming Multi-Asset Roadway Rehabilitation Project on Hwy 1 (project ID 04-1800-0053), and other Caltrans projects in the area.
8. The appropriate "design storm" specifications to be used in public works projects. For example, Pacifica has been using "a total 24-hour rainfall of 3.74 inches with a peak intensity of 0.59 inches per hour" as the Design Storm in spite of a storm of 7", and several of over 6" in recent years. MWSD recently prepared a FEMA grant application citing storms up to 8" and several above 6" in recent years, with intensities up to 12" per hour.

I have more information I can share about the impact of this and other storms in the area, and I can arrange site visits with constituents to share their situations, as desired. As more information becomes available here, we will update our thoughts and concerns.

I'm sure there will be much more to discover and discuss regarding the infrastructure issues highlighted by the storm of 12/31-1/5/23. We look forward to a report on the causes and remediation from this disaster, and on prevention of future problems.

Most sincerely,

Gregg A. Dieguez
Midcoast Community Council - Chairman
Founder: MIT Club of Northern Calif. Energy & Environment Program
P.O. Box 370404
Montara, CA 94037
650-544-0714

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Adam Ely** <aely@smcgov.org>
Date: Tue, Jan 31, 2023 at 5:28 PM
Subject: RE: FEMA
To: gadieguez@gmail.com <gadieguez@gmail.com>
Cc: Donald Mattei <dmattei@smcgov.org>

Supervisor Mueller forwarded me your inquiry.

The County Department of Emergency Management is working w/ FEMA regarding preliminary damage assessments, initial estimates, and eligibility for individual and Public Assistance. Through the event, the County collected information from other municipalities and entities regarding both individual and public impacts.

This information, like that provided by the sewer authority, has been shared w/ FEMA. Having received the initial data, FEMA establishes their order of operations.

Here, they started w/ individual assessments to determine whether the County would qualify for Individual Assistance (i.e., financial and direct service assistance to individuals and households). Now that we have qualified for IA and SBA, FEMA is conducting outreach at areas of reported impact.

Tomorrow, FEMA begins on-site assessments in the public realm to determine whether we cross the threshold for Public Assistance. FEMA will visit certain locations up to the point of determining we are eligible for assistance; once we hit the threshold, they'll likely not visit every impacted location. Once we are determined eligible for PA, information will be pushed out regarding the available benefits and how to apply by FEMA and the County. Much of that information is available on the FEMA website (see e.g., <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/apply>).

Adam Ely (he/him)

Deputy County Executive

County Executive's Office

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COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

From: Gregg Dieguez <gadieguez@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 4:49 PM
To: Ray Mueller <rmueller@smcgov.org>
Subject: Fwd: FEMA on site? NOT A TRACE?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

This is pretty amazing. I don't have hard, public data, (we will eventually), but we have a sewer plant which has suffered ~\$10 million in direct damages and faces perhaps ~\$40 million in fines, and FEMA has not contacted our SAM sewer plant?! **I'll do it if someone gives me the info.** I reached out to Ann Ludwig (County LHMP) today and she's going to put me in touch with someone I hadn't heard of before at the County, someone who replaced a retired Dan Belville.

Here's a simple question: **who is the person at SMC who is quantifying and coordinating County losses with FEMA?**

From that we can ask: how much is the damage so far, and what are we doing about it?

Thanks,

Gregg

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From: Kishen Prathivadi <kishen@samcleanswater.org>
Date: Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 3:01 PM
Subject: RE: FEMA on site?
To: Gregg Dieguez <gadieguez@gmail.com>, Clemens Heldmaier MWSD <mwsd@coastside.net>

I had sent the Preliminary Damage Assessment to Jeff Norris on 1-2-23 and have not heard from him yet.

I have sent another reminder today.

Thank you,

Kishen Prathivadi, P.E, PMP

Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside

1000 N Cabrillo Hwy

Half Moon Bay, CA

650-726-0124 Office

650-726-7833 Fax

kishen@samcleanswater.org

www.samcleanswater.org

From: Kishen Prathivadi

Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 2:57 PM

To: Gregg Dieguez <gadieguez@gmail.com>; Clemens Heldmaier MWSD <mwsd@coastside.net>

Subject: RE: FEMA on site?

We have not heard of it.

We can reach out to them if you have any contacts.

Thank you,

Kishen Prathivadi, P.E, PMP

Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside

1000 N Cabrillo Hwy

Half Moon Bay, CA

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From: Gregg Dieguez <gadieguez@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 7:11 PM

To: Kishen Prathivadi <kishen@samcleanswater.org>; Clemens Heldmaier MWSD <mwsd@coastside.net>

Subject: FEMA on site?

Has FEMA visited your sites for damage assessments?

Mueller says they're here...

Gregg A. Dieguez

[Midcoast Community Council Chairman](#) *(writing as an individual)*

Founder: [MIT Club of Northern Calif. Energy & Environment Program](#)

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