

Supervisor Vianey Lopez *Fifth District*



Storm Recovery & Disaster Assistance

A late December storm with historic record levels of rainfall caused flooding and damage to hundreds of homes and vehicles. The primary impacts were observed in the cities of Oxnard, Ventura & Port Hueneme, with Oxnard and Port Hueneme both declaring Local States of Emergency. In response to these unfortunate events, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to send a letter to the Director of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services asking for assistance with funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDA), the Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loan Program and the FEMA Individual Assistance Program. In addition, we requested the Governor explore options for one time funding with the intent to establish a local assistance grant program.

At our January 23rd Board of Supervisors meeting, I requested the SBA do a presentation on the application process for those impacted by the storms. You can watch the SBA presentation [here](#). It is important that homeowners, renters, or business owners apply for assistance to initiate an SBA application by the physical damage deadline of March 11, 2024

[More info on the SBA on Page 5](#)



Communities Represented

Central and Southern portions of the City of Oxnard, City of Port Hueneme, Oxnard Plain, Oxnard Shores, Mandalay Bay, Silver Strand, Hollywood Beach, Hollywood by the Sea, Channel Islands Harbor, California State University Channel Islands, Naval Base Ventura County, California Air National Guard, Oxnard Airport, Ormond Beach Wetlands, and Channel Islands National Park.

Call Us

-  (805) 654-2613
-  District5@ventura.org



At our January 23rd Board of Supervisors Meeting, I had the honor of collaborating with Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) to present to our Board their award winning program ‘La Tierra Donde Sembramos’, which translates to the land where we plant or sow. This program advocates for fair employment practices and empowers and supports indigenous and migrant communities. In 2022, MICOP received the ‘Fran Schreiber Award’ at Worksafe’s 40th Anniversary event in Oakland, California. Our board provided certificates to the workers that completed this program.

If you would like to see the full presentation, click [here](#).

Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom March

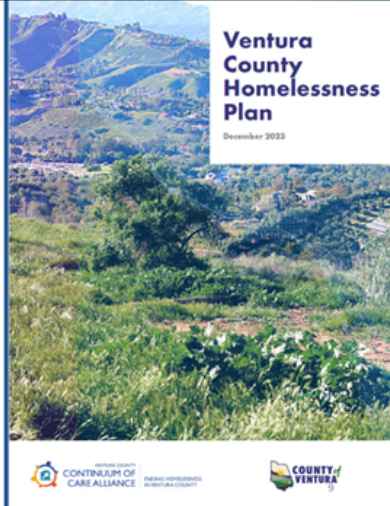
My staff joined County and City officials, many organizations and community members at the 38th Annual Ventura County Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration. The event began in Plaza Park with a Freedom March through the streets of downtown Oxnard to the Oxnard Performing Arts Center where an Observance Program was held with keynote speaker, Dr. Irene Pinkard.



YOUR COUNTY AT WORK

Ventura County Homelessness Plan

1. Action Area 1: Housing Prioritization & Funding
2. Action Area 2: Regional Coordination & Leadership
3. Action Area 3: Outreach & Service Delivery
4. Action Area 4: Data-Driven Decision Making
5. Action Area 5: Representation & Inclusivity



PLAN TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS

In December of last year, my colleagues and I received a report back on the county and cities' efforts to end and prevent homelessness in Ventura County. We asked staff to return with recommendations and alternatives, including a cost assessment, potential financial resources, and timing options for strategically phasing a rollout of recommendations. We anticipate an update in the next 60 days.

If you would like to view the full report, click [here](#).



CASA PACIFICA RECEIVES \$2,766,721 GRANT

Casa Pacifica Center for Children and Families applied for Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program funding through the California Department of Health Care Services in June 2022. The non-profit was notified in April 2023 that it had been awarded the \$2,766,721 grant and made plans for the rehabilitation of two houses and a therapeutic resources center. The grant will also fund 10 beds to provide short-term residential therapeutic treatment for children and youths 18 years of age and younger.

2024 Point in Time Count



My staff and I joined hundreds of volunteers for the 2024 Ventura County Homeless Point in Time count on January 24. The effort, conducted in the ten cities and unincorporated areas within Ventura County, surveys and observes those living unsheltered or in places not meant for human habitation on the night of January 23. The Point in Time count is required by HUD to determine eligibility for communities for federal grants addressing homelessness. In 2023, there were 2,441 adults and children who were counted as homeless, an increase of 203 over the 2022 count. A final report on the 2024 count is expected to be published this Spring.

For more information or to get involved in ending homelessness, visit our Ventura County Continuum of Care (VC CoC) website at www.venturacoc.org.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREATER OXNARD & PORT HUENEME



I had the honor of presenting certificates to the youth that participated in this year's 'Youth of the Year' Awards Ceremony at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Oxnard & Port Hueneme. This competition is the Club's signature effort to foster a new generation of leaders, fully prepared to live and lead in a diverse, global, and integrated world economy. The youth that participate in this competition learn valuable skills to thrive in today's workplace such as communication, goal-setting, and teamwork. These youth give me great optimism for their future and our community. Congratulations to Jazmin Reyes Quiroz, elected as this year's Youth of the Year!



On January 10, 2024, the Small Business Administration (SBA) issued an *Administrative Disaster Declaration* for businesses and homes with damages resulting from the Dec. 21 - 23, 2023 storm and flooding event and subsequently on Saturday January 13, 2024, a Disaster loan Outreach Center was opened in Oxnard at the South Oxnard Branch Library at 4300 Saviers Rd., allowing survivors who suffered damage or loss from this recent storm to apply in person.

- For Individuals and Families, this includes up to a \$500,000 loan to repair or replace real estate damage for homeowners, and for both homeowners and renters up to a \$100,000 loan to replace personal property.
- For businesses, which includes non-profit organizations and places of worship property damage up to a \$2 million loan to repair or replace real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other assets that were damaged or destroyed.
- It is very important for applicants to initiate an SBA loan application by the **physical damage deadline of March 11, 2024.**
- Interest rates for physical damage loans are as low as **2.688 percent** for homeowners, **4 percent** for businesses and **3.250 percent** for non-profits.
- **Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)** – Working capital loans up to \$2 million to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period. **Loan rates are as low as 4 percent for businesses and small agricultural cooperatives and 3.250 percent for private non-profit organizations** and are typically 30-year loans. Shorter terms are available.

There is no cost or obligation to apply, and eligibility is based on a case-by-case review for each applicant. There is no interest for the first year and no repayment requirements for the first 12 months. SBA disaster loans have no closing costs and no prepayment penalties and terms up to 30 years.

You can initiate the process online at sba.gov/disaster.

UPCOMING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
8:30 AM

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
8:30 AM

In-Person at the
County Government Center
800 S. Victoria Ave, Ventura, CA 93009

Online at:
<https://www.ventura.org/board-of-supervisors/agendas-documents-and-broadcasts/>