



FEMA



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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



PRESS RELEASE

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RECOVERY CENTERS TO REMAIN OPEN THROUGH FEB. 10

With more than 1,800 Santa Cruz County residents having applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency benefits and countless more connected with local services, the County of Santa Cruz and the City of Watsonville, along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the California Office of Emergency Services, today announced that Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in Watsonville and Felton will remain open through Feb. 10, 2023.

Beginning Saturday, Feb. 4, both DRCs will continue operating between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to help those impacted by the January atmospheric river event. Eligible residents who have not yet begun the recovery process are encouraged to stop by.

The deadline to apply for FEMA aid for damages or losses related to the January storms is March 16, 2023. Call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), download the FEMA app or visit <https://www.disasterassistance.gov> to get started.

The County has established a Virtual Recovery Center (VRC), available at <https://www.santacruzcounty.us/OR3/Emergency.aspx>. Watsonville's Storm Recovery site is at <https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/2420/FLOOD-RECOVERY-RESOURCES>.

For residents in the unincorporated area who are rebuilding and repairing storm-damaged properties, the County is offering a dedicated Recovery Permit Center. Please email rpc@santacruzcounty.us or phone 831-454-5323 for information and appointments. For Watsonville permits, please call 831-768-3050.

For those who are initially denied benefits, FEMA has an appeals process. Everyone who receives a determination letter is encouraged to visit <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/individual/after-applying/appeals> to begin the process. Residents have 60 days following a determination letter to file an appeal.