



County of Santa Cruz

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BOARD PROCLAIMS LOCAL EMERGENCY

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously proclaimed a local emergency due to extreme weather earlier this month that caused flooding, knocked over trees and power lines and caused significant damage to nearly two dozen county roads.

Though crews work long hours to clear roads and make sure residents could get home, the County estimates the damage in excess of \$11 million. The vote is the first step toward a possible state disaster declaration, which can trigger emergency funding to help cover storm damage.

During the vote, county officials urged the California Legislature to act on pending bills to increase local transportation funding.

“Storms are nothing new in Santa Cruz County, but what is new is the lack of transportation funding available to counties. Without action by lawmakers in Sacramento, we’re going to continue to see damage to local roads that is beyond our capacity to repair, and the cycle is going to repeat itself as conditions deteriorate further,” County Board Chair Bruce McPherson said. “The time for action is now.”

“It is a battle for us to bring in resources,” Public Works Director John Presleigh said. “At some point, it’s just impossible to do anything anymore when it comes to maintaining our 850-mile network of roads.”

An updated list of County roadways damaged by March storms is attached.