



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

April 17, 2024

Sarah Aghassi
Interim Chief Administrative Officer
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Ms. Aghassi,

I received your email on April 12, 2024 related to next steps for the County's Emergency Temporary Lodging (ETL) Program. As the regional entity charged with disaster response and recovery, the County of San Diego has performed yeoman's work in setting up emergency housing to help countywide residents in need as they transition into FEMA programs and repair their homes so that they can safely return.

The City of San Diego respectfully asks that you continue to deliver critical services to these storm victims and continue your ETL Program beyond your self-imposed May 11, 2024 deadline. You cite the expiration of the authority granted to you by your Board as reason for your May 11 deadline, so I offer to meet with your Board with you to explain the need for continuity of housing stability for storm victims. It is not the desire of the City of San Diego to allow storm victims, who were stably housed prior to the January 22 storms, to enter San Diego County's homelessness system. In regards to emergency response, the County has an obligation to serve all residents in the County, including those in incorporated cities.

Additionally, the City has heard from residents who would like additional time to apply for FEMA assistance but have been unable to due to factors including language access, difficulty navigating the process, and the continued rains. The City asks the County to submit a request to grant an extension for storm victims to apply for FEMA assistance to CalOES and FEMA past the April 19, 2024 deadline.

Both of these requests have been submitted in WEBEOC.

In response to your request for three dedicated staff support for housing navigation, the City will continue to step up through this emergency and, with the San Diego Housing Commission, by providing six staff dedicated to outreach and housing navigation to the households you are serving in your program. To assist the County in winding down its program, our staff have developed a process to directly contact households being served by the County to match them with temporary housing resources.

We appreciate the County meeting its role as the Operational Area Coordinator and will work with your Director of Emergency Services Jeff Toney accordingly as we continue to pursue these requests. If you have any questions, please contact Adrian Granda, Director of Government Affairs, at ADGranda@sandiego.gov or 619-218-7083.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Dargan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Dargan" clearly legible.

ERIC K. DARGAN
Chief Operating Officer
City of San Diego