

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA Mayor

April 29, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of San Diego 1600 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Item 28: 2024 SEVERE WINTER STORMS: LOCAL COUNTY-WIDE EMERGENCY REVIEW AND RATIFICATION; END THE EMERGENCY TEMPORARY LODGING PROGRAM, ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL FUND RESERVE TO ASSIST TRANSITION TO PERMANENT HOUSING AND/OR ALLOCATE GRANT FUNDING TO REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing with regard to Item 28 on the April 30, 2024, Board of Supervisors agenda. On behalf of the City of San Diego, I am writing to respectfully request that the Board extend the County's Emergency Temporary Lodging (ETL) Program beyond your May 11 deadline and work with the affected housing authorities to best serve the 1,940 people currently under the County of San Diego's supervision. This request was originally made by the City of San Diego's Chief Operating Officer Eric Dargan on April 17, 2024, in a correspondence to County interim Chief Administrative Officer Sarah Aghassi.

As you know, the families under the County's ETL program are not persons who are generally experiencing homelessness, but storm victims who were housed prior to the January 22 severe storm and flash flooding that damaged their homes. It is not the desire of the City of San Diego to have storm victims enter San Diego County's homelessness system nor be exposed to continued volatility and uncertainty. It is imperative that we offer them as much stability as we can during this time.

That said, since the County made its intention known that it would be sunsetting the ETL program on May 11, the City of San Diego and the San Diego Housing Commission dedicated resources to conduct direct outreach and try to make referrals to participants who are residents of the City of San Diego. We continue to make every attempt to match them with resources and housing as available.

As of Monday, April 29, we are aware of 514 households still in County sponsored hotels. City of San Diego staff have made 1,496 calls to ETL participants, resulting in 213 successful contacts and 91 referrals to the San Diego Housing Commission's Unit Search Assistance teams.

It is important to note that neither the City of San Diego nor the San Diego Housing Commission were made aware of this action to allocate funding to housing authorities for longer term housing prior to the Board Letter becoming public on April 24, 2024. I expect the same could be said for National City and Oceanside.

With regard to emergency response, the residents of the City of San Diego are also residents in the County along with those in unincorporated areas and we also ask for your continued partnership as we match households to longer-term housing until they can return to their homes.

Additionally, the City would like to work with the County to build out a program with the housing authorities that does not inadvertently render any households or individuals ineligible for FEMA housing assistance, due to duplication of assistance. Lastly, we ask that the County partner with residents that may want to stay in the hotels to access discounted daily rates that the County may have had access to.

Again, I respectfully request the County's continued assistance and partnership by extending the ETL program, and working with our housing authorities to ensure none of the January 22 storm victims are subject to further instability and potentially left without housing. If you have any questions, please contact Adrian Granda, Director of Government Affairs, at <u>ADGranda@sandiego.gov</u> or 619-218-7083.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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TODD GLORIA Mayor City of San Diego