



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: May 8, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor Todd Gloria, City of San Diego

FROM: Henry L. Foster III, Councilmember, City of San Diego, Fourth District

SUBJECT: Prioritizing City Funds for Flood-Impacted City Residents

On January 22, 2024, San Diego, CA, experienced a significant flooding event that resulted in extensive property damage and the displacement of residents. Recent data from the County of San Diego (the “County”) indicates that 2,600 initial reports of property damage or storm impacts were recorded, with 431 residential locations classified as major damage, comprising 1,265 renters and 1,249 owners.¹

In response, the County established the Emergency Temporary Lodging (ETL) program to provide temporary housing assistance to flood-impacted City residents. As of May 7, 2024, 83% of households placed in this program (535 out of 642) reside within San Diego city limits.²

In standing up the ETL, the County has spent over \$20 million to aid affected residents, including San Diego city residents. Also, the County approved an additional \$4.6 million for distribution among the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC), the National City Housing Authority, and the City of Oceanside Housing Authority to facilitate the transition of flood-impacted City residents from the ETL program back to permanent housing.

In 2020, the San Diego City Council unanimously established the Community Equity Fund in the amount of \$3.0 million alongside the Department of Race and Equity for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget. However, despite being available for the past four years, the Community Equity Fund remains largely untouched and underutilized for its intended purpose.

¹ 2024 Winter Storm Emergency - Weekly Temporary Lodging Summary - City of San Diego: [City EOC Exec Brief Report_05072024.pdf \(alertsandiego.org\)](#)

² *Ibid.*

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Given the critical housing need of flood-impacted City residents and the upcoming suspension of the ETL program, the City must take immediate action. Failure to do so may result in temporarily housed flood-impacted City residents becoming unhoused and entering the homelessness system.

Therefore, this memorandum serves to formally request that the entire FY 2024 budgeted Community Equity Fund (\$3 million) be immediately allocated to the SDHC to assist with the Housing Support Supplement Program to directly aid flood-impacted City residents transitioning back to permanent housing.

It is essential for the City to move forward and provide substantive assistance to uplift flood-impacted City residents and further support recovery efforts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

HLFIII: dh

cc: Daniel Horton, Chief of Staff, Office of Councilmember Henry L. Foster III
Paola Avila, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Charles Modica, Independent Budget Analyst