

Chelsea Lenzi

From: Erick McCurdy <erickmccurdy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 9:49 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Kelly Hubbard
Subject: County Budget - Staff cuts at Office of Emergency Management

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Supervisors,

I moved to Santa Barbara in 1973 and have always been active in my community. I have worked as a volunteer in disaster response for over 25 years and I am very familiar with the functions of the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). During disaster responses, I have regularly worked in the County Emergency Operations Center for will over a decade.

I understand what has often been described as the invisible cost benefit to attending to disaster preparedness and education prior to any disaster. Every dollar spent in preparedness can decrease the cost of damage and the need for repair and recovery after any disaster. It is for this reason that I strongly support maintaining the current budget and staffing for the Office of Emergency Management. The benefit of that department during any disaster response is obvious, however an important part of their success during a response is a direct result of the day-to-day work of the OEM staff with all of the partners within the County, the Cities and the State.

I strongly believe that any well-intentioned desire to decrease the cost of funding the Office of Emergency Management can put us in danger of causing a much larger increase to the future cost of recovery from any of the multiple disasters that Santa Barbara historically encounters each year.

I encourage you to fully fund the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management.

Respectfully

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