



February 16, 2023

**TO:** Emergency Services Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Ron Munds, General Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item 7 – 02/16/2023 ESAC Special Meeting**  
Emergency Sheltering in Los Osos/Vista de Oro Incident Update

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### **DISCUSSION**

On January 9, 2023, the Cabrillo stormwater basin experienced a basin wall failure on the northeast end of the basin around 4:30 in afternoon. The General Manager was notified of the incident at approximately 4:50 pm and immediately went to Vista Court to assess the damage with Chief Provence. Station 15 personnel were on the scene evaluating each property impacted and checking on well being of each resident. Clearly, it was necessary for residents to evacuate the area.

Chief Provence requested that we look at opening the Community Center for evacuees. The Community Center granted the request but there was a community wide power outage which precluded using the center. Additionally, according to the SLO County Emergency Operations Plan, the American Red Cross has the primary responsibility to open emergency shelters but, my understanding is that there is no agreement with the Community Center to provide this service. Because of this, there was subsequent confusion on where to direct our Los Osos residents to with a final determination made to direct people to Morro Bay.

The takeaway from the initial response to the disaster is that the community needs to have systems in place to quickly mobilize and request the services needed to respond in a timely manner. Cal Fire was very effective in organizing the response in the early stages of the emergency but their role needed to go back to their mission of emergency response to the entire community. There is an effort underway to start working on a longer-term plan. Staff will bring updates to ESAC as things progress.

### **Vista de Oro Incident Update**

Staff will provide a verbal update and presentation to the committee on the Vista de Oro incident at the meeting.