Congress of the United States

Washington, **DC** 20515

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden President of the United States 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC, 20500

Dear President Biden:

As Members of the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation, we write to express strong support and urge expeditious approval for the State of California's request for a Major Disaster Declaration (MDD) for Los Angeles County sent on March 22, 2024, regarding the early February 2024 Winter Storm event.

The impact of February's atmospheric river storm was enormous state-wide. Los Angeles County experienced particularly significant damage in the wake of the storm's catastrophic rainfall, flash flooding, hundreds of landslides and mudslides, and widespread power outages throughout the county. In a span of only two days, downtown Los Angeles saw over 7 inches of rain, making February 5th and 6th the wettest days on record in nearly 75 years and leading to forced evacuations in the Hollywood Hills, Studio City, and other parts of Los Angeles County.

The impact of the February atmospheric river storm led to extensive damage to homes, roadways, and public infrastructure throughout Los Angeles County, including the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant (HWRP). The extensive damage to HWRP – the largest sewage treatment plant by volume west of the Mississippi River – poses a threat to public health and safety if the necessary resources are not provided to make necessary repairs.

It is imperative that the federal government provide immediate assistance to the Angeleno families, homeowners, and businesses that have been directly impacted by the February atmospheric river storm. As Members representing districts throughout Los Angeles County, we strongly urge your administration to approve the State of California's request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Los Angeles County as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Adam B. Schiff

Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu

Member of Congress

Sydney Kamlager Dove Member of Congress

Manette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Judy Chu Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano Member of Congress

Julia Brownley Member of Congress Robert Garcia
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez Member of Congress