

**RECOVERY OPERATIONS CENTER
MARIN COUNTY/OPERATIONAL AREA
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 266
San Rafael, CA 94903**

**Marin County Waits for Federal Disaster Declaration, Will Close
Recovery Operations Center After Completing Damage Assessment**

For Immediate Release

Contact: Steven Hancock

Date: January 13, 2006

Title: Assistant Emergency Services Manager

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Phone: 415-499-6584

San Rafael – Local officials in Marin County continue to wait for the federal government to declare the county a federal disaster area. Earlier this week, County and local city staff completed the preliminary damage assessment of the storm damage across the county. This assessment, conducted with the assistance of teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Small Business Administration (SBA), and the State Office of Emergency Services, provided information about the extent of the county's storm damage.

Information from the assessment will support Marin County's request for a federal disaster declaration and FEMA assistance. FEMA has indicated that a decision on the federal declaration will be made by early next week. Once the federal declaration is made, the County will provide information on the FEMA assistance available to the community, which may include low-interest loans for repairs to businesses and residences and assistance for debris removal.

"A federal disaster declaration is certainly warranted in Marin County given the extent of damage in our county. I am hopeful the federal government will issue this declaration and provide the necessary assistance to help get damaged areas of the community back on their feet," said Supervisor Cynthia Murray, the County's Director of Emergency Services.

The County will officially close the Recovery Operations Center (ROC) on Friday, January 13 at 5:00 pm. The public information hotline (415-473-5614) will remain open to continue answering questions from the public about recovery assistance, flood cleanup, and other concerns. Following the closing of the ROC, a “disaster recovery working group” will be formed to continue coordinating information and technical assistance for the storm recovery efforts. The working group will include members from the County, cities, special districts and community groups to support and coordinate recovery efforts throughout the community.

The County continues to use its website (www.co.marin.ca.us) to provide important information to the public about the storm recovery efforts. The website includes answers to frequently asked questions, a listing of agencies that can assist impacted residents and businesses, public health information, and other documents. In addition, the website also includes recovery information specific to individual cities and towns, such as the San Anselmo disaster recovery newsletter.