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**PRESS RELEASE
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**PUBLIC INVITED TO LEARN ABOUT FEDERALLY-FUNDED PROGRAMS AND
ACTIVITIES TO REDUCE FUTURE LOSSES FROM NATURAL DISASTERS**

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) –Officials with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) will be in Santa Barbara to provide information on two funding programs related to property damage caused by the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow. The public is invited to a meeting to hear about program eligibility beginning at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 5 in the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 105 E. Anapamu St., Fourth Floor, Santa Barbara. Those who should attend include impacted households from the 93108 zip code (Montecito); and business, civic and nonprofit leaders.

At the meeting, state representatives will provide information on its work with local governments, including the County, to fund high-impact programs and activities aimed at reducing future losses from natural disasters. The two programs that will be discussed are the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program (OOR) and Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT), including proposed mitigation programs to address infrastructure needs, eligibility, and the timeline for funding.

California received funds from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to use toward the costs of rehabilitating property impacted by the twin disasters. The state is conducting a survey to identify needs of landlords, property owners and tenants affected by the disasters. Those who were impacted by one or both of the disasters are encouraged to complete the survey online at [ReCoverCA Disaster Housing Assistance Survey](#) or at the meeting.

Registration is encouraged but not required. To register, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/95266381311. For assistance or reasonable accommodations, contact HCD at disasterrecovery@hcde.ca.gov. For more information about the event, contact Laurie Baker, Grants and Program Manager, Community Services Department/Housing and Community Development at (805) 568-3521 or send email to lbaker@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.