



NEWS RELEASE

Contra Costa County Supervisor
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District One

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2005

SUPERVISORS WANT TO DISPATCH COUNTY RESOURCES TO HELP HURRICANE VICTIMS & PREPARE FOR THE COUNTY'S OWN DISASTER RELIEF PLAN

What: Supervisors take action to help hurricane victims
Where: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Board Chambers
651 Pine Street
Martinez, CA
When: **Tuesday, September 13, 2005**
Approximately 11:00 a.m.

MARTINEZ, Calif., At the Board of Supervisors September 13th meeting, Contra Costa County Supervisors John Gioia and Federal Glover will be proposing that Contra Costa County dispatch any appropriate and necessary County resources to the flood victims of the Gulf Coast. The Countywide effort will be coordinated by the County Administrator's Office and will include help from county departments such as Health Services, Public Works, Employment and Human Services, Veterans Services, Housing Authority, Sheriff, and Fire.

"The devastation experienced by the hurricane victims goes beyond anything imaginable," said Supervisor Gioia. "As another public agency, it's our duty to provide any assistance we can give to the residents impacted by this catastrophe."

As part of the discussions, the Supervisors will ask County Administrator John Sweeten to find out what the impacted cities and communities really need.

"We are prepared to help the hurricane victims in any appropriate way – whether it's sending emergency response personnel or providing temporary shelter," said Supervisor Gioia.

Supervisors Gioia and Glover are also proposing that the County's Office of Emergency Services conduct a comprehensive review of the county's ability to respond quickly and effectively to natural and man-made major disasters, and to provide a report to the Board on this review.

Contra Costa County is at risk from major disasters caused by earthquake faults, failed levees, or industrial and chemical releases.

"We're finding out that if we are struck by a catastrophe, it will take the federal government several weeks to mobilize effective assistance," said Supervisor Gioia. "We need to be prepared locally, have updated resources and plans in place, and have on-going education for ourselves and the public on what to do."

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