Dear Friends,

Residents impacted by the SCU Fire are now eligible for federal aid. On Tuesday, Santa Clara County joined eight other counties on the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration of August 22, opening the door to federal support for cattle ranchers and residents who have lost an estimated $26 million from the fire.

On September 2, I sent an urgent request to Governor Gavin Newsom that Santa Clara County also be on the list of those counties that have been eligible for FEMA aid since August 22. A Presidential Major Disaster Declaration helps residents receive financial assistance that may include rent, home repair, home replacement and other disaster-related needs such as childcare, medical and dental expenses. FEMA can also provide psychological counseling and resources to thousands of residents who were impacted by evacuation orders.

The SCU Fire consumed 396,524 acres in Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Joaquin, Merced and Stanislaus counties. As of today, it is 100% contained. The fire, which started on August 18, destroyed 222 structures.

The first step in applying for FEMA aid is to register online at www.disasterassistance.gov; by downloading the FEMA app to a smartphone or tablet; or by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 between 7 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. PDT. The U.S. Small Business Administration has established a Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center to help homeowners and renters. The center is open from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. PDT at 800-659-2955. You can also email FOCWAssistance@sba.gov.

Let us also keep in mind those who are still battling the raging Glass Fire in Napa and Sonoma counties and those who lost their homes and businesses. That fire began three days ago, has consumed 56,781 acres and is only 5% contained. Hundreds of structures have been destroyed. To find out how you can help, visit the redcross.org website.

Saturday Town Hall Featuring the Registrar of Voters

The 2020 Election is just around the corner, and my guest at the Saturday Town Hall is the County’s Registrar of Voters Shannon Bushey. She can answer your questions about the election, the changes in the voting process and the important dates in October.
The ROV is also looking for workers to help out at the Vote Centers for up to four days. Click here for more information.

You don’t need a Facebook account to stream this Town Hall, simply open an Internet browser and click on this link facebook.com/davecortesegov.

If you aren’t able to participate in Saturday’s Town Hall, call my office at 408-299-5030 or email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org to get your questions answered. Please join us!

**Celebrate Halloween and Dia de Los Muertos Safely**

The Bay Area health officials remind residents that many commonly celebrated Halloween and Día de Los Muertos activities carry high risk for spreading COVID-19. Focusing on decorations, limiting activities to the people you live with, and virtual costume parties or contests will help keep our communities safe this season, especially our children. Together, we all need to do as much as we can to protect ourselves and those around us.

For ideas on how to celebrate safely, read the joint statement of the Bay Area Health Officers.

**COVID-19 Dashboards Update**

According to County Public Health Dashboards, as of Wednesday, there were 21,379 reported COVID-19 cases in Santa Clara County, an increase of 226 cases since Sunday. These are cumulative numbers and don’t reflect the number of people who have recovered or those who may have COVID-19 but have not been tested; 322 people have died, an increase of 10 since Sunday, and 87 are now in hospitals, an increase of 1; 808,974 people have been tested, with a seven-day average positivity rate of 2.1%, down slightly from 2.3%.

The cumulative total of cases in California is 813,687, and 15,888 people have died; 14.7 million have been tested, with an average 14-day positivity rate of 2.8%.

In the U.S., there were 7.3 million cases and 210,357 deaths.

Globally, there are 34 million cases and 1,015,815 deaths.

**Free Flu Shots on Saturday in Milpitas**

A featured flu shots event is happening in District 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 3, at the Valley Health Center, 143 North Main Street, Milpitas.

- No appointment needed
- All are welcome regardless of immigration status
- No cost
- Shots available at this location for everyone age 12 years and older. Children aged 12 - 17 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Click here for more information about influenza and locations for free vaccines.

**Day on the Bay 2020: A Virtual Boat Tour of the South Bay**
My annual Day on the Bay multicultural and resource festival is going virtual this year! In place of this year’s Day on the Bay, I have joined forces with the Santa Clara County Parks Department to bring you a video tour of the county’s South Bay Boat Tour Field Trip Program – an actual “Day on the Bay.”

The film will be launched for the first time ever at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 11, 2020. Please register at [www.tinyurl.com/DOTB2020](http://www.tinyurl.com/DOTB2020).

The film tour will later be shared with teachers from all around Santa Clara County to provide students with firsthand exposure to the Bay, its wildlife and its connection to our local communities while teaching them the impacts of climate change.

We hope you all take a moment to watch this important film. Please feel free to share among your networks.

As always, you can reach my office at 408-299-5030, email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org or visit the District 3 webpage at [supervisorcortese.org](http://supervisorcortese.org).

Stay safe,

Dave Cortese
County Supervisor, Third District

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