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Office of the City Clerk  
City of National City

**CLAIM FOR DAMAGES  
TO PERSON OR PROPERTY**

**To: THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF NATIONAL CITY**

**Name of Claimants:** [Personal Information]

**Address of Claimants:** [Personal Information], National City, CA 91950

**Phone of Claimants:** [Personal Information]

**Address to which Notices or Communications regarding this claim should be sent to:**

Brian C. Gonzalez  
Law Offices of Brian C. Gonzalez  
2445 Fifth Avenue, Suite 330  
San Diego, California 92101  
Phone: 800-884-1072  
Email: [bgonzlaw@gmail.com](mailto:bgonzlaw@gmail.com)

**General Description of Incident and City's Acts and Omissions:**

Claimant has lived on [Personal Information] for decades and prior to the installation of the metal grate across the storm drain located directly behind his home, there had never been an issue with flooding. During the Winter of 2022/2023, the years of debris that had built up along the storm drain channels due to the lack of maintenance and clearing by the City of National City caused the newly installed grate to become clogged and the Claimant's property was flooded. The City was made aware of this problem, City officials came to the area and confirmed notice of the problem and assured the Claimant and other adjacent property owners that the problem that caused the flooding would be fixed. But nothing was done. Nothing.

So when the rain storms came again this Winter, culminating with the rain on January 22, 2024, the same thing happened: The uncleared and unmaintained debris flowed down the channel and clogged the grate, causing the water to back up and eventually flood the Claimants property, only this time, the flooding was devastating. The flood waters poured into Claimants home and garage and destroyed all of the contents. The flood waters completely destroyed the fencing around Claimant's property and destroyed everything inside of Claimant's home (personal items, flooring, walls, appliances, photographs, family memories, everything).

This was not a flooding that occurred due to a "once in a thousand year" rain. This flooding was completely avoidable and preventable if the City had simply fixed the problem that they had been directly placed on notice of and acknowledged a year earlier. Instead, the City did nothing and the Claimant's home, property and lifetime of

memories have been destroyed. The City acted negligently by installing the grate, failing to maintain and clear the water channel and the Paradise Creek Water Quality and Community Enhancement Project basin, and allowing the water to trespass onto the Claimant's property creating a nuisance and causing devastating loss and damages (both economic and non-economic).

**Date, Time and Place of Incident:**

On January 22, 2024, starting at approximately 10:00 am, Claimant's home and property located at [Personal Information] National City, CA 91950 was severely damaged or completely destroyed by flooding.

**The name(s) of the City Employee who was responsible for the incident:**

It is presently unknown what City employees are charged with the duty and responsibility of clearing and maintaining the National City storm drains and channels in this area, as well as the basin for the Paradise Creek Water Quality and Community Enhancement Project. Claimant does know that the City was aware of this problem due to complaints and claims made to the City in January 2023. It is claimant's understanding that Dick Miller, Inc. was contracted by the City to install the grate and that Wright Construction was contracted by the City to create the basin for the Paradise Creek Water Quality and Community Enhancement Project.

**The amount of the claim:**

Property Damage

Prior to the January 22, 2024 flooding, Claimant's home could have been sold for approximately \$750,000. It is now destroyed and it will cost at least \$250,000 to repair. The land on Claimant's property has eroded and is unstable and needs to be replaced and stabilized, including, but not limited to the area surrounding and including the Claimant's backyard shed which has been completely undermined. Even if the home and property are restored to its pre-incident condition, the Claimant is now obligated to disclose this severe damage and history of flooding to any potential buyer, which will decrease the value of the home by at least \$100,000. In addition to the damage to the structures on the property, the Claimant lost virtually all of her personal items, furniture, appliances, photos and lifelong memories located inside the home, garage and surrounding property. The Claimant is in the process of itemizing all of her personal items lost or destroyed so the exact amount is unknown but is anticipated to be in excess of \$100,000.

Claimant has also been forced to incur the cost of additional living expenses, clothing, food and other costs as she tries to start putting her life back together. It is anticipated that it will take up to two years, and possibly longer for the Claimant to

replace all of her lost personal items and to repair her property, structures, and fencing. The Claimant has no insurance that covers the losses and she will be forced to obtain a loan in order to replace and repair the full amount of everything that she has lost. Assuming that she can even obtain a sufficient loan, she will incur the interest and fees associated with such a loan. The estimated cost for these additional living expenses, clothing, food, loan interest and fees and other costs is likely to exceed \$100,000.

Claimant also lost or had significant damage done to the following additional items: Her 2022 Kia Stinger was swept by the flood waters from in front of her house into the storm drain behind her house and then carried several blocks away, ending up by the 7-11 in the ditch.

General Damages:

The damage to Claimant's home, property and personal items has been devastating, but the emotional loss is far more significant. Claimant lost everything, and the City could have easily prevented this from happening. As a result of the City's negligence, trespass and nuisance, Claimant is entitled to "non-economic damages" for the annoyance and discomfort of being displaced from her home since January 22, 2024 and for however long it takes to have her home, property and personal items replaced. Claimant will be forced to spend countless hours itemizing and replacing her lost items. Claimant has suffered emotional distress and mental anguish caused by the damage to Claimant's peaceful enjoyment of her property and home. Claimant has flashbacks to frantically fearing for her Mother's life as the surging storm water had trapped Claimant's Mother inside of their house and she was only able to be rescued by being pulled through an elevated window; an experience that continues to cause Claimant to have severe anxiety and nightmares.

Total Damages:

Thus, the amount of this claim, which includes damage to Claimant's property, to the structures on her property, destruction of all of the Claimant's personal items and general damages (also known as "non-economic damages") would rest within the unlimited jurisdiction of the California Superior Court, as it is clearly well in excess of the \$35,000 minimum limits.

Insurance Payments:

None.

**Witnesses:**

All of the residents of the five homes located in this section of [Personal Signature] in National City are witnesses to the incident and to Claimant's losses and damages. Those individuals are [Personal Information] (each of whom is filing a Claim for Damages as well). Also [Personal Information] National City, CA 91950.

Dated: February 29, 2024

LAW OFFICES OF BRIAN C. GONZALEZ

[Personal Signature]

By: Brian C. Gonzalez  
Attorneys for Claimant Stephanie Delgado

# Redaction Log

Reason	Page (# of occurrences)	Description
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Personal Signature	4 (2)	Personal Signature - Redacted for cyber protection