



United States House of Representatives
19th Congressional District, California
Jimmy Panetta

February 19, 2026

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The Hon. David P. Steiner
Postmaster General
475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster Steiner:

I write to request that the United States Postal Service (USPS) repair and reopen the Brookdale, California Post Office, with a clear project timeline and with temporary local postal service for my constituents during the interim. Despite the fact that the Brookdale Post Office was damaged more than a year ago, virtually no repairs have commenced, and the facility's property owner has not completed basic permitting steps to begin repairs on the space. If the USPS is unable to complete this process while working with the current property owner for this post office, I also ask that you take steps to move the post office to a new location.

On December 13, 2024, the Brookdale Post Office located in San Lorenzo Valley in Santa Cruz County suffered a fire, injuring three people and leaving both residential and commercial areas of the facility damaged and unusable. Following the December fire, USPS promptly relocated retail services for Brookdale customers to Boulder Creek, California. While this presented a reasonable temporary solution, it is not a viable long-term option for my constituents. Brookdale does not have home delivery, meaning that its postal customers, who no longer have a local post office, must now travel out of their community to pick up mail. That is an unreasonable demand for anybody and a hardship for people with limited mobility.

Moreover, I am deeply troubled to learn that in the time since the Brookdale post office nearly burned down, the property owner for the facility has commenced only the basic permitting paperwork to repair the space, and that county records indicate none of the initial, or "soft" demolition of the damage has been completed. As a result, even if the property owner restarted the repair process, the county permitting timeline would prevent any repairs from beginning until months from now, indicating that Brookdale residents can reasonably expect that their post office will remain out of service for much of 2026 at best.

Waiting more than a year for basic construction to begin is unreasonable for any project, let alone one as integral to the community as a post office. I therefore respectfully request, on behalf of my constituents, that USPS and your team:

- Commit to repairing or replacing the Brookdale post office by May of this year, as previously announced;
- Provide a mobile unit, in Brookdale, where residents can pick up their mail during this time;
- Consider adopting home delivery for Brookdale residents to prevent future disruptions in service;
- Provide a public timeline for full repairs and reopening at the Brookdale Post Office, including details such as permitting, contracting, and construction;
- Provide public notification of any delays to construction and repairs, including cause of delay and expected timeline;
- Communicate with the property manager for the current post office and, if the property manager is unable to complete repairs on this timeline, to pursue any appropriate options to find a new location for the Brookdale Post Office; and
- Communicate with residents about the repair timeline, and, in the event USPS is unable to complete repairs within the timeline or decides that a new post office location is necessary, that you provide prompt notification of the new location and opening timeline.

While I recognize the challenge of the situation in Brookdale, my constituents have faced unreasonable delays and an unacceptable lack of communication, transparency, and urgency from both USPS and the property owner for the Brookdale Post Office. I look forward to working with you correcting this wrong and to restoring local retail mail service to the community we both serve. Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Panetta
U.S. Representative
19th Congressional District, California