



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

September 30, 2026

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
200 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

SOUTH SAN JOSE OFFICE:
841 BLOSSOM HILL ROAD, SUITE 209
SAN JOSE, CA 95123

SANTA CRUZ OFFICE:
701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 318C
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

MONTEREY OFFICE:
1200 AGUAJITO ROAD, SUITE 003
MONTEREY, CA 93940

PASO ROBLES OFFICE:
800 PINE STREET
PASO ROBLES, CA 93446

The Honorable David Steiner
Postmaster General, United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General:

I write to request your immediate action to end the discontinuance feasibility study for the Brookdale Post Office, to find a new post office location in Brookdale, California, and to expand appropriate postal services to serve this community. Since their contract post office burned down, my constituents have waited for nearly two years in good faith while the USPS deflected its responsibility to reopen the facility. The decision this month to consider discontinuing postal service in Brookdale, with no alternative services to your existing Brookdale customers, is unreasonable without any effort to find an alternative post office location or any other remedy for postal services and basic operations in the community.

In December 2024, a fire disabled service at the contract post office in Brookdale, a town I represent in California's 19th District. Brookdale is a rural mountain community, and for nearly two years, residents waited in good faith for the USPS to restore service, traveling to other towns to receive basic postal services. This would be a burden under normal circumstances, and it is particularly challenging when residents face weather events or other impediments in the San Lorenzo Valley. For disabled, elderly, and mobility-impaired constituents, traveling out of their town presents an additional challenge, but Brookdale residents have done so patiently with the expectation that USPS would eventually restore a local post office. However, in September 2026, after years of deflections, the USPS announced a discontinuance feasibility study for the post office and took the extraordinary step of preemptively refusing to expand services in Brookdale or to consider a new post office location in the community.

Brookdale has never had home delivery, despite the fact that neighboring towns enjoy this basic service. Over time, residents have come to rely on boxes and retail services at the local post office. For years, these services were housed in a rented facility. When that facility suffered a catastrophic fire, the USPS spent years assuring residents and my office that they were waiting for the property owner to conduct necessary repairs. This rationale continued even after the property owner missed basic deadlines for the repairs. Instead of considering alternative locations for the post office, or my constituents'

requests for home delivery or cluster box units in Brookdale, the USPS took steps to discontinue service altogether.

Faced with this situation, I ask that you:

- Immediately halt the discontinuance feasibility study on the proposed permanent closing for the Brookdale Post Office;
- Investigate potential alternative permanent post office locations in Brookdale;
- Explore home delivery service for the residents of Brookdale;
- Until home delivery is available, offer cluster box units or another mail pickup solution in Brookdale;
- Schedule a meeting with me to discuss next steps to ensure my constituents are being served.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Restoring dependable postal operations is vital for my constituents, and these steps will help ensure the residents of Brookdale can rely on the United States Postal Service for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Panetta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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