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**Mary Bono Mack**  
**Congress of the United States**  
45th District, California  
September 13, 2012

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The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
301 7<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. President and Secretary Napolitano:

I write to inform you of a local emergency in California's 45<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which I represent, and some questionable activities involving the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. The Riverside County Office of Emergency Services and the Red Cross are actively involved in coordinating emergency response efforts to assist residents in Mecca, an un-incorporated area located in the eastern region of rural Riverside County.

This week, Mecca has experienced unusually high levels of rainfall, which has resulted in widespread flooding, power outages, and in some areas a lack of access to clean, running water. The County of Riverside has declared a State of Emergency, and a coordinated evacuation of its residents remains underway.

Local emergency officials have brought to my attention that U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Agents appear to have been staking out the evacuation area, leading to heightened challenges for the Red Cross and other county emergency services to effectively serve those in need of critically-important resources such as clean water, food, and sanitation supplies.

As I am sure you will agree, the most significant issue at hand for these residents, who are currently displaced from their homes, is to have unhampered access to clean water, shelter and medical assistance. The mere presence of Border Patrol Agents has created a tenuous environment, which may prevent local emergency officials from providing critical services to everyone who needs them.

Respectfully, I request that you promptly look into this matter to ensure these residents do not have access to their basic needs hindered during this very difficult time. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact my Chief of Staff Frank Cullen at (202) 225-5330.

Sincerely,

MARY BONO MACK  
Member of Congress