



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION
COVER LETTER**

December 7, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Through: Regional Administrator Robert Fenton
FEMA Region IX
Oakland, California 94607-4052

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. sections 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations section 206.35, I request you issue an Emergency Declaration for Public Assistance, limited to Direct Federal Assistance, for the Counties of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura, as a result of the Southern California Fires.

On December 4th, severe winds began raging in Southern California causing the National Weather Service to issue red flag warnings. On the same day, the Thomas Fire started in Ventura County and has burned nearly 100,000 acres, destroyed hundreds of structures, and is currently less than 10 percent contained. This fire has spread into Santa Barbara County and is currently threatening hundreds of structures. On December 5th, two fires began in Los Angeles County- the Creek Fire which burned more than 12,000 acres, threatened 2,500 structures, and is only 10 percent contained; and the Rye Fire which has burned 7,000 acres, threatened over 5,000 structures, and is also only 15 percent contained. The following day, yet another fire began in Los Angeles County, the Skirball Fire, which threatened hundreds of homes and the renowned Getty Center.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) uses a color code system for forecasting fire threats. For the first time in history, on December 7th, the Cal Fire elevated the fire threat to purple for San Diego County, warning that the weather conditions presented an extreme risk of fire for San Diego. Hours later, the Lilac Fire erupted in San Diego County rapidly burning thousands of acres in just a few hours. Fire officials predict extreme winds of up to 80 miles per hour, equal to the wind speed of a category one hurricane. The extreme winds propel embers up ahead of the actively burning areas, making containment nearly impossible. As a result, the destruction will escalate.

On December 5, 2017, I declared, under the California Emergency Services Act, a State of Emergency in Ventura and Los Angeles counties and on December 7, 2017, I declared a State of Emergency to exist in San Diego County. The Office of Emergency Services activated the State Operations Center, as well as the Southern Regional Emergency Operations Center. The State activated its Emergency Plan and deployed all available assets, including the California National Guard. Additionally, California has requested fifty engine strike teams, consisting of 250 engines, from Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Further, Nevada has deployed an additional five engines through an interstate impact to assist with our firefighting efforts.

California has suffered many devastating disasters in the past year. Just two months ago, California experienced the deadliest wildfires in the state's history. Those fires, for which you issued a Major Disaster Declaration, (FEMA-4344-DR-CA) destroyed over 8,000 structures and claimed 44 lives. These fires struck after an already-destructive fire season. Further, beginning in December 2016, California began experiencing what would be three months of severe winter storms associated with several atmospheric river systems. Those storms caused unprecedented widespread flooding and resulted in three separate Major Disaster Declarations (FEMA- 4301-DR-CA, FEMA- 4305-DR-CA, and FEMA-4308-DR-CA). These disasters have severely impacted California's resources.

I have determined this incident is of such severity and magnitude that continued effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments and supplemental federal assistance is necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health and safety, and to lessen the effects of this imminent catastrophe. I am requesting Direct Federal Assistance, including Department of Defense air assets to immediately and rapidly mitigate the impacts of this unprecedented firestorm. We are also requesting shelter supplies and water for 25,000 residents of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties, United States Department of Agriculture's assistance in evacuating large animals, evacuation assistance for individuals with access and functional needs, and ambulatory transport.

I certify for this emergency, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shared costs as required by the Stafford Act. I have designated the Director of the Office of Emergency Services, Mark Ghilarducci, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. Mr. Ghilarducci will work with FEMA on my behalf.

Sincerely,


EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

Enclosures

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
Stafford Act and State Disaster Declarations in Previous 12 Months

Stafford Act and State Disaster Declarations in Previous 12 Months

Event Number	Disaster Name	Counties
FM-5227	Skirball Fire	Los Angeles
FM-5226	Rye Fire	Los Angeles
FM-5225	Creek Fire	Los Angeles
FM-5224	Thomas Fire	Ventura
CDAA 2017-11	Inyo/Mono Snowmelt	Inyo, Mono
FM-2223	Canyon 2 Fire	Riverside (FMAG Only)
DR 4344/ CDAA 2017-09	October 2017 Wildfires	Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Solano, Sonoma, Yuba
CDAA 2017-10	Ponderosa Fire	Butte
FM-5213	Canyon Fire	Orange, Riverside
FM-5205	Pier Fire	Tulare
FM-5204	Mission Fire	Madera
FM-5202	Railroad Fire	Madera, Mariposa
FM-5201	La Tuna Fire	Los Angeles
CDAA 2017-08	Alamo and Whittier Fires	Santa Barbara
FM-5199/CDAA 2017-07	Helena Fire	Trinity
CDAA 2017-06	Modoc County Wildfires	Modoc
FM-5192/CDAA 2017-04	Detwiler Fire	Mariposa
FM-5189/CDAA 2017-05	Wall Fire	Butte
DR-4308/CDAA 2017-03	February 2017 Winter Storms	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Juaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare (Tule River Tribe), Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba
DR-4305/CDAA 2017-02	Late January 2017 Winter Storms	Alameda, Calaveras, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mendocino, Mono, Napa, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Trinity,

		Tuolumne, Yolo
EM-3381	Potential Failure of Oroville Dam Emergency Spillway	Butte, Sutter, Yuba
DR-4301/CDAA 2017-01	January 2017 Winter Storms	Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Humboldt, Inyo, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba
CDAA 2016-05	December 2016 Storms	Del Norte, City of Fort Bragg
FM-5150	Cedar Fire	Kern, Tulare
FM-5147	Blue Cut Fire	San Bernardino
FM-5146	Chimney Fire	San Luis Obispo
FM-5145/CDAA 2016-04	Clayton Fire	Lake
FM-5144	Pilot Fire	San Bernardino
FM-5140	Goose Fire	Fresno
FM-5137	Soberanes Fire	Monterey
FM-5135	Sand Fire	Los Angeles
FM-5132	Sage Fire	Los Angeles
FM-5131/CDAA 2016-03	Erskine Fire	Kern
FM-5129	Fish Fire	Los Angeles
FM-5128	Border 3 Fire	San Diego
FM-5124	Old Fire	Los Angeles
CDAA 2016-02	March 2016 Storms	Santa Cruz, Trinity
CDAA 2016-01	Pacifica Storms	San Mateo