



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION
COVER LETTER**

November 8, 2018

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

Through: Robert J. Fenton, Jr.
Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management
Agency, 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 hereby request an Emergency Declaration for Direct Federal Assistance for California as a result of the extreme fire weather conditions throughout the state that have led to numerous wildfires.

A perilous weather system over California has extreme fire weather conditions, including low humidity, strong winds, and dry fire fuels. The critical to extremely critical fire weather conditions affect the entire state beginning in Northern California near the Oregon border and continuing south to the California-Mexico border. While California strategically pre-positioned firefighting assets throughout the state in anticipation of this weather system, the event was so significant that those assets are fully engaged and stretched beyond their capabilities.

As a result of these conditions, on the morning of November 8, 2018, the Camp Fire broke out in Butte County. As the morning progressed, the Camp Fire grew uncontrollably, causing widespread destruction. Today alone, the Camp Fire has burned over 18,000 acres and is zero percent contained. The Camp Fire forced approximately 40,000 residents to evacuate from communities that include, but are not limited to, Paradise, Pulga, Centerville, Magalia, Butte Creek, Lower Neal, Upper Honey Run, Pentz, Concow, and Yankee Hill. Many residents had little time to flee due to the fire's rapid and erratic rate of spread. Officials anticipate additional evacuations will be necessary as this fire continues to spread. The fire is also threatening businesses, hospitals, schools, and critical infrastructure, including power and water supply. It has also forced the closure of major roadways within Butte County.

I declared, under the California Emergency Services Act, a State of Emergency in Butte County as a result of the Camp Fire. The Office of Emergency Services activated the State Operations Center, as well as the Inland and Southern Regional Emergency Operations Centers. The State activated its Emergency Plan and deployed all available assets, including the local and state mutual aid, and the California National Guard. Additionally, the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved a Fire Management Assistance Grant for the fire.

Due to this weather system, several other fires erupted throughout California and continue to pose a significant threat to the health and safety of Californians. Early this afternoon, the Hill Fire and Woolsey Fire began burning in Ventura County. The Hill Fire is currently nearly 10,000 acres and zero percent contained. It has forced mandatory evacuations within communities that include, but are not limited to, Camarillo Springs, Vallecito, California State University - Channel Islands, and Dos Vientos, is threatening critical infrastructure, and forced the closure of Highway 101.

In Solano County, the Nurse Fire began burning. Thus far, this fire has scorched thousands of acres, necessitating evacuations, and forced the closure of Highway 12. In addition, fires broke out in several other counties, including Lassen and Mendocino counties.

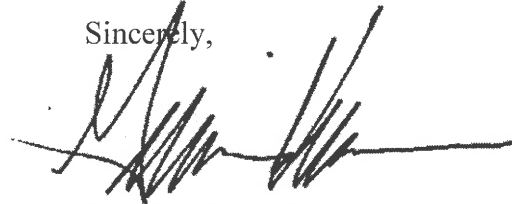
Unfortunately, these statewide weather conditions are predicted to remain in California for several days. As such, these fires will continue to grow and pose further threat to the health and safety of residents throughout California. Additional fires are expected, which will further exacerbate an already dire situation.

California has suffered many devastating disasters in the past year. Just this past summer, California experienced devastating wildfires. The Carr Fire and Mendocino Complex Fire (the largest fire in California history), for which you issued a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4382-DR-CA) destroyed more than a thousand homes. This came shortly after a devastating 2017, where California experienced numerous deadly and destructive wildfires. In December 2017, the Thomas Fire, the then-largest fire in California's history, which was just surpassed by the Mendocino Complex Fire, burned in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Shortly thereafter, a deadly mudslide struck in Santa Barbara County. The fires and mudslides caused unprecedented damage and destruction and resulted in another Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4353-DR-CA). Just months before that, California experienced the most devastating wildfires in its California's history, which also resulted in a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4344-DR-CA)

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 mitigate the impacts of these fires, shelter supplies and water for the over 40,000 evacuated residents, U.S. Department of Agriculture's assistance in evacuating large animals, mass care, 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 share 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line.

GAVIN NEWSOM

Acting Governor

Enclosures

Stafford Act and State Disaster Declarations in Previous 12 Months
OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
NOAA Fire Weather Map and Forecast
Governor's Press Release

Stafford Act and State Disaster Declarations in Previous 12 Months

Event Number	Disaster Name	Counties
FM-52XX/CDAA 2018-09	Camp Fire	Butte
CDAA 2018-08	Whaleback Fire	Lassen
CDAA 2018-07	Creek Fire	Shasta
FM-5268	Holy Fire	Riverside
DR-4382	Summer 2018 California Wildfires and High Winds	Lake and Shasta (IA and PA)
CDAA 2018-06	Summer 2018 California Wildfires and High Winds	Lake, Mendocino, Napa, and Shasta
FM-5262	Mendocino Complex	Mendocino
EM-3398	Carr Fire	Shasta
CDAA 2018-05	Ferguson Fire	Mariposa
FM-5260	Cranston Fire	Riverside
FM-5259	Carr Fire	Trinity
FM-5252	Holiday Fire	Santa Barbara
FM-5251	West Fire	San Diego
FM-5250/CDAA 2018-04	Klamathon Fire	Siskiyou
FM-5245	Creek Fire	Shasta
FM-5244/CDAA 2018-03	Pawnee Fire	Lake
CDAA 2018-02	January 2018 Debris and Mudflow	Burbank
CDAA 2018-01	March 2018 Storms	Mariposa, Merced, and Tuolumne
DR-4353/CDAA 2017-12	December 2017 California Wildfires and Debris Flows	Santa Barbara, Ventura (PA)/Los Angeles, San Deigo, Ventura (IA)
EM-3396	Southern California Wildfires	Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura
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-5223	Canyon 2 Fire	Riverside (FMAG Only)
DR-4344/CDAA 2017-09	October 2017 Wildfires	Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Orange, Sonoma, Yuba (IA and PA)/Nevada (IA and PA [A-B])/Solano (PA[A-B])