



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION
COVER LETTER**

July 6, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Through: Robert J. Fenton, Jr.
Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX
Oakland, CA 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 July 4 and July 5 earthquakes that struck in Kern County and severely impacted Kern and San Bernardino counties.

On July 4, 2019, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck near the City of Ridgecrest in Kern County. The earthquake caused significant damage to critical infrastructure, including roadways, gas lines, and water lines, resulted in numerous structure fires, and necessitated the evacuation of residents. Local governments, as well as the state, immediately deployed resources to the impacted region. Following that earthquake, there were hundreds of aftershocks in the region.

On July 5, 2019, the Ridgecrest area in Kern County experienced a magnitude 7.1 earthquake, which, according to the California Geological Survey, released approximately ten times more energy than the 6.4 magnitude earthquake the previous day. This massive earthquake resulted in further injuries and severe damages to critical infrastructure, lifeline routes, and caused additional widespread impacts to these communities.

On July 4, 2019, and July 5, 2019, I declared a State of Emergency in Kern and San Bernardino counties, respectively, under the California Emergency Services Act. My Office of Emergency Services activated the State Operations Center at its highest level, as well as both the Inland and Southern California Regional Emergency Operations Centers. I activated California's State Emergency Plan and deployed all available assets, including more than 200 members of the California National Guard, in support of the impacted communities. Further, there is significant local and state mutual aid resourced with urban search and rescue personnel deploying throughout the state to assist in the impacted communities.

While assessments of the extent and severity of damages are ongoing, based on information available at this time, the damage is significant. Critical roadways, including lifeline routes, are severely impacted. State Route 178, a main transportation corridor in the region, remains closed in both directions due to a rockslide near Lake Isabella. Additionally, there are major cracks in State Route 178 near the community of Trona in San Bernardino County. Other major roadways, including State Routes 127 and 190, were also impacted by rockslides.

The earthquakes also damaged water lines and gas lines, resulting in numerous structural fires and structure collapses, impacting commercial and residential buildings. FEMA's HAZUS program estimates the earthquakes have impacted more than 5,000 structures. The two earthquakes also severely impacted the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital. On July 4, 2019, the hospital evacuated its entire acute care unit, but was able to continue emergency room services. Following the 7.1 earthquake on July 5, 2019, the hospital was no longer able to utilize its emergency room and was forced to triage patients in the parking lot and transport patients to surrounding hospitals. The skilled nursing portion of the hospital was without power and operating on a generator backup.

Additionally, the impacted communities established a shelter to accommodate displaced residents. The shelter population has steadily increased, and officials expect it to continue to increase due to ongoing aftershock activity. Since the 7.1 magnitude earthquake, there have been nearly 100 aftershocks, two of which were greater than a magnitude 5.0.

California has suffered many devastating disasters in the past two years. At the beginning of this year, California experienced a series of atmospheric river events that caused widespread damage and resulted in two Major Disaster Declarations. In November 2018, California battled the deadliest and most destructive wildfires in its history. The Camp Fire, which decimated the Town of Paradise in Butte County, destroyed more than 18,000 structures, including more than 14,000 residences, and tragically claimed 86 lives. At the same time, the Hill and Woolsey Fires burned in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. These three fires collectively resulted in a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4407-DR-CA). The Carr Fire and Mendocino Complex Fire (the largest fire in California history), for which another Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4382-DR-CA) was granted, destroyed more than 1,000 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, subsequently surpassed by the Mendocino Complex Fire mentioned above, burned in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Shortly thereafter, a deadly mudslide engulfed the town of Montecito in Santa Barbara County. The fires and mudslides caused unprecedented damage and destruction and resulted in another Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4353-DR-CA). The Thomas fire and subsequent mudslides were preceded just months before by another sequence of historically unprecedented and devastating wildfires, which also resulted in a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4344-DR-CA). In less than three short years, California has experienced a sequence of devastating disasters.

I have determined that the damages caused by the July 4 and 5 earthquakes, are 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 mass care supplies, emergency power supplies, generators, evacuation support as necessary, engineering support as necessary, and any other support deemed necessary for the impacted communities.

I certify that 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', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

Enclosures

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

Stafford Act and State Disaster Declarations

Event Number	Disaster Name	Counties
CDAA-2019-04	April 2019 Spring Storm	Modoc
DR-4434/CDAA-2019-03	Late February 2019 Storms, Flooding, Landslide and Mudslides	Amador, Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, and Yolo
DR-4431/CDAA-2019-02	Mid-February 2019 Storms, Flooding, Landslide and Mudslides	Calaveras, Colusa, Los Angeles, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Shasta, and Trinity
CDAA 2019-01	Late January 2019 Storms	Yolo
CDAA 2018-10	October 2018 Monsoon	San Bernardino
DR-4407/EM-3409/ CDAA 2018-09	November 2018 California Wildfires, Mud and Debris Flows	Butte, Los Angeles, and Ventura
FM-5268	Holy Fire	Riverside
CDAA 2018-08	Whaleback Fire	Lassen
DR-4382/EM-3398/ CDAA 2018-06	Summer 2018 California Wildfires and High Winds	Colusa, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, and 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/CDAA 2018-07	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 and Ventura (PA) Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and 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 and Mono
FM-5223	Canyon 2 Fire	Riverside (FMAG Only)
DR-4344/CDAA 2017-09	October 2017 Wildfires	Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Solano, Sonoma, and Yuba
CDAA 2017-10	Ponderosa Fire	Butte
FM-5213	Canyon Fire	Orange and Riverside
FM-5205	Pier Fire	Tulare
FM-5204	Mission Fire	Madera
FM-5202	Railroad Fire	Madera and 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

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
 Federal Emergency Management Agency
REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY

OMB Control Number 1660-0009
 Expires 09/30/2019

1. Request Date July 6, 2019

Burden Disclosure Notice

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration. California	2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). 37,253,956
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3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name Governor Gavin Newsom	4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number Mark S. Ghilarducci, (916) 845-8575
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5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number
 Mark S. Ghilarducci, (916) 845-8575

6. Declaration Request For: Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401) Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501 (a))

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date July 4, 2019 End Date _____ or Continuing

If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).

7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)

Drought Earthquake Explosion Fire Flood Hurricane Landslide Mudslide
 Severe Storm
 (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning) Snowstorm
 (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data) Straight-Line Winds
 Tidal Wave Tornado Tropical Depression Tropical Storm Tsunami Volcanic Eruption Winter Storm
 Other (please specify) _____

8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.

On July 4, 2019, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck outside the City of Ridgecrest in Kern County, causing widespread damage in Kern and San Bernardino counties to critical infrastructure, including but not limited to, roadways, electrical power lines, water lines, and gas lines, resulting in numerous structural fires. On July 5, 2019, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck in the same region, causing even more severe and widespread destruction to the region.

9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.

All necessary state assets are deployed, including the California National Guard, the Department of Water Resources, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), fire mutual aid, and law enforcement mutual aid.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment*

Individual Assistance Dates Performed Requested _____ Start _____ End _____

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

Officials have been unable to assess the full extent of damages.

Public Assistance Dates Performed Requested _____ Start _____ End _____

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

Officials have been unable to assess the full extent of damages.

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance N/A Individuals and Households Program Crisis Counseling Program Disaster Unemployment Assistance
 All Disaster Case Management Disaster Legal Services Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation).

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.

**Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request*

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance N/A Debris Removal (Category A) Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) Permanent Work (Categories C-G)* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

Kern and San Bernardino counties

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.

Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity

I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

Request for Direct Federal Assistance

I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

State assets are fully engaged. Requesting Direct Federal Assistance, including mass care supplies, emergency power supplies, including generators, evacuation support as necessary, engineering support as necessary, and any other support deemed necessary to support the impacted communities.

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services. The state is activated at its highest level and full engaged all of its resources, utilized fire and law mutual aid, and activated the California National Guard.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work; (2) Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work; (3) Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

Request for Snow Assistance

N/A I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request*.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation* Statewide **OR**

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

12. Mitigation Plan Information*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date September 27, 2023 b. Type of Plan Enhanced Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

Please see **Enclosure C**: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs for additional information in support of this request*.

14. Findings and Certifications

I certify the following:

- a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.
- b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on July 4, 2019 in accordance with the Stafford Act.
- c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

- Cover Letter Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)* Enclosure B (Public Assistance)*
- Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs) Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)
- Additional Supporting Documentation _____



 Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

July 6, 2019

 Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request