

September 28, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Mr. Robert J. Fenton, Jr.
Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, California 94607-4052

Mr. President,

First, let me extend my sincere gratitude for the federal government's support throughout this unprecedented global pandemic, for the wildfires currently impacting California, and for your recent visit to McClellan Air Force Base on September 14, 2020. I sincerely appreciate the Presidential Emergency Declaration for both the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (FEMA-4482-DR-CA) and the August 2020 Northern California Wildfires

(FEMA-4558-DR-CA). Unfortunately, as you witnessed during your visit, California is experiencing another siege of fires from early September, which continue to devastate communities throughout the State. In addition, at least two additional significant fires – the Glass Fire and the Zogg Fire – began burning yesterday and have rapidly spread and caused significant destruction. California is very much still engaged in a firefight with respect to those fires and will assess that damage as soon as possible.

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster in Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Siskiyou counties, as a result of wildfires that began in early September 2020, and are continuing. The severity and magnitude of these fires continue to cause significant impacts to the State and to the affected local jurisdictions, such that recovery efforts remain beyond the State's capabilities.

INCIDENT OVERVIEW

In the beginning of September 2020, Santa Ana and Diablo wind events, and increased offshore winds across much of the State, combined with a heat wave, resulted in several Red Flag warnings and critical fire weather conditions identified by the National Weather Service Regional Operations Center.¹ This weather event, combined with very dry relative humidity values and dry fuels across the State, resulted in critical fire weather conditions across California.² Due to the high temperatures and increased fire danger, the investor-owned power utility providers implemented a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) September 7-9, 2020 that affected 22 counties throughout California, further complicating an already complex and difficult situation. Unfortunately, this extreme heat event and critical fire weather conditions led to new fires, which spread rapidly, leaving a path of

¹ Cal OES Situation Cell Weather Outlook – September 4, 2020

² National Weather Service California Weather Summary September 4-9, 2020 Enclosure

destruction.

Thus far, these fires have scorched more than 1,887,932 acres, destroyed 3,368 structures, including nearly 1,000 homes, and damaged an additional 232 structures. Tragically, the fires have also claimed the lives of at least three people. While formal damage assessments are underway, as access to burned areas is afforded, further assessments will continue.

The Creek Fire in Fresno and Madera counties started September 4th, and has burned 291,426 acres. The Creek Fire is already the single largest fire in California history, fire complexes aside. To date, it has destroyed or damaged more than 550 homes, and currently threatens more than 8,000 residences. This fire has forced more than 24,000 people to evacuate. Over the Labor Day weekend, several hundred campers were trapped by the inferno, including families with young children, and the California National Guard deployed CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to perform multiple harrowing rescues of 385 people and 28 pets in dangerous conditions from Mammoth Pool Reservoir in the Sierra National Forest. The brave soldiers rescued the trapped campers, with the fire line within 50 feet of the aircraft when it landed. The pilots described the experience to local news outlets as the most dangerous mission they had ever experienced in their two-decade long careers. During your visit, you graciously honored these individuals, bringing further accolades to these brave soldiers. While that mission was successfully completed, the fire remains minimally contained, continues to threaten several communities, and officials estimate it will take a month before the area is safe enough for residents to return.

The Oak Fire in Mendocino County started September 7th, and was extinguished on September 14th after burning 1,100 acres and destroying 59 homes. The fire resulted in the evacuation of over 3,200 people.

The Bobcat Fire started in Los Angeles County on September 6th, and thus far has

burned 113,986 acres, destroyed 101 homes, and damaged 27 additional homes. On September 13th, nearly 70,000 people were under evacuation orders as a result of the fire threatening densely populated communities. The fire also threatened high voltage power transmission lines, as well as federal and state communications infrastructure on Mt. Wilson and Mt. Disappointment.

On September 5th, the El Dorado Fire started in San Bernardino County and thus far, has burned over 22,601 acres and destroyed 10 structures. Evacuation orders remain in place because of the imminent threat to nearly 18,000 homes. Fire crews are working diligently to control the fire in this very difficult terrain.³

Also on September 5th, the Valley Fire ignited in San Diego County, and has since scorched 17,093 acres in two weeks, destroying 30 homes and damaging an additional six. The Valley Fire also threatened the Sycuan Indian Reservation. Additionally, on September 8, the local utility provider reported power outages in the fire area, impacting more than 2,250 residents.

Siskiyou County experienced four significant fires within days of one another, thus far burning more than 200,529 acres. The most significant of these fires, the Slater Fire, ignited September 8th, and destroyed more than 200 homes. The fire wiped out the community of Happy Camp, tragically claiming the lives of at least two people. The Devil Fire started just one day later, on September 9th, and quickly ravaged 4,000 acres of pristine hillside. The Red Salmon Fire, although burning for several weeks, crossed into Siskiyou County and is currently threatening the community of Forks of Salmon, a heavily impoverished logging community along the Salmon River drainage. The Fox Fire, the most recent fire to threaten Siskiyou County's communities, ravaged nearly 2,000 acres in less than a week. These fires remain far from contained within

³ <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7148/>

Siskiyou County and continue to threaten more than 6,000 homes.

RESPONSE OVERVIEW

On September 6th, 2020, I proclaimed, under the California Emergency Services Act, a State of Emergency in Fresno, Madera, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties, and on September 10th, 2020, in Siskiyou County, as well as September 25th, 2020, for Los Angeles and Mendocino counties due to fires. Local jurisdictions also proclaimed local emergencies.

My Office of Emergency Services' State Operations Center (SOC) has been activated at the highest level since August 19, 2020, to coordinate the response to unrelenting wildfires occurring in the State, even as the SOC remained activated for COVID-19 response activities since March 2020. The State activated its Emergency Plan and deployed all available assets, including local and state mutual aid, as well as mobilizing out-of-state resources. All Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Regional Emergency Operations Centers have activated as of August 19, 2020. Additionally, Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Siskiyou counties activated their Emergency Operations Centers.

IMPACT TO INFRASTRUCTURE

Battling these relentless fires requires a colossal effort. As noted above, there are multiple major fires burning throughout the State with little to no containment. The fires currently threaten critical infrastructure in these seven counties, encroaching on public safety communication towers, electrical transmission lines, water treatment plants, irrigation districts, telecommunications towers, school districts, and medical facilities just to name a few.

In accordance with Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR) section 206.33(a), Cal OES, along with federal and local officials, began formal assessments of the public infrastructure damage within the impacted counties. However, since the fires are still raging, areas remain inaccessible and crews must conduct damage

assessment as conditions permit. Although several of the counties received an FMAG, the incident periods for those fires have not been determined. Impacted counties sustained costs beyond those captured under the FMAG program. As such, the estimates captured in Category B are incomplete and the costs of those activities performed outside the incident period have yet to be finalized. For example, the Bobcat Fire in Los Angeles was not declared until a week after the fire started. Therefore, Category B in the following table reflects costs incurred prior to the FMAG, and as of September 24th, 2020, the fire is only 50 percent contained. In addition, the Creek Fire started burning two days before the FMAG was declared, and is currently only 34 percent contained.

At this time the estimated costs for Public Assistance Program eligible known damage are identified as follows⁴:

| County | Cat. A | Cat. B | Cat. C | Cat. D | Cat. E | Cat. F | Cat. G | IDE Total |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Fresno | \$197,040,000 | \$2,028,000 | \$712,000 | | | \$632,000 | | \$200,412,000 |
| Los Angeles | \$7,840,000 | \$68,143,336 | \$1,209,090 | \$1,885,000 | \$577,000 | | \$9,344,760 | \$88,999,186 |
| Madera | \$2,100,000 | \$200,000 | \$175,000 | | | | \$200,000 | \$2,675,000 |
| Mendocino | \$4,130,000 | \$1,093,319 | | | | | | \$5,223,319 |
| San Bernardino | \$350,000 | \$1,646,805 | | | \$3,210 | \$204 | \$5,821,000 | \$7,821,219 |
| San Diego | \$2,950,000 | \$956,901 | \$425,000 | | \$48,000 | | \$4,000,000 | \$8,379,901 |
| Siskiyou | \$31,690,000 | \$100,000 | \$1,070,000 | | | | | \$32,860,000 |
| TOTAL | \$246,100,000 | \$74,490,742 | \$3,591,090 | \$1,885,000 | \$628,210 | \$632,204 | \$19,365,760 | \$346,370,625 |

Damage to public infrastructures includes, but is not limited to, several miles of local roads (including guard rail and signage) and park facilities. Since these fires are burning in high density forest areas, Cal OES expects a significant number of hazardous

⁴ Although clearing parcels to protect and preserve property and eliminate an immediate threat to public health and safety historically has cost \$140,000 per parcel, the calculation utilizes FEMA's \$70,000 per parcel to clear the contaminated debris.

trees must be removed from the public rights of way, which poses an extraordinary hardship for the impacted counties. Additional specific examples of public infrastructure damage reported include:

- In Fresno County, there is damage to nearly 45 miles of county-maintained roadways in addition to a library, Big Creek Primary School, and Pine Ridge School. Further, access to remote facilities and residences is hampered by more than 300,000 standing hazardous trees on public rights of way. Shaver Lake marina sustained damage to its wastewater treatment plant, which serves over 3,500 individuals and could take more than 12 weeks to repair, creating a delay for repopulation.
- In Los Angeles County, the Bobcat Fire has left countless miles of hazardous trees on county roads. It also threatened Mount Wilson Observatory and damaged part of the Canyon Park trail. Further damages are still under assessment as this fire is still burning.
- In Madera County, the fire suppression activities caused significant damage to roadways as a result of dozer activity. There are hazardous trees which need to be removed from public rights of way. Further infrastructure damage is unknown as the fire activity continues, and assessments are ongoing accordingly.
- Mendocino County has significant Category A and B costs associated with the Oak Fire. Due to ongoing fire activity, further assessments are in progress.
- San Bernardino County experienced significant damage to parks as a result of the El Dorado Fire. In addition to signage, 3-acre, 12-acre, and 4-acre conservation easement areas used to mitigate flood control facility impacts sustained damage. Assessments of infrastructure damage remain in progress and full extent of damages is unknown at this time due to continued fire activity.
- Within San Diego County, the Valley Fire brought destruction to the City of San Diego's Barrett Honor Camp where six main buildings and four sheds/outbuildings sustained major damage, as well as a 500-kilowatt generator and electrical distribution center, and two dormitories. Further infrastructure

damages are currently unknown as the fire activity continues to rage and assessments are not yet complete.

- Siskiyou County sustained significant damage as a result of the Slater Fire to roadways and three bridges. In addition, an estimated 15,000 hazardous trees will need to be removed from the public rights of way. Similarly, due to ongoing fire activity, infrastructure damage assessments are ongoing.

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

As of this week, more than 2,400 fire engines and 123 state-assigned aircraft remain deployed in response to the September fires, including more than 758 Cal OES and local government engines. In total, there have been over 1,074,006 gallons of fire retardant and 3,108,509 gallons of water used for fire suppression. In addition, more than 19,000 firefighters are on the front lines of 27 major wildfires/complexes and one extended attack wildfire burning throughout California. Jurisdictions are drawing on all available resources to contain the fires and prevent damage to homes and infrastructure. The California National Guard (CNG) is deployed and has 14 helicopters for water dropping and troop transport, with one MEDEVAC assigned statewide for a total of 15 Type I helicopters. Ten of the CNG helicopters and personnel are from six other states through the Emergency Assistance Compact (EMAC). In addition, the National Guard is providing firefighting Incident Awareness and Assessment (IAA) aircraft and personnel for fire mapping and infrared imagery from six states. A total of 1,240 CNG personnel are committed to date, with 20 hand crews currently committed statewide.

California currently has 83 engines and 319 personnel from five states through the latest EMAC request for 350 engines to assist in battling the wildfires. Since mid-August, twenty states have committed EMAC firefighting, personnel and air assets to aid in combating these historic wildfires. The State of California and local governments continue to struggle with catastrophic wildfires throughout the State as well as the

extreme impacts to resources resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, California has committed two Type I State National Urban Search and Rescue Teams and two Regional State Task Forces to support needs in areas that sustained heavy fire damage, which includes searching areas and structures on the North Complex Fire/West Zone in Butte County.

The State of California, local governments, community-based organizations, and volunteers have taken extraordinary steps to respond to these fires. To alleviate fire conditions, State resources including, but not limited to, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), CNG, California Highway Patrol (CHP), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Department of Social Services (CDSS), California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), California Department of Education (CDE), California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), and Cal OES are activated and providing assistance, both in the field and in the SOC. For example, CDSS is assisting with shelter operations by providing support to individuals with access and functional needs. I also directed Caltrans to request participation in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief (ER) Program, which provides federal relief for emergency and permanent repairs to federal aid highways. These State agencies are not eligible to receive funding under the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA); however, the financial impact to California is substantial.

Additionally, American Red Cross and other Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster are providing support to the community and disaster survivors.

The State of California established 19 evacuation centers and is currently sheltering 4,403 people throughout the State to support the nearly 20,000 Californians under mandatory evacuations. Due to COVID-19, and to protect the public health and safety, local jurisdictions are utilizing hotel rooms in lieu of congregate shelters. As depicted in the chart below, nearly 1,700 fire survivors remain housed in these non-

congregate shelters.

| County | Non-Congregate Shelter Census at Peak | Current Non-Congregate Shelter Census |
|----------------|--|--|
| Fresno | 1,368 | 811 |
| Los Angeles | 184 | 184 |
| Madera | 731 | 57 |
| Mendocino | 14 | 7 |
| San Bernardino | 635 | 254 |
| San Diego | 770 | 0 |
| Siskiyou | 782 | 377 |
| Total | 4,484 | 1,690 |

Californians are exhausted. Volunteer organizations are suffering from fatigue and a reduced stream of financial resources coming into their organizations to assist in relief efforts. Many of the counties impacted by these wildfires are still recovering from previous devastating wildfires, storms, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

STATE FISCAL CAPACITY

The United States' longest economic expansion in history ended in February 2020. As a result of the recession induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, California went from a projected \$5.6 billion budget surplus in the January 2020-21 Governor's Budget to a \$54.3 billion projected deficit in the Budget Act for fiscal year 2020-2021. From March through July 2020, the year-over-year drop in revenues was 6.7 percent. The California Department of Finance projects revenues will decline 21.7 percent for fiscal year 2020-2021 and 22.5 percent for fiscal year 2021-2022.

California's economy is suffering in a way we have not seen since the 2009 Great Recession. The first quarter of 2020 has shown a decline of 4.7 percent (\$3.164 trillion) from the previous quarter in 2019 (\$3.183 trillion). Now in the third quarter of 2020, the State economy has also been damaged by the COVID-19 pandemic, excessive heat, major wildfires, and poor air quality.

Although California remains the largest state economy in the nation, this rapid decline, coupled with the wildfires currently burning throughout the State, will have a huge impact on local businesses across all industries and cause major disruptions to the supply chain within the United States.

| Impacted Counties | Gross Domestic Product⁵ | Per Capita Income⁶ |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| California | \$2,721,651,005 | \$35,021 |
| Fresno | \$43,436,946 | \$23,284 |
| Los Angeles | \$710,893,266 | \$32,469 |
| Madera | \$7,099,931 | \$21,394 |
| Mendocino | \$3,552,687 | \$27,395 |
| San Bernardino | \$85,114,555 | \$23,956 |
| San Diego | \$219,361,505 | \$36,156 |
| Siskiyou | \$1,776,081 | \$28,130 |

To mitigate the effects of the devastating fires, my State of Emergency Proclamations provide financial assistance through CDAA to local agencies and certain non-profit organizations. Without a major disaster declaration, CDAA will provide a cost share with those Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) granted in the impacted counties at a rate of 18.75 percent, which is 75 percent of the non-federal share, and will account for 75 percent of the remaining non-FMAG expenses. The local governments will be responsible for a 6.25 percent cost-share with the FMAG and a 25 percent cost-share with CDAA. In addition, California will cost share with the FHWA ER program damage, which is anticipated to be in the millions of dollars.

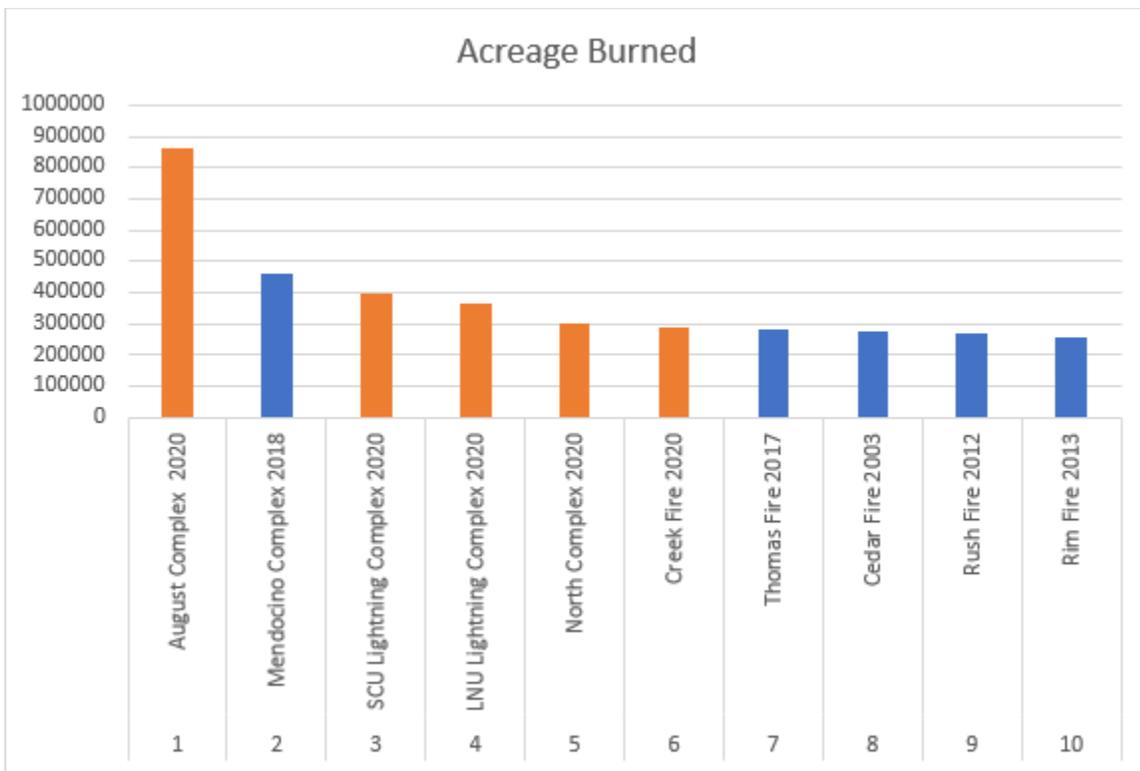
HISTORICAL INFORMATION

California has suffered multiple consecutive disasters in addition to the August 2020 Wildfires (FEMA-4558-DR-CA). This includes the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic (FEMA-4482-DR-CA) that is still ongoing and has severely impacted California's resources. The Carr Fire and Mendocino Complex Fires (FEMA-4382-DR-CA), previously the largest fires in California history, destroyed more than a thousand homes. This

⁵ Bureau of Economic Analysis, Local Area Gross Domestic Product 2018

came shortly after a devastating 2017, where California experienced numerous deadly and destructive fires and mudslides (FEMA-4353-DR-CA), and the deadly Northern California fires, which also resulted in a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4344-DR-CA).

In November 2018, you issued a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4407-DR-CA) for wildfires in Northern and Southern California, including the Camp Fire, the deadliest and the most destructive wildfire (in terms of structures lost) in California history, and the sixth-deadliest U.S. wildfire overall. The Camp Fire destroyed 18,804 structures and burned over 150,000 acres. Most recently you issued a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4558-DR-CA) for unprecedented fires in Northern California, which are still burning. In fact, six of California's seven largest fires and four of California's largest wildfires have occurred since August 2020, including one in September.



UNINSURED HOME AND PERSONAL PROPERTY LOSSES

| County | Cause | Acres Burned | Residences Major Damage | Residences Destroyed | Average Home Value ⁷ | Estimated Cost Destroyed Residences |
|----------------|--|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Fresno | Creek Fire | 291,426 | 44 | 532 | \$237,500 | \$126,350,000 |
| Madera | | | 1 | 30 | \$235,200 | \$7,056,000 |
| Los Angeles | Bobcat Fire | 113,986 | 27 | 101 | \$543,400 | \$54,883,400 |
| Mendocino | Oak Fire | 1,100 | 0 | 59 | \$356,800 | \$21,051,200 |
| San Bernardino | El Dorado Fire | 22,601 | 2 | 5 | \$305,400 | \$1,527,000 |
| San Diego | Valley Fire | 17,093 | 6 | 30 | \$526,300 | \$15,789,000 |
| Siskiyou | Slater/Devil/ Fox/Red Salmon Fires | 200,529 | 10 | 202 | \$186,300 | \$37,632,600 |
| Total | | 646,735 | 90 | 959 | | |

DISASTER RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

| County | Self-Employed Workforce ⁷ | Service Industry Workforce ⁶ |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Fresno | 55,668 | 291,900 |
| Los Angeles | 1,107,080 | 3,636,600 |
| Madera | 7,504 | 33,000 |
| Mendocino | 8,390 | 24,620 |
| San Bernardino | 154,048 | 1,212,700 |
| San Diego | 292,941 | 1,179,300 |
| Siskiyou | 3,347 | 10,370 |

DISASTER IMPACTED POPULATION PROFILE

California's official poverty rate as of 2018 is 11.9 percent, slightly higher than the national 11.8 percent, and ranks 26th amongst all states and Washington D.C. Even before the pandemic, California experienced higher rates of poverty (11.9 percent versus 11.8 percent) than the rest of the nation, a factor that is not likely to have improved. When considering an alternate poverty measure that compensates for cost of living and benefits factors, California ranks 2nd in the nation after Washington D.C. at 17.9 percent, compared to 13.1 percent nationally.

In addition, during the second quarter of 2020, nearly three million Californians

⁶ Employment Development Department, Labor Force and Industry Employment Data for Counties

were unemployed, representing more than 14 percent of the nation's total unemployment. In 2019, California's nonfarm jobs accounted for 11.5 percent of the nation's jobs. These jobs decreased by more than two million or 13 percent in the second quarter, a steeper drop than the 12 percent for the United States, and about 12.5 percent of the nation's job losses.

Demographic data from the impacted counties indicate significant and disproportionate impacts to vulnerable populations, including individuals at lower income levels, the elderly, disabled, and those that are medically electricity dependent. In addition, those at lower income levels are also experiencing higher rates of unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

| Impacted Counties | Total Population ⁷ | Poverty Rate ⁷ | Unem-ployed ⁸ | Disabled ⁹ | Elderly (>65) ⁷ | Persons <18 ⁷ | Total SSI ⁷ | Total SNAP ¹⁰ | Limited-English Proficient ⁷ |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Fresno | 999,101 | 21.3% | 10.9% | 11.9% | 12.6% | 28.2% | 25,921 | 211,750 | 44.8% |
| Los Angeles | 10,039,107 | 14.2% | 16.6% | 9.6% | 14.1% | 21.4% | 225,890 | 1,069,091 | 56.6% |
| Madera | 157,327 | 20.2% | 10.0% | 12.9% | 14.3% | 27.4% | 3,273 | 26,529 | 45.1% |
| Mendocino | 86,749 | 17.5% | 8.8% | 16.6% | 23.1% | 21.1% | 3,159 | 11,264 | 22.0% |
| San Bernardino | 2,180,085 | 14.9% | 10.8% | 10.9% | 11.9% | 26.1% | 43,914 | 335,516 | 41.6% |
| San Diego | 3,338,330 | 11.5% | 9.9% | 9.5% | 14.5% | 21.4% | 53,051 | 257,770 | 37.7% |
| Siskiyou | 43,539 | 17.1% | 9.1% | 19.8% | 26.1% | 20.1% | 1,947 | 6,228 | 8.4% |

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Based on historic precipitation patterns, experts expect a high probability of frontal storms. The risk of flooding and erosional events will increase as a result of the fires creating hazardous conditions within and downstream of the burn areas. These areas are at risk due to flooding and sedimentation affecting water quality, roads, and hydroelectric powerhouses.

⁷ US Census Bureau, 2018 Census

⁸ California Economic Development Department, Labor Force and Unemployment Rate for Cities and Census Designated Places

⁹ Cal OES, California Access and Functional Needs Viewer

¹⁰ California Department of Social Services, CalFresh Data Tables (Oct. 2018)

Impaired soil productivity and hydrologic function can affect individuals, property, and infrastructure on or in close proximity to burned lands. This can also have a profound impact on habitats for state and federally listed threatened or endangered terrestrial and aquatic animal species within and in close proximity to burned lands. This impact in addition to impacts caused by the fires themselves on state and federally listed endangered and threatened species and their habitats.

CONCLUSION

Based on infrastructure damage estimates exceeding \$229 million, California has surpassed its federal per capita indicator for Public Assistance by more than 607 percent. FEMA's Individual Assistance Declaration Factors criteria for receiving an Individual Assistance declaration have also been met. California has demonstrated a critical need for FEMA's Individuals and Households Programs, based on the disaster impacted population profile, impact to community infrastructure, casualties, and disaster related unemployment. As demonstrated above, the impacted communities have a high rate of poverty, elderly and disabled residents, as well as recipients of government assistance. Additionally, this is the second time in a few short years these communities have been devastated by wildfire. Coupled with the significant impacts to already vulnerable communities and the tragic loss of lives and jobs, these wildfires have resulted in unprecedented economic and infrastructure impacts within these communities. This all comes during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and relentless successive disasters to strike California, making the impact even more significant.

As noted above, the State economy has been significantly damaged by the COVID-19 pandemic, excessive heat, major wildfires, and poor air quality. California began 2020 with \$5.6 billion budget surplus, dropping to a \$54.3

billion deficit, impacting local businesses across all industries and causing major disruptions to the supply chain for the United States. Federal assistance is critical to support physical and economic recovery of California and its communities. The longer it takes for California and its communities to recover, the more severe, devastating, and irreversible the economic impacts will be.

Based on all Public Assistance and Individual Assistance factors and indicators, and considering the totality of the circumstances, both with respect to these wildfires as well as the relentless and successive disasters California has endured, including the ongoing unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, this event clearly warrants a Major Disaster Declaration.

CERTIFICATION

I certify for this major disaster the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shared costs as required by the Stafford Act.

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.36, this incident is of such magnitude and severity that effective response is beyond state and local capability, and supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives and protect property, public health, and safety. California is specifically requesting a Major Disaster Declaration to include Hazard Mitigation statewide, as well as, Public Assistance (all categories) Direct Federal Assistance, and Individual Assistance for the counties of Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Siskiyou.

As this disaster progresses, subject to additional programs warranted, we reserve the ability to amend this request for additional federal assistance.

I have designated the Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Mark Ghilarducci, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. Mr. Ghilarducci will work with the Federal Emergency

Management Agency in continuing to assess damage and may provide more information or justification on my behalf and can be reached at: Mark.Ghilarducci@caloes.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom
Governor

Enclosures:

Stafford Act and State Disaster Declarations for Last 24 Months

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

National Weather Service California Weather Summary September 4-9, 2020

List of Federally Recognized Tribes in California