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**Folder Title:** JGR/Disaster Declarations (5 of 7)  
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 15, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD A. HAUSER

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS 

SUBJECT: Amendment to West Virginia  
Major Disaster Request

FEMA has proposed amending the President's recent disaster declaration for West Virginia to waive the requirement that Federal funds be limited to 75 percent of total eligible costs for public assistance. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 5178, Federal individual and family assistance must be limited to 75 percent, and this limitation cannot be waived by the President. The 75 percent limitation for Federal public assistance, however, is a matter of policy and FEMA regulation. The disaster in West Virginia was so catastrophic (calling to mind Disraeli's distinction between a disaster and a catastrophe) that the state cannot meet 25 percent of the costs for public assistance. Insisting on the 75 percent limitation on Federal funds would mean that needed assistance would simply not be provided.

I discussed this issue with Spence Perry, the new FEMA general counsel. He stated that he was confident that providing 100 percent Federal funding above \$20 million (with the 75/25 split below that) would be consistent with the intent of the Disaster Relief Act. He also stated that the regulations specifying the 75/25 split could be superseded by Presidential Declaration. The reason for the 75/25 policy is fairly clear: to avoid case-by-case negotiation for every disaster. FEMA has developed a formula for when to invoke this new exception to the policy, based on per capita cost of the disaster. According to FEMA, only 12 disasters have met this "catastrophic disaster" threshold since 1953.

I raised the question whether states could go back and argue that the exception should be applied retroactively to them. Perry said that perhaps 3-4 disasters since 1979 would fall under the exception, with a possible additional expense of \$6-10 million.

A copy of my memorandum to Rick Davis is attached.


Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 15, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD DAVIS  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
CABINET AFFAIRS

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS   
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Amendment to West Virginia  
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Counsel's Office has reviewed the proposed amendment to the West Virginia disaster declaration. This amendment would create an exception to established policy, codified in FEMA regulations, that Federal public assistance be limited to 75 percent of eligible costs. While this may legally be done, it will create a precedent for increased Federal assistance that will be difficult to overlook with respect to future catastrophic disasters, and may even precipitate petitions from other states for retroactive application of the new exception. Whether the case for provision of additional Federal assistance in this instance is so compelling as to justify the burden of these other claims, and the cost of abandoning a clear, fixed rule, is an issue on which we must be guided by FEMA.


cc: David L. Chew

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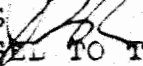
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cc: David L. Chew



ID #

CU

# WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence  
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1Name of Correspondent: Richard Davis☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_

(B) \_\_\_\_\_

(C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Amendment to West Virginia major  
disaster request

## ROUTE TO:

## ACTION

## DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CH Hall</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>85/11/15</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				
<u>CH 18</u>		<u>B</u>	<u>85/11/15</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>85/11/15</u> <u>ASAP</u>
		Referral Note:				
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				

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A - Appropriate Action  
C - Comment/Recommendation  
D - Draft Response  
F - Furnish Fact Sheet  
to be used as Enclosure

I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary  
R - Direct Reply w/Copy  
S - For Signature  
X - Interim Reply

## DISPOSITION CODES:

A - Answered  
B - Non-Special Referral  
C - Completed  
S - Suspended

## FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer  
Code = "A"  
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOP).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 15, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED FIELDING

FROM: RICHARD DAVIS  
CABINET AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Amendment to West  
Virginia Major-Disaster  
Request

The attached is an amendment to the West Virginia Major-Disaster request which is recommended for approval by FEMA. Please provide me with your recommendation as soon as possible (call Dawn Murray on x2823).

Thank you very much.

cc: David Chew



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

## MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

### WEST VIRGINIA

The Governor of West Virginia has requested by letter dated November 14, 1985, that your declaration of a major disaster be amended to provide for a total and complete waiver of the 25 percent State and local matching amount for both eligible Public Assistance costs and the 25 percent State share of the Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program under PL 93-288.

The 25 percent State share of the IFG program is required by statute and the Governor has been so advised.

The requirement for a limitation of 75 percent funding on total eligible Public Assistance costs has been the policy of the Administration based upon the statutory requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental.

The 75 percent limitation was instituted in 1980 and has been included in every Presidential declaration made since that time. Prior to that time, the State and local commitment required by law was negotiated with each State on a case-by-case basis. The institution of the 75/25 cost share formula was intended to provide a uniform and consistent basis for establishing State and local commitment.

Given the severity and magnitude of the current disaster in West Virginia, and consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, I recommend that you amend your declaration of major disaster dated November 7, 1985, to provide for special conditions regarding the limitation of Federal funding for eligible Public Assistance costs under PL 93-288.

I recommend that Federal funding be limited to 75 percent of total eligible costs up to a cap of \$20 million with Federal funding of 100 percent for eligible Public Assistance costs exceeding the \$20 million cap. This recommendation is based upon a formula of approximately \$10 per capita population of the State of West Virginia. Based upon current projected estimates of eligible Public Assistance costs of \$112 million, I estimate the Federal share of eligible costs will be approximately \$107 million with the State and local share to be approximately \$5 million.

This recommendation is based upon a review of disaster historical statistical data covering the period 1953-1985. Of the 755 major disaster declarations made during that period, approximately 12 disasters have been of such severity and magnitude as would exceed a threshold of \$10 per capita for total eligible Public Assistance costs in the affected State. Our review indicates that these 12 or so disasters were of a truly catastrophic nature such as Tropical Storm Agnes in Pennsylvania in 1972, Hurricane Frederick in Alabama and Puerto Rico in 1979.

It is our intent to establish a threshold for future catastrophic disasters with a provision for graduated increases due to inflation. This policy will provide for a consistent, equitable method to authorize relief for limitations on Federal funding for eligible Public Assistance costs for any major disaster in the United States which is of truly catastrophic proportions for the affected area while maintaining the integrity of the disaster relief program and the statutory requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental.

If you agree, I recommend that you sign the attached amendment to your major disaster declaration for West Virginia.

---

Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Date: NOV 14 1985

Attachments:  
Amended Declaration Letter  
Original Declaration letter  
Governor's Initial Request  
Governor's Complete Request

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Becton:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of West Virginia which resulted in my declaration of a major-disaster on November 7, 1985, is of sufficient severity and magnitude as to merit special conditions regarding the limitation of Federal funds provided under PL 93-288 for Public Assistance.

Therefore, I hereby amend my declaration to authorize Federal funds for Public Assistance at 75 percent of total eligible costs up to eligible costs equaling a cap of \$20 million based upon the formula contained in your recommendation of November 14, 1985. Eligible costs for Public Assistance exceeding the \$20 million cap will be funded at 100 percent.

Please notify the Governor of West Virginia and the Federal Coordinating Officer of this amendment to my major-disaster declaration.

Sincerely,

Honorable Julius W. Becton, Jr.  
Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20472

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 7, 1985

Dear Mr. Becton:

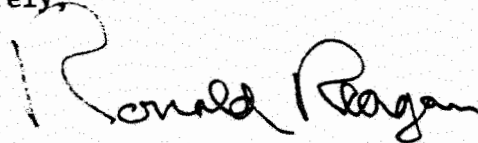
I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of West Virginia resulting from severe storms, landslides, and flooding, beginning on or about November 3, 1985, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major-disaster declaration under Public Law 93-288. I therefore declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of West Virginia.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate, from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Individual Assistance in the affected areas. You also are authorized to provide Public Assistance, if necessary, in the affected areas, once an acceptable State commitment has been provided. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under PL 93-288 for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of total eligible costs in the designated area.

Pursuant to Section 408(b) of PL 93-288, you are authorized to advance to the State its 25-percent share of the Individual and Family Grant program, to be repaid to the United States by the State when it is able to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Honorable Julius W. Becton, Jr.  
Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20472





STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
CHARLESTON 25305

ARCH A. MOORE JR  
GOVERNOR

November 6, 1985

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

through

Paul P. Giordano, Director  
FEMA, Region III  
105 South 7th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of PL 93-288, as implemented by 44CFR205.33(D), I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster for the following counties in West Virginia: Barbour, Braxton, Doddridge, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Summers, Tucker, Upshur, and Webster.

Heavy rains, flooding and landslides from a period beginning November 3 and continuing up through and including today have caused loss of life and extensive damage to public and private property in the identified counties. Having personally viewed the damaged areas, I find that the situation is of such unusual severity and magnitude that effective response to all existing needs is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments. Federal assistance under the Act is necessary to supplement the efforts and available resources of our State, local governments, and local disaster relief organizations. At this time, a field damage assessment is not necessary to determine that supplementary Federal assistance is required.

As a result of this situation, I directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan by proclamation on November 5. The total resources of the West Virginia National Guard were similarly activated by my proclamation on November 5. The total resources of all other State agencies have been committed to emergency response efforts. All other appropriate actions under State law have been directed.

SL-DA

NOV 06 1985 20:28 GOV ARCH A MOORE JR P01

The President  
Page two  
November 6, 1985

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

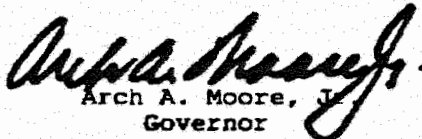
No request of federal funds will be made for reimbursement of our regular State employees involved in the disaster relief efforts.

I certify that State and local government obligations and expenditures will constitute the maximum reasonable amount of the funds of our State and local governments for alleviating the damages, losses, hardships and sufferings resulting from this disaster.

I intend to implement the Individual and Family Grant Program. I certify that the State is unable immediately to pay its 25 percent share of the cost to implement the program, and request an advance of that share. I cannot immediately estimate the size of the State share to be advanced. I certify, however, that I will present the matter of the advanced share to the West Virginia Legislature when it convenes in January, and that the entire 25% advance will be repaid as soon as funds become available.

All information in our possession is being assembled and made available to the appropriate FEMA and other federal personnel. I pledge to you our every effort in assuring that further documentation of this declaration will be fully assembled and submitted as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully yours,

  
Arch A. Moore, Jr.  
Governor

AAMJr:je

NOV 06 '85 20:28 GOV ARCH A MOORE JR P02



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
CHARLESTON 25301

ARCH A. MOORE JR.  
GOVERNOR

November 14, 1985

Mr. Robert Morris  
Deputy Director, FEMA  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, D. C. 20472

Dear Mr. Morris:

In accordance with my letter of November 6, 1985, to President Reagan concerning the flood disaster in West Virginia, I wish to provide you with the following information.

I have made numerous personal visits in the 29 county designated flood area and have reviewed many facts and figures from State and federal government entities. This tragedy is the most devastating catastrophe to ever affect West Virginia and, according to one of your own employees, "one of the worst I have ever seen."

As I have indicated earlier in my public statements and in communications with the federal government, we do not have the financial resources to meet the State matching share of 25% of the federal funds. Presently, the projection of total flood disaster costs is in the hundreds of millions of dollars and continuing to rise each day - for example, \$120 million in agricultural losses, \$52 million for bridge construction, 10,000 damaged or destroyed homes, 22,000 citizens requiring daily meals, etc.

Therefore, I am requesting a total and complete waiver of the 25% State matching amount in both the Individual and Family Assistance category and the Public Assistance category of Federal Flood Relief Assistance.

NOV 14 '85 16:37 GOV ARCH A MOORE JR P02

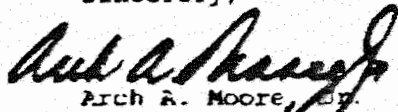
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Mr. Robert Morris  
Page Two  
November 24, 1985

The extraordinary extent of this disaster does not permit our State to comply with the normal legislative and administrative procedures and requirement promulgated in PL93-288. I have already made the appropriate contacts with members of West Virginia's Congressional Delegation and the necessary action will be initiated in the Legislative area.

The future of the State of West Virginia and the lives of the citizens of our State depends upon your affirmative decision regarding this request. I look forward to hearing from you immediately.

Sincerely,

  
Arch A. Moore, Jr.  
Governor

AAMJ:/jlf

cc: Mr. Julius W. Berton, Jr.  
Director, FEMA

Mr. Paul P. Giordano, Director  
FEMA, Region III

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
United States Senate


NOV 14 '85 16:37 GOV ARCH A MOORE JR P03

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 7, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD DAVIS  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
CABINET AFFAIRS

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR.   
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Disaster Declaration for West Virginia

Our office was asked to review a request from Governor Arch Moore of West Virginia for Presidential declaration of a "major disaster," within the meaning of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-288.

Based on a review of the request and the related materials forwarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Governor's request appears to comply with the statutory requirements for a disaster declaration. We also have no legal objection to the implementation materials prepared by FEMA in connection with this request.

cc: David L. Chew



# WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence  
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1Name of Correspondent: Richard Danner☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Request for major disaster declaration -  
West Virginia

## ROUTE TO:

## ACTION

## DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>Cutall</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>85,11,07</u>		<u>1 1</u>
<u>Cut 18</u>	Referral Note: <u>B</u>	<u>85,11,07</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>85,11,07</u> <u>ASAP</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>

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Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 7, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED FIELDING

FROM: RICHARD DAVIS   
CABINET AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Request for a Major  
Disaster Declaration --  
West Virginia

The attached is a request for a major disaster declaration for the State of West Virginia which is recommended for approval by FEMA. Please provide my assistant, Dawn Murray (x2823) with your recommendation as soon as possible.

Thank you very much.

cc: David Chew

INFORMATION COPY

# **DISASTER PRIORITY**

## **SUBJECT**

REQUEST FOR A MAJOR-DISASTER DECLARATION  
WEST VIRGINIA

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

## **DATE**

NOV 7 1985



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

## MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

### WEST VIRGINIA

Beginning on or about November 3, 1985, severe storms and heavy rains caused landslides and flooding in a three-State area including West Virginia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. The prolonged rains caused extensive damage and numerous casualties. Governor Arch A. Moore has requested a major-disaster declaration for twenty-two counties.

#### INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

Joint FEMA-State damage assessments have been completed in eight counties--Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Harrison, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, and Tucker. At least twelve deaths have been confirmed at this time, and there are estimates that the figure could go as high as sixty. Damage appears to be widespread, with approximately five hundred residences in each of the counties surveyed being destroyed or having sustained major damage, for an overall estimate in the eight counties of four thousand severely affected residences.

Based on these assessments, there will be a significant need for temporary housing assistance and the Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program.

In the event of a declaration, the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration and the emergency loan program of the Farmers Home Administration will be triggered in designated areas.

#### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Flood waters preclude a proper evaluation of needs in the public sector. Once flood waters recede, damage assessments will be made to determine the need for this type of assistance.

#### DISCUSSION

The Governor's request does comply with the law. The commitment on the part of the State includes the 25-percent portion of the IFG program, which is substantial, and activities relating to the State national guard and other State agencies. This is acceptable for the Individual Assistance that has been currently requested. In the event Public Assistance is necessary, an additional commitment on the part of the State is required. This can be accomplished at that time, and the proposed declaration letter specifies it.

There is no doubt that the situation warrants a major-disaster declaration. FEMA officials currently onsite have emphasized the severity and magnitude of the situation and the need for supplemental Federal assistance under Public Law 93-288. This is one of the worst flooding disasters in years.



## CONCLUSIONS

- ° The severity and magnitude of the situation is beyond the response capabilities of the State and local government.
- ° The situation warrants a major-disaster declaration.
- ° In the event of a declaration, I intend to designate Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Harrison, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, and Tucker Counties eligible for Individual Assistance. Further designations for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance will be made if warranted, once damage assessments have been completed.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Governor's request be granted.

---

Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Date:

Attachments:  
Declaration Letter  
Telegram to the Governor  
Notice to the Press  
Congressional Representation  
State Map  
Governor's Request



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Becton:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of West Virginia resulting from severe storms, landslides, and flooding, beginning on or about November 3, 1985, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major-disaster declaration under Public Law 93-288. I therefore declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of West Virginia.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate, from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Individual Assistance in the affected areas. You also are authorized to provide Public Assistance, if necessary, in the affected areas, once an acceptable State commitment has been provided. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under PL 93-288 for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of total eligible costs in the designated area.

Pursuant to Section 408(b) of PL 93-288, you are authorized to advance to the State its 25-percent share of the Individual and Family Grant program, to be repaid to the United States by the State when it is able to do so.

Sincerely,

Honorable Julius W. Becton, Jr.  
Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20472

THE WHITE HOUSE

Honorable Arch A. Moore  
Governor of West Virginia  
State Capitol  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

As you requested, I have declared a major disaster for the State of West Virginia because of damage due to severe storms, landslides, and flooding, beginning on or about November 3, 1985. I have authorized Federal relief and recovery assistance in the affected area.

Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under Public Law 93-288 for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of total eligible costs in the designated area. Individual Assistance is authorized immediately. Public Assistance will be contingent on an acceptable commitment on the part of the State.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will coordinate Federal assistance efforts and designate specific areas of the State eligible for such assistance. The Federal Coordinating Officer will be Mr. Tommie C. Hamner of FEMA. He will consult with you and assist in the execution of the FEMA-State Disaster Assistance Agreement governing the expenditure of Federal funds and the related commitment on the part of State and local governments.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

November , 1985

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President today declared a major disaster for the State of West Virginia as a result of severe storms, landslides, and flooding beginning on or about November 3, 1985, which caused extensive property damage. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the State.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund can include individual and family grants as well as temporary housing assistance for eligible disaster victims. Disaster loans will be made available to disaster victims by the Small Business Administration. The emergency loan program of the Farmers Home Administration also will be made available.

Federal relief activities in West Virginia will be coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. That agency immediately designated Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Harrison, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, and Tucker Counties eligible for Federal disaster assistance. Damage assessments are continuing, and additional areas may be designated.

Mr. Tommie C. Hamner will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State of West Virginia in providing Federal assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: FEMA (202) 646-4600.

## WEST VIRGINIA REPRESENTATION

The Governor of West Virginia is:

Arch A. Moore (R)

West Virginia Senators are:

Robert C. Byrd (D)

Jay Rockefeller (D)

Representing the Affected Area:

Alan B. Mollohan (D)

1st District

Harley O. Staggers, Jr. (D)

2nd District

Bob Wise (D)

3rd District

For further information, contact FEMA at (202) 646-4500.

WEST VA.  
SIZE 8 1/2 x 11





SL=DA



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
CHARLESTON 25305

ARCH A. MOORE, JR.  
GOVERNOR

November 6, 1985

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

through

Paul P. Giordano, Director  
FEMA, Region III  
105 South 7th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of PL 93-288, as implemented by 44CFR205.33(D), I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster for the following counties in West Virginia: Barbour, Braxton, Doddridge, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Summers, Tucker, Upshur, and Webster.

Heavy rains, flooding and landslides from a period beginning November 3 and continuing up through and including today have caused loss of life and extensive damage to public and private property in the identified counties. Having personally viewed the damaged areas, I find that the situation is of such unusual severity and magnitude that effective response to all existing needs is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments. Federal assistance under the Act is necessary to supplement the efforts and available resources of our State, local governments, and local disaster relief organizations. At this time, a field damage assessment is not necessary to determine that supplementary Federal assistance is required.

As a result of this situation, I directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan by proclamation on November 5. The total resources of the West Virginia National Guard were similarly activated by my proclamation on November 5. The total resources of all other State agencies have been committed to emergency response efforts. All other appropriate actions under State law have been directed.

NOV 06 '85 20:28 GOU ARCH A MOORE JR P01

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The President  
Page two  
November 6, 1985

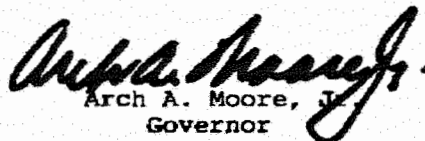
No request of federal funds will be made for reimbursement of our regular State employees involved in the disaster relief efforts.

I certify that State and local government obligations and expenditures will constitute the maximum reasonable amount of the funds of our State and local governments for alleviating the damages, losses, hardships and sufferings resulting from this disaster.

I intend to implement the Individual and Family Grant Program. I certify that the State is unable immediately to pay its 25 percent share of the cost to implement the program, and request an advance of that share. I cannot immediately estimate the size of the State share to be advanced. I certify, however, that I will present the matter of the advanced share to the West Virginia Legislature when it convenes in January, and that the entire 25% advance will be repaid as soon as funds become available.

All information in our possession is being assembled and made available to the appropriate FEMA and other federal personnel. I pledge to you our every effort in assuring that further documentation of this declaration will be fully assembled and submitted as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully yours,

  
Arch A. Moore, Jr.  
Governor

AAMJr:je

NOV 06 '85 20:28 GOU ARCH A MOORE JR P02

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

November 8, 1985

The President has declared a major disaster for the State of West Virginia as a result of severe storms, landslides, and flooding beginning on or about November 3, 1985, which caused extensive property damage. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the State.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund can include individual and family grants as well as temporary housing assistance for eligible disaster victims. Disaster loans will be made available to disaster victims by the Small Business Administration. The emergency loan program of the Farmers Home Administration also will be made available.

Federal relief activities in West Virginia will be coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. That agency immediately designated Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Harrison, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, and Tucker Counties eligible for Federal disaster assistance. Damage assessments are continuing, and additional areas may be designated.

Mr. Tommie C. Hamner will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State of West Virginia in providing Federal assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: FEMA (202) 646-4600.

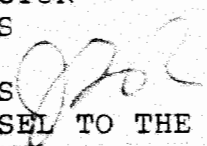
# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD DAVIS  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
CABINET AFFAIRS

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS   
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Disaster Declaration for California

Our office was asked to review a request from Governor George Deukmejian of California for Presidential declaration of a "major disaster," within the meaning of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-288.

Based on a review of the request and the related materials forwarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the supplementary letter of February 21, the Governor's request appears to comply with the statutory requirements for a disaster declaration. We also have no legal objection to the implementation materials prepared by FEMA in connection with this request.

cc: David L. Chew

# WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence  
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 / 1 / 1Name of Correspondent: Richard Davis☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Request for a Major Disaster Declaration  
California

## ROUTE TO:

## ACTION

## DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CHNOU</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>86.02.21</u>			<u>1</u> / <u>1</u> / <u>1</u>
<u>Unit 18</u>	Referral Note: <u>B</u>	<u>86.02.21</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>86.02.21</u> <u>ASAP</u>
	Referral Note: _____	<u>1</u> / <u>1</u> / <u>1</u>			<u>1</u> / <u>1</u> / <u>1</u>
	Referral Note: _____	<u>1</u> / <u>1</u> / <u>1</u>			<u>1</u> / <u>1</u> / <u>1</u>
	Referral Note: _____	<u>1</u> / <u>1</u> / <u>1</u>			<u>1</u> / <u>1</u> / <u>1</u>
	Referral Note: _____	<u>1</u> / <u>1</u> / <u>1</u>			<u>1</u> / <u>1</u> / <u>1</u>

## ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action  
 C - Comment/Recommendation  
 D - Draft Response  
 F - Furnish Fact Sheet  
 to be used as Enclosure

I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary  
 R - Direct Reply w/Copy  
 S - For Signature  
 X - Interim Reply

## DISPOSITION CODES:

A - Answered  
 B - Non-Special Referral  
 C - Completed  
 S - Suspended

## FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer  
 Code = "A"  
 Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOb).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.




THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED FIELDING

FROM: RICHARD DAVIS   
CABINET AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Request for a Major  
Disaster Declaration --  
California

The attached is a request for a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of California which is recommended for approval by FEMA. Please provide me with your recommendation as soon as possible.

Thank you very much.

cc: David Chew





# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

February 21, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Richard Davis  
Associate Director  
Office of Cabinet Affairs

FROM: Samuel W. Speck  
Associate Director  
State and Local Programs  
and Support

SUBJECT: Certification of California State  
Commitment

As indicated in the attached disaster package, the Governor, in his initial letter, did not provide an explicit certification of the State commitment for this disaster request.

The Governor has since provided that certification, on the last page of his letter dated February 21, 1986 (copy attached).

Governor Deukmejian, in the same letter, requests designation of an additional 17 counties, for a total of 29. We intend to act on this request promptly.

# State of California

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814

February 21, 1986

The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
Through: The Federal Emergency  
Management Agency  
Region IX  
Building 105  
Presidio of San Francisco, CA 94129

Dear President Reagan:

Please accept this as an amendment to my letter dated February 19, 1986, requesting that you declare a major disaster to exist in the State of California under the provisions of the Federal Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 288, 93rd Congress.

The original request covering the Counties of Humboldt, Napa, Sonoma, Glenn, Lake, Marin, Modoc, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Yuba is hereby amended to include the Counties of Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Lassen, Mendocino, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, San Joaquin, Sierra, Sutter, Tuolumne, Tehama and Yolo, where major storm damage has occurred. I proclaimed a State of Emergency in these additional counties on February 20, 1986.

I anticipate that additional requests for declarations may be made because of the extraordinary intensity of these storm events and the associated threat to life and property. The heavy rains, high winds, flooding and mud slides commencing on February 12, 1986, have now affected a total of 29 counties throughout the State of California. Although there has been some abatement of storm intensity during the last twenty-four hours, thousands of state inhabitants are suffering from the effects of being displaced or living under the immediate threat of evacuation due to flooding.

At 6:15 pm on the evening of February 20, 1986, a major levee failure occurred on the Yuba River requiring the evacuation of approximately 20,000 persons from the communities of Linda, and Olivehurst. State and local resources were immediately dispatched in accordance with the California Emergency Plan.

The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
Page Two  
February 21, 1986

As of this date the death toll has increased to ten persons and over 40 individuals have sustained injuries. Property damage has been extensive throughout the impacted counties. Approximately 7,000 businesses and homes have been damaged, while 91 have been totally destroyed. Thirteen state and five federal highways have been closed, and the communities of Guerneville and Sebastopol are without major road access. Furthermore, levees in the delta have been breached, inundating approximately 10,000 acres on three islands. This has resulted in over 25,000 people seeking emergency assistance at over 40 American National Red Cross Shelters. On February 18, 1986, the State of California Emergency Plan was implemented in accordance with Section 301 of Public Law 93-288. Maximum state and local resources have been committed for flood fighting, debris removal, search and rescue, and evacuation and mass care activities.

A good example of the utilization of state resources is the commitment of 45 California Conservation Corps (CCC) crews for sandbagging, patrolling, inspection and other assorted flood fighting and prevention activities. The CCC is currently mobilizing an additional 35 crews from Southern California bases for response to impacted areas in Northern California.

The California Department of Forestry (CDF) has contributed over 65 hand crews, in conjunction with the California Department of Corrections (CDC) and the California Youth Authority (CYA), for flood fighting and prevention operations. The CDF has also provided important air support, over one hundred pieces of apparatus, and three hundred personnel.

The California National Guard (CNG) has had a crucial role in the evacuation process. Over fifty National Guard vehicles, 11 motorized water craft, ten aircraft and two hundred specialized personnel are involved in the emergency operations. The National Guard has evacuated approximately 1,800 people, flying over 200 sorties in the first three days of the emergency. The National Guard is also providing housing and material support to flood fight crews on the emergency.

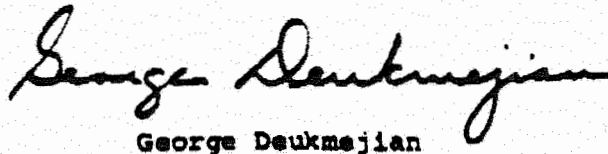
It is important to note, that in addition to the state resources cited above, hundreds of volunteers have joined the massive effort to combat the flooding and to assist the disaster victims. However, in spite of this tremendous effort, additional assistance is required.

The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
Page Three  
February 21, 1986

My original request to implement the Individual and Family Grant Program is being amended to include the Temporary Housing Program, the Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program, the Farmers Home Administration Emergency Loan Program and the Internal Revenue Service's casualty loss amendments to previous years returns. I, also, hereby, certify that the state's share of the Individual and Family Grant Program estimated at \$625,000, represents the commitment on behalf of the state and local governments for this request.

Your favorable consideration of this request will be most appreciated.

Most Cordially,

  
George Deukmejian

**INFORMATION COPY**

# **DISASTER PRIORITY**

**SUBJECT**

REQUEST FOR A MAJOR-DISASTER DECLARATION  
CALIFORNIA

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

**DATE**

FEB 24 1986



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

## MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

### CALIFORNIA

Beginning on or about February 12, 1986, a series of Pacific storms with high winds and rain caused extensive flooding in the coastal and central valley areas of California and heavy snow accumulations in the mountains. High tides in the coastal areas have further exacerbated the flooding. Governor George Deukmejian has implemented the State emergency plan in 29 counties and has requested a major-disaster declaration under Public Law 93-288.

Personnel from the FEMA regional office in San Francisco have monitored this incident from its inception, maintaining close contact with State agencies as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and volunteer agencies. State and local government personnel have been heavily engaged in sandbagging and floodfighting operations, and also have carried out numerous rescue operations. The American Red Cross has verified that at least 30 shelters are currently in use providing food and shelter to many of the 12,000 persons who were evacuated earlier this week.

### INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

The Governor's request is initially for Individual Assistance programs for Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Modoc, Napa, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, and Yuba Counties.

Detailed damage assessments cannot be conducted on the ground at the present time. Mudslides, landslides, and flooding have cut numerous roads, preventing any extensive travel by land vehicles. FEMA personnel have made aerial surveys where weather permitted over some of the requested areas in order to verify the extent of damage and the probable need for assistance under PL 93-288. The areas include Lake, Napa, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma Counties. Initial surveys in these counties show 3,700 homes affected, with some 200 destroyed and 800 sustaining major damage; some 250 businesses were also affected by the storms. Additionally, in Marin County, State and county damage surveys found 368 homes and 36 businesses affected, and in Yuba County, preliminary reports from the State indicate more than 20,000 persons were evacuated on February 20 as a result of a levee break that inundated six square miles. Higher damage figures are likely as closer inspections become possible and other areas are surveyed. Agricultural damage, primarily to vineyards, is estimated by the State at \$15 million.

### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

No Public Assistance has been requested at this time. The Governor has indicated that a request for this assistance will be made once flood waters recede and assessments can be made.



## DISCUSSION

The Governor's initial request does not provide an explicit certification of the State's commitment as required by law. He has requested the Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program and certified the State's repayment of their 25% advance which we consider to be an adequate commitment for Individual Assistance programs. An amended letter from the Governor that will provide an explicit State commitment to document the files is forthcoming. If Public Assistance is requested at a later date, an additional commitment must be provided.

There is a significant need for temporary housing and the IFG program. The IFG program, by law, is cost-shared on a 75/25 basis with the State. The Governor has requested an advance of the State share, as allowed by law.

The proposed declaration letter addresses both the State advance for the IFG program and the commitment for Public Assistance. In the event of a declaration, the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration and the emergency loan program of the Farmers Home Administration will be triggered in those areas designated eligible for Individual Assistance.

Although many of the areas have not experienced flooding recently, some 21,000 flood insurance policies worth over \$1.2 billion are in force.

## CONCLUSIONS

- ° The severity and magnitude of the situation are beyond the response capabilities of the State and local government.
- ° The situation warrants a major-disaster declaration.
- ° In the event of a declaration, I intend to designate Lake, Marin, Napa, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Yuba Counties eligible for Individual Assistance. Additional designations for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance will be made as warranted once damage assessments have been completed.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Governor's request be granted.

---

Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Date:

## Attachments:

Declaration Letter  
Telegram to the Governor  
Notice to the Press  
Congressional Representation  
State Map  
Governor's Request

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Becton:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of California resulting from severe storms, landslides, mudslides, and flooding, beginning on or about February 12, 1986, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major-disaster declaration under Public Law 93-288. I therefore declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of California.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate, from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Individual Assistance in the affected areas. You also are authorized to provide Public Assistance in the affected areas, if necessary and requested, once an acceptable State commitment has been provided. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under PL 93-288 for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of total eligible costs in the designated area.

Pursuant to Section 408(b) of PL 93-288, you are authorized to advance to the State its 25 percent share of the Individual and Family Grant program, to be repaid to the United States by the State when it is able to do so.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Julius W. Becton, Jr.  
Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20472

THE WHITE HOUSE

The Honorable George Deukmejian  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

As you requested, I have declared a major disaster for the State of California because of damage due to severe storms, landslides, mudslides, and flooding, beginning on or about February 12, 1986. I have authorized Federal relief and recovery assistance in the affected area.

Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under Public Law 93-288 for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of total eligible costs in the designated area. Individual Assistance is authorized immediately. Public Assistance will be contingent on your demonstration of the need and on an acceptable commitment on the part of the State.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will coordinate Federal assistance efforts and designate specific areas of the State eligible for such assistance. The Federal Coordinating Officer will consult with you and assist in the execution of the FEMA-State Disaster Assistance Agreement governing the expenditure of Federal funds and the related commitment on the part of State and local governments.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

February , 1986

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

President Reagan today declared a major disaster for the State of California and directed that Federal assistance be provided in those areas ravaged by mudslides and flooding which left thousands of families homeless.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had reported to the President that a survey of damage had confirmed Governor George Deukmejian's assessment that the damages "are of such severity and magnitude that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments."

With authority delegated by the President, FEMA Director Julius W. Becton, Jr., quickly designated as being eligible for Federal assistance the affected residents of the counties of Lake, Marin, Napa, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Yuba. Additional counties may be added if warranted.

Disaster application centers will open in the affected area within about four days. The centers will be staffed by approximately 20 Federal, State, and volunteer agencies. Locations of the centers will be announced soon.

Those with disaster-related losses should use the next few days to determine their insurance coverage, since disaster aid will not duplicate insurance benefits. Victims should list their losses and needs to discuss with registrars in the centers. If possible, a copy of the insurance policy or policy number should be brought to the center.

The Federal Insurance Administration, a part of FEMA, said there are approximately 21,000 flood insurance policies valued at over \$1.2 billion in force in the nine counties. Preliminary estimates indicate as many as 5,000 policyholders may file claims against flood insurance policies backed by the Federal Government.

Temporary housing will be provided to those made homeless by the disaster. Those determined to be eligible for temporary housing will be instructed on how they can rent a dwelling and obtain reimbursement from FEMA.

Applications will be taken by the Small Business Administration for loans for the repair of primary residences and businesses, including the replacement of contents and personal property. The loans, which must be repaid, have 4 or 8 percent interest rates, depending on the credit of the applicants. Homeowners may borrow up to \$100,000 for structural repairs and up to \$20,000 for contents or personal property. Renters may borrow up to \$20,000 from SBA, and businesses may borrow up to \$500,000.

Loans and other agricultural assistance programs will be available to farmers and ranchers affected by the flooding and mudslides.

Grants of up to \$5,000 may be available to some people who are not eligible for the Federal loans.

The assessment of damages is continuing, and as additional information is obtained, decisions will be made on providing Federal assistance to people in other counties and to governmental entities.

This is the 30th major disaster declaration for California in the last 20 years. Expenditures from the President's Disaster Relief Fund total \$770 million for those disasters.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: FEMA (202) 646-4600.

## CALIFORNIA REPRESENTATION

The Governor of California is:

George Deukmejian (R)

California Senators are:

Alan Cranston (D)

Pete Wilson (R)

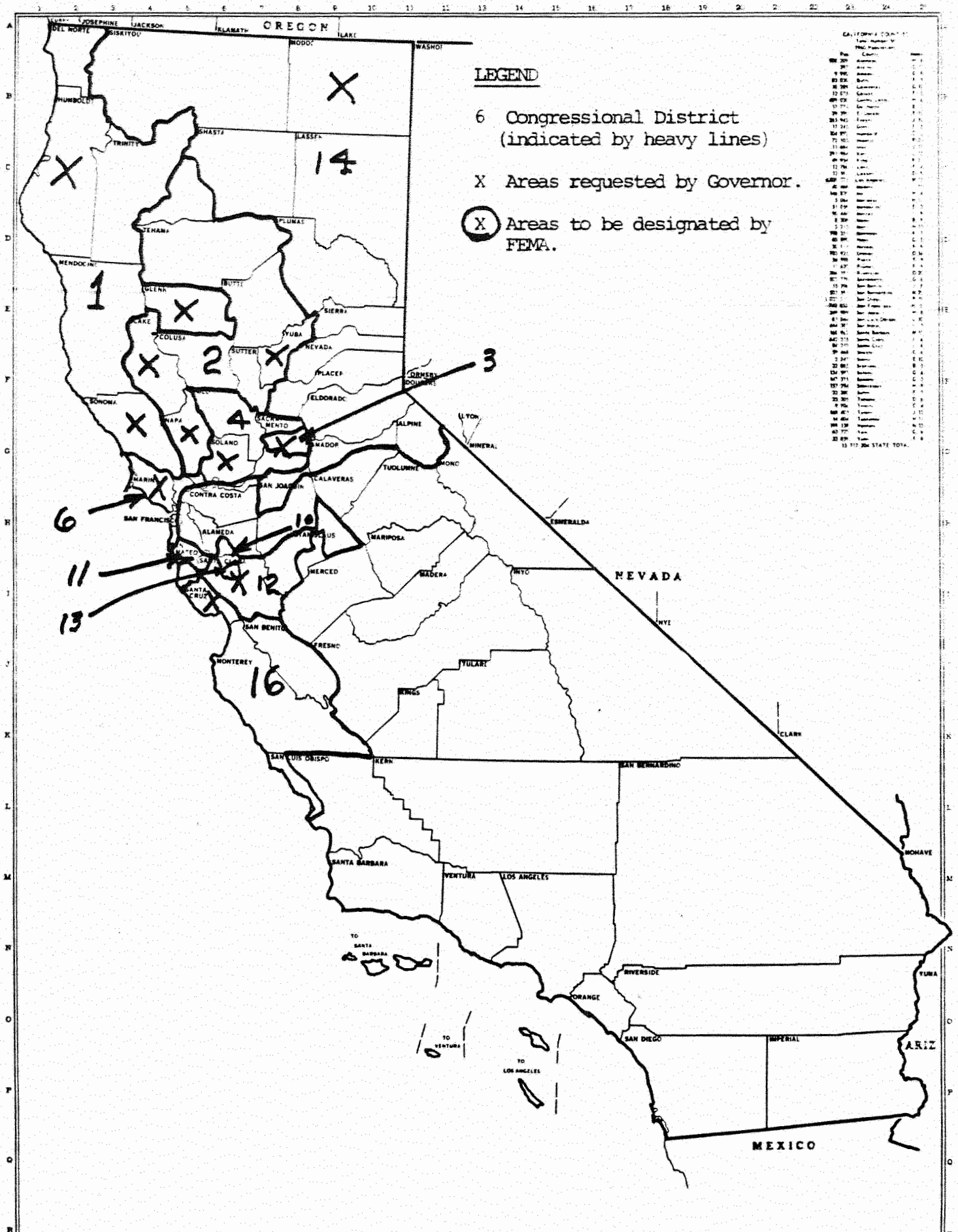
Representing the Affected Area:

Douglas H. Bosco (D)	1st District
Gene Chappie (R)	2nd District
Robert T. Matsui (D)	3rd District
Vic Fazio (D)	4th District
Barbara Boxer (D)	6th District
Don Edwards (D)	10th District
Tom Lantos (D)	11th District
Ed Zschau (R)	12th District
Norman E. Mineta (D)	13th District
Norman D. Shumway (R)	14th District
Leon E. Panetta (D)	16th District

For further information, contact FEMA at (202) 646-4500.



**CALIFORNIA**  
SIZE 8½ x 11





## Federal Emergency Management Agency

Region IX Building 105  
Presidio of San Francisco, California 94129

February 20, 1986

Honorable George Deukmejian  
Governor of California  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Deukmejian:

Your request for a Presidential declaration for the private sector in the State of California, dated February 19, 1986, has been received in this office and at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Office in Washington, D.C.

Processing of your request is being accomplished as quickly as possible and you will be notified of the President's decision.

Please be advised that in order to process your request, compliance with 44 CFR 205.33 [c(3) and (5)] is necessary.

It is requested that these essential elements be forwarded over your signature to this office as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. L. Vickers', is written over the typed name and title.

Robert L. Vickers  
Regional Director

SL-DA

CR5717

20 FEB 1986 04 00



GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN  
GOVERNOR

**State of California**

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
SACRAMENTO 95814

TELEPHONE  
(916) 445-2841

February 19, 1986

The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
Through: The Federal Emergency  
Management Agency  
Region IX  
Building 105  
Presidio of San Francisco, CA 94129

Dear President Reagan:

Under the provisions of Section 301(b), of the Federal Disaster Relief Act, Public Law 93-288, as implemented by 44 CFR 205.41, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of California as a result of wind, sequential and torrential rain storms, mud slides, and wave actions, which have impacted this State beginning on February 12, 1986, and are still continuing. I have proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in the Counties of Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Modoc, Napa, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Yuba.

Due to severe flooding, the amount and severity of disaster related damages are not readily ascertainable. However, I am informed that ten people have lost their lives, 41 have suffered injuries, 1,934 homes and 120 businesses are damaged or destroyed and well over 8,376 people have sought emergency shelters. Rivers, streams and flood control channels are at their highest level ever. The Cities of Guerneville, Walnut Grove, Thornton and parts of the Cities of Napa and Sacramento have been evacuated due to flooding. Levees are patrolled to enable timely evacuations where necessary. Tyler, Dead Horse and McCormick-Williams Islands in the Delta are inundated due to levee breaches.

As a result of this situation, I have directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on February 18, 1986, for the Counties of Humboldt, Napa and Sonoma, and on February 19, 1986, for the Counties of Glenn, Lake, Marin, Modoc, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Yuba. I have also directed all appropriate actions under State law.

I have determined that these incidents are of such severity and magnitude that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments, and that federal assistance for the private sector is needed under the provisions of PL 93-288. Requirements for public assistance are not known at this time.

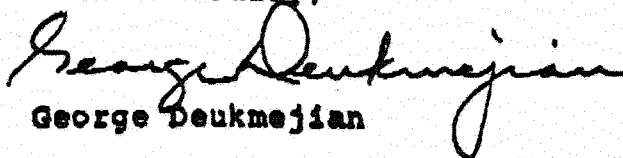
The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
Page Two  
February 19, 1986

I request assistance authorized under Section 408, Individual and Family Grant Program, be made available for at least 1,000 disaster victims. Total funding requirements for this program are estimated to be \$2,500,000 of which \$1,875,000 will be the federal share and \$625,000 will be the state share. All federal and state funds obligated to the Individual and Family Grant Program will be specifically identified in the accounts of the state. I certify that the State is unable to immediately pay its 25 percent share of the cost to implement the program and request that \$2,500,000 be advanced by the Federal Government. While no state funds for this purpose have been statutorily authorized at this time, we are committed to reimbursing the federal government for our 25 percent share. I certify that the advance will be repaid as soon as funds become available, and I anticipate that funds will become available no later than July 1, 1987.

I have designated William M. Medigovich as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Thank you for your consideration.

Most cordially,

  
George Deukmejian

eh

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 21, 1986

President Reagan today declared a major disaster for the State of California and directed that Federal assistance be provided in those areas ravaged by mudslides and flooding which left thousands of families homeless.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had reported to the President that a survey of damage had confirmed Governor George Deukmejian's assessment that the damages "are of such severity and magnitude that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments."

With authority delegated by the President, FEMA Director Julius W. Becton, Jr., quickly designated as being eligible for Federal assistance the affected residents of the counties of Lake, Marin, Napa, Sacramento, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Yuba. Additional counties may be added if warranted.

Disaster application centers will open in the affected area within about four days. The centers will be staffed by approximately 20 Federal, State, and volunteer agencies. Locations of the centers will be announced soon.

Those with disaster-related losses should use the next few days to determine their insurance coverage, since disaster aid will not duplicate insurance benefits. Victims should list their losses and needs to discuss with registrars in the centers. If possible, a copy of the insurance policy or policy number should be brought to the center.

The Federal Insurance Administration, a part of FEMA, said there are approximately 21,000 flood insurance policies valued at over \$1.2 billion in force in the nine counties. Preliminary estimates indicate as many as 5,000 policyholders may file claims against flood insurance policies backed by the Federal Government.

Temporary housing will be provided to those made homeless by the disaster. Those determined to be eligible for temporary housing will be instructed on how they can rent a dwelling and obtain reimbursement from FEMA.

Applications will be taken by the Small Business Administration for loans for the repair of primary residences and businesses, including the replacement of contents and personal property. The loans, which must be repaid, have 4 or 8 percent interest rates, depending on the credit of the applicants. Homeowners may borrow up to \$100,000 for structural repairs and up to \$20,000 for contents or personal property. Renters may borrow up to \$20,000 from SBA, and businesses may borrow up to \$500,000.

Loans and other agricultural assistance programs will be available to farmers and ranchers affected by the flooding and mudslides.

Grants of up to \$5,000 may be available to some people who are not eligible for the Federal loans.

The assessment of damages is continuing, and as additional information is obtained, decisions will be made on providing Federal assistance to people in other counties and to governmental entities.

This is the 30th major disaster declaration for California in the last 20 years. Expenditures from the President's Disaster Relief Fund total \$770 million for those disasters.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: FEMA (202) 646-4600.

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