



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 8, 2013

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

c/o Regional Administrator Nancy Ward
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. President:

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 *Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR) § 206.36*, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of California as a result of the Rim Fire in the counties of Tuolumne and Mariposa.

The Rim Fire started on August 17, 2013, and has burned over 257,135 acres. As the third largest wildfire in California history, the fire is approximately 95 percent contained with an expected date of containment of October 27, 2013.

The Rim Fire began in steep, inaccessible terrain, with no road access to fight the fire for miles. During the first hours of the fire, the only tactical attack was aerial. Water quality and sediment run-off into the Tuolumne and Clavey Rivers were identified as immediate concerns. There was an immediate threat to State Highway 120, the north entrance to Yosemite National Park, and to power line facilities and infrastructures south of the Tuolumne River.

The County of Tuolumne, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the City and County of San Francisco, the County of Mariposa, and the Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council declared local emergencies, in response to this fire and due to the extreme peril to the safety of persons and property. Pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Government Code, and the State Constitution and statutes, I declared a State of Emergency for Tuolumne County on August 22, 2013, and the City and County of San Francisco on August 23, 2013. California State Senate

pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg, acting as Governor, declared a State of Emergency for Mariposa County on August 29, 2013.

The American Red Cross opened a shelter at the Tuolumne County Fairgrounds, with one registered nurse and one mental health nurse. Mandatory evacuation orders were issued to residents of Ponderosa Hills, Tuolumne City, Soulsbyville, a large part of Twain Harte, Willow Springs, Anderson Valley, and the Pinecrest area. A reverse 9-1-1 was utilized to notify the communities of Tuolumne City, Soulsbyville, Willow Springs, and Ponderosa Hills. The mandatory evacuation order affected approximately 3,500 homes. Tuolumne City is a large retirement community; as such, special consideration was given for the transport of residents having access and functional needs.

Tuolumne County Health Department opened a Clean Air Shelter at the Fairgrounds during the worst air quality days, which was utilized by some functional needs residents with asthma and other respiratory conditions.

Tuolumne County, Mariposa County and the City and County of San Francisco activated their Emergency Operations Centers (EOC). The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Department Operations Center also activated to monitor its facilities located within the fire perimeter. The California Utilities Emergency Association (CUEA) assisted with mutual aid agreements with other utility companies to mitigate any impacts from the Rim Fire to San Francisco's water system. CUEA noted that the main concern is contamination of the water system from debris flow and ash from the fire.

As a result of the fire, major response activities were required, including evacuations, the activation of emergency operational centers and the implementation of emergency protective measures. There are no reported deaths or injuries caused by this event. However, the fire destroyed 11 residences, 3 commercial properties and 98 outbuildings. Damages to public infrastructures include power and water infrastructure facilities, several miles of local roads (including guard rail and signage), park facilities and other public infrastructure, including large facilities located in Tuolumne County that are operated by the City and County of San Francisco and the City of Berkeley. Roadways were closed and many traffic controls are still in effect.

To alleviate the fire's conditions, I deployed all necessary State and local government emergency mutual aid resources, including fire-fighting, law enforcement, medical, and public health emergency responders. I activated the State Operations Center and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Regional EOC. The California National Guard was also activated to supplement local and state responders.

Cal OES coordinated 7 mission requests to State agencies including the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), California National Guard (CNG), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Highway Patrol, California Conservation Corps, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Environmental Protection Agency. These State agencies performed and provided support to first-response activities, including the repairs to State Highway 120 in the closed area for an estimated 6,000 feet of downed guard rail and the removal of hazardous trees; inspection of the highway for

additional damage; providing air monitoring equipment and technical assistance by staff regarding air and water quality; hazardous debris removal; closure and repair of roads; and wildfire suppression crews. Caltrans removed over 1,800 trees (that were in imminent danger of falling on or near the road), and replaced over 1,000 guardrail posts, signs, reflectors/guide markers, and other essential highway markings that were destroyed by the fire prior to opening the roadway.

At the height of the fire, State and local resources were heavily committed to the fire-fighting effort. CAL FIRE had 109 engines, 51 crews, and 1500 personnel assigned to the incident. Cal OES committed 178 local government engines, 86 Cal OES engines, 9 water tenders, 1 Cal OES Communication Unit, 7 CNG helicopters and 1 remote piloted aircraft (DRONE), and OASIS communications units.

Other agencies responding to the fire include, but are not limited to Tuolumne County; Mariposa County; City and County of San Francisco-Hetch Hetchy Water and Power; U.S. Forest Service (USFS); Department of Defense; National Weather Service; Bureau of Indian Affairs; American Red Cross; and Pacific Gas and Electric.

The local and operational area resources were depleted; therefore, resources were drawn from regional agencies to assist in the emergency response efforts for the fire. The following are some of the resources that provided mutual aid assistance: Alameda County; Calaveras County; Fresno County; Kings County; Madera County; Monterey County; Sacramento County; San Joaquin County; Stanislaus County; and Tulare County.

Fire can alter the structure and composition of forests, opening up areas to invasion by fast-colonizing alien species and threatening biological diversity. The chance of subsequent flooding, debris flows, and mudflows are extremely likely and have occurred after every major fire. A significant percentage of the Rim Fire area burned intensely, consuming all organic duff on the soil surface along with all leaves and needles on standing live vegetation. The fire denuded vast areas of mountainous terrain and created a crust or glaze on the soil, which repels rain, and dramatically increases the chance of flooding, mudslides, and damaging debris flows.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and USFS' Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team's rehabilitation report, an additional concern is the ash contamination to the Don Pedro Reservoir, and watersheds. The main areas of high soil burn severity, as identified in the BAER report, are Cherry Creek, Jawbone Creek, South, Middle, and the Upper Tuolumne River above Don Pedro Reservoir. Based on historic precipitation patterns, it can be expected that frontal storms have a high probability of occurring in the weeks following the Rim Fire. These areas are at risk due to flooding and sedimentation affecting water quality, roads, hydroelectric powerhouses, and private camps. The winter rains, even at average rates, can produce a significant runoff, with increased velocity down the hillsides. The risk of future flooding and erosional events will increase as a result of the fire, creating hazardous conditions, which may be worsened in the case of a rain-on-snow event, where long-duration rainstorms falling on a snowpack can produce very high peak flows.

While there have been no major disaster declarations requested in California in the past 12 months, California has sustained seven major fires that were granted Fire Management

Assistance Grant (FMAG) declarations.

Tuolumne County, with a population total of 55,365, is predominantly rural, with small-town communities of mixed-use surrounded by large areas of open expanses consisting of agriculture, native vegetation, and low-density development. The 13.8 percent county unemployment rate (2010) is significantly higher than the state rate of 12.5 percent (2010). The northern part of Yosemite National Park is located in the eastern part of the county.

Mariposa County, with a population of 18,251, is also predominantly rural. There are no incorporated cities within the county, and it has no permanent traffic lights. Yosemite National Park is located in the eastern central part of the county. The county's unemployment rate is 11.9 percent (2010). In addition, Mariposa County's recently depleted its contingency fund to a deficit of over \$230,000, as a result of the June 2013 Carstens Incident, for which the county did not receive an FMAG. The incident ultimately represented more than 32 percent of the annual sales tax revenue for Mariposa County.

The preliminary damage assessment places total fire costs as exceeding \$70 million. The majority of costs involved were for emergency protective measures, roads and bridges, and public utilities. Mariposa County had a per capita impact of \$3.64, while Tuolumne County experienced an extremely high per capita impact of \$805.40.

Applicants within Tuolumne County generally had sufficient insurance coverage, with the exception of the City of Berkeley, whose camp facilities sustained total destruction, were located within Tuolumne County. The camp was underinsured with only \$7.5 million in coverage, with total camp damages exceeding \$8.7 million. The city experienced overall total damages for the fire in excess of \$22 million.

I have determined that these events are of sufficient severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments and that federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting Public Assistance (Categories A-G) for Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties for damages caused by severe fire and assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide. Pursuant to Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 206.46 and the information provided above, the State of California requests disaster assistance for the Rim Fire to aid in the recovery.

Sincerely,



Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Enclosures

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

A: Individual Assistance

B: Public Assistance

C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

1. Request Date Oct 8, 2013

Burden Disclosure Notice

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

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

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

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

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date Aug 20, 2013 End Date Sep 8, 2013 or Continuing *If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).*

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

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

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

As of September 30, 2013, the Rim Fire burned over 257,135 acres and destroyed 112 structures in the impacted counties with roughly 92 percent containment. The expected date of containment is October 6, 2013. Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties were significantly impacted. Facilities owned by the City and County of San Francisco and the City of Berkeley located in Tuolumne County were also damaged. Damage to public infrastructure includes power and water facilities, local roads including guard rail and signage, park facilities and other public infrastructure as well as requiring evacuations, necessitating emergency response and the implementation of emergency protective measures. The fire also significantly contributed to ecosystem degradation. This degradation is manifested in a reduction in the richness of the ecosystems as well as their biological diversity, and in the goods and services they can offer. Fires eliminate the organic covering of the land, making it more susceptible to erosion by both wind and water. In addition, fires cause health problems and detract from the aesthetic value of the landscape.

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

The State of California has committed over \$26 million in resources as a result of the Rim Fire. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection provided staff and resources for fire response and suppression. The California Highway Patrol assisted with evacuations, traffic control and security. The California Department of Transportation addressed immediate access needs and the California National Guard provided security and logistical support. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services was responsible for emergency management and coordination. State and local organizations provided operational support and assistance, and personnel to staff the local and state Emergency Operations Centers.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment*

Individual Assistance Dates Performed Requested _____ Start _____ End _____

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

Public Assistance Dates Performed Requested Sep 26, 2013 Start Sep 30, 2013 End Oct 2, 2013

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

N/A

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance N/A Individuals and Households Program Crisis Counseling Program Disaster Unemployment Assistance
 All Disaster Case Management Disaster Legal Services

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

Note:

On September 26, 2013, the U.S. Small Business Administration declared the primary counties of Mariposa and Tuolumne, and the contiguous counties of Alpine, Calaveras, Madera, Merced, Mono, and Stanislaus a disaster area. This declaration is a result of the economic impacts caused by the Rim Fire beginning August 17, 2013, and continuing.

The economic injury declaration resulted from a collection of worksheets from businesses in the counties of Tuolumne and Mariposa which showed a severe loss in revenue/income as a result of the fire.

Reported damages (11 homes destroyed) did not warrant conducting a preliminary damage assessment in the county for physical damages as the damages would not have met the minimum criteria for SBA.

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

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

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

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

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

Category A-G Public Assistance Program funding for Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).
Tuolumne Band of Mi Wok Indians

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

Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity

I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

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

States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

Request for Direct Federal Assistance

I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

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

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

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

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

Request for Snow Assistance

N/A I request snow assistance.

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

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

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation* Statewide OR

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

12. Mitigation Plan Information*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date September 30, 2016 b. Type of Plan Enhanced Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

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

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

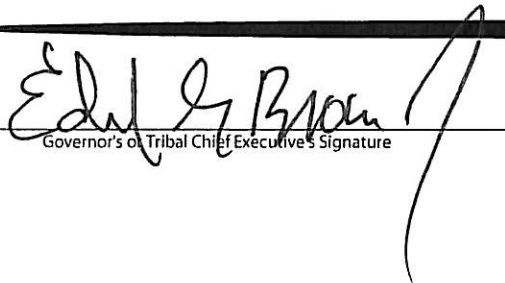
14. Findings and Certifications

I certify the following:

- a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.
- b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on Aug 22, 2013 in accordance with the Stafford Act.
- c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

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



 Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

10/8/13

 Date

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

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance
under the Stafford Act

Enclose Individual Assistance Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment Cost Estimate Worksheets

N/A

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Stafford Act Requirements for Public Assistance

Enclose Public Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment Cost Estimate Worksheet

COUNTY	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	PDA Total	S per Capita	75%
MARIPOSA	\$ -	\$ 58,500	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,500	\$ 3.64	\$ 49,875
TUOLUMNE	\$ 2,155,300	\$ 3,107,110	\$ 14,040,495	\$ 1,380,789	\$ 1,602,625	\$ 20,944,068	\$ 1,360,800	\$ 44,591,187	\$ 805.40	\$ 33,443,390
SAN FRANCISCO	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SUBTOTAL	\$ 2,155,300	\$ 3,165,610	\$ 14,048,495	\$ 1,380,789	\$ 1,602,625	\$ 20,944,068	\$ 1,360,800	\$ 44,657,687		
STATE AGENCIES	\$ -	\$ 26,089,289	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,089,289		\$ 19,566,967
TOTAL	\$ 2,155,300	\$ 29,254,899	\$ 14,048,495	\$ 1,380,789	\$ 1,602,625	\$ 20,944,068	\$ 1,360,800	\$ 70,746,976	\$2.09	\$ 53,060,232
Category %	3.05%	41.35%	19.86%	1.95%	2.27%	29.60%	1.92%			

ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Assistance from Other Federal Agency Programs

County	SBA Home	SBA Business	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	BIA	OTHER
Mariposa	\$ -	\$500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tuolumne	\$ -	\$2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,474,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Totals	\$ -	\$2,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,474,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Note: Provide numbers and amounts, as appropriate