

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Trump:

We thank you for your support in providing California with federal assistance for storm events earlier this year. There have been numerous storm events since our latest communication, and we would like follow up with a request that you rapidly declare a Presidential Declaration of Major Disaster for the State of California as a result of an atmospheric river storm system that affected the State of California from January 18 through January 23, 2017. Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, a declaration would immediately direct federal resources to areas across the state impacted by this storm system.

The atmospheric river system that swept through California on January 18 through January 23, 2017 brought a series of storms causing disruption and destruction across the state. This followed a previous storm system that occurred January 3 through January 12, 2017. Most of the State of California experienced significant amounts of precipitation during this time, with some areas getting more than six inches of rainfall, and some areas of higher elevation receiving snowfall that equates to as much as thirteen inches of water equivalent.

This persistent heavy rainfall, occurring after years of drought, did not allow sufficient time for rivers, creeks, and streams to recover lower levels before acquiring more water. The increased water levels resulted in mud, dirt, and rock debris causing issues on local roads as well as damage to private property.

On February 28, the Governor of California proclaimed a state of emergency for 16 counties in the state. A Presidential Disaster Declaration would immediately allow federal aid to be made available to support cleanup efforts and other infrastructure improvements and repairs needed as a result of the destruction caused by the latest storm.

We ask that you act rapidly in order to ensure that appropriate federal agencies are able to provide immediate assistance. Thank you for your consideration and we appreciate the timely response to this request.


Regards,



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



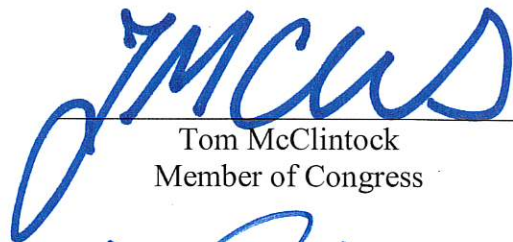
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



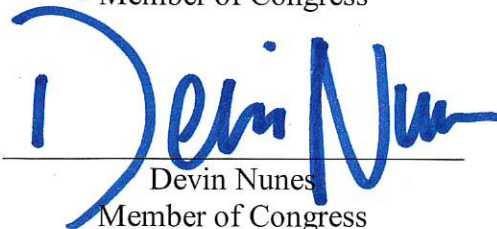
Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress