

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As members of the California Congressional Delegation, we write to request that you grant the State of California's request for a major disaster declaration in response to recent winter storms, flooding, and mudslides. This severe weather and the resulting disasters began on December 24, 2022, and are currently ongoing. The intensity and damage of these storms require federal assistance, coordination, and action to supplement state and local efforts.

These recent weather events, which include as many as ten strong atmospheric rivers and a bomb cyclone system, have caused significant and widespread flooding, mudslides, erosion, sinkholes, power outages, and evacuations for thousands of Californians across the state. In addition to extensive physical damages, these weather events have claimed the lives of multiple individuals. At one point, more than 34 million Californians, nearly 90% of the state's population, were under a flood watch and over 400,000 individuals had no electricity, threatening their livelihood and quality of life. On January 9, 2023, the state experienced its highest level of evacuation orders, impacting nearly 100,000 individuals, with an additional 56,000 individuals under evacuation orders.

As detailed in California's request, these consecutive severe storms have resulted in significant flooding and other impacts in 49 counties: Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Kings, Inyo, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, and Yuba Counties.


The magnitude of these weather systems has placed a severe strain on California's resources and its ability to swiftly protect public health and safety. Although the state has invested more than \$738 million in flood protection programs in the last two years alone, it has been and continues to be increasingly difficult for the state and local governments to obtain the necessary resources to respond to the devastation caused by these storms.

The size and scope of these storms require additional coordination and a wider range of long-term federal recovery programs. Therefore, we urge you to approve California's request for an expedited major disaster declaration and expeditiously provide all categories of public assistance, individual assistance, and direct federal assistance for all counties set forth in the Governor's request, as well as hazard mitigation statewide.

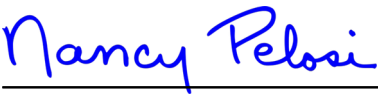
Sincerely,



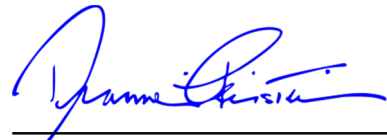
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



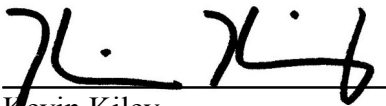
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



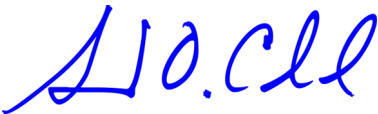
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



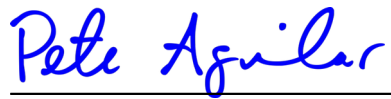
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



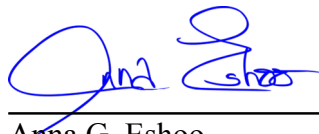
Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



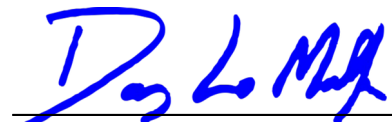
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



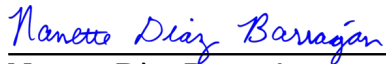
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



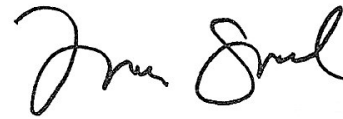
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



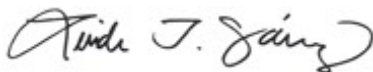
Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



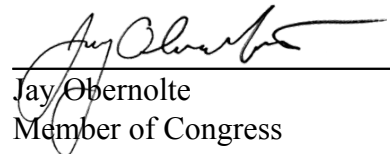
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



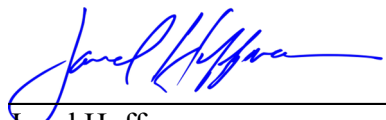
Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



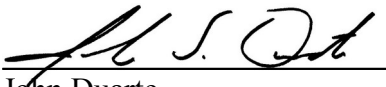
Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



John Duarte
Member of Congress



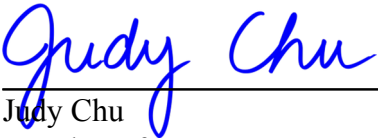
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
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Josh Harder
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Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
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John Garamendi
Member of Congress



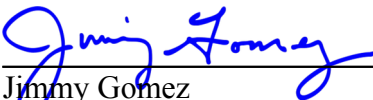
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



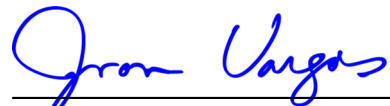
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
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