

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you today in strong support of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's request that you declare a major disaster for the State of California to provide much-needed assistance to our state.

Since January 17th, California has been hit by a series of strong storms bringing high winds, heavy record-breaking snowfall, and significant rain that continues to wreck havoc in our communities. The storms' resulting floods, mud, and rock slides have damaged property, shut down major roadways, severed power lines and even caused the tragic loss of human life. Thousands of homes have been evacuated, nearly 680,000 households experienced power outages, and there has been major damage to private homes and businesses as well as public facilities throughout the state. State and local emergency resources have been stretched beyond their capability. As a result of this ongoing disaster, costs for the state are expected to exceed \$59 million.

California is already working with local governments, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and other federal agencies to assess the extensive damage from this storm and to assist with the ongoing clean-up efforts. However, additional federal assistance is necessary to repair, rebuild and safeguard our communities from any further loss of life.

On January 21st and January 22nd, the Governor declared a State of Emergency for Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Francisco, Siskiyou, Calaveras, Imperial, and San Bernardino counties. Many of us have had the opportunity to view the damage in our districts first-hand and it is clear that a federal disaster declaration is vital to helping our state recover from these storms. Therefore, we also strongly support the Governor's request for statewide Hazard Mitigation and other Stafford Act assistance for the counties of Calaveras, Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Francisco and Siskiyou.

We appreciate your consideration of this request, and we stand ready to assist you in expediting support and resources to the impacted communities throughout California.

Sincerely,

Demetrius "Dem" B. Baker Nancy Pelosi

Paul Hironaka Zoe Lofgren

Sam Berman Michael Ugent

Genida J. Sanchez Sam Lars

Joey Lewis Lair Capps

Doris O. Matsui Mr. Shoo

Howard B. Buck

Loretta Sanchez

Lynn Woolsey

Joe Bawa

Howard S. Berman
George Miller

Hayden
Ken Calvert

Elton Gallegly

Don Rostenkowski

Brian P. Bilbray

Boyd R. Butler

Judy Chiu

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Jane Harman

John L. Amodeo

Barbara Lee

Al Swift

Sierra E. Watson Susan A. Davis

Jodi Spier

Wally Herger

Mary Bousmaek

Brad Shuman

Grace J. Repelton

Jay Mitz