



October 1, 2015

Elizabeth Zimmerman  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Response and Recovery (ORR)  
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Through: Regional Administrator Robert J. Fenton, Jr.  
FEMA Region IX  
Oakland, California 94607-4052

Dear Ms. Zimmerman:

On September 22, 2015, as a result of the Valley Fire, President Obama granted Lake County a major disaster declaration (FEMA-4240-DR-CA), which was amended on September 23 to include the Butte Fire in Calaveras County. To date, the President's major disaster declaration provided Individual Assistance for Lake and Calaveras Counties, Hazard Mitigation statewide, and subsequently Category B, Direct Federal Assistance was included. Pursuant to Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 206.40, I am requesting the Public Assistance Program (Categories A – G) for Lake and Calaveras Counties.

On September 20, 2015, I requested joint federal, state, and local preliminary damage assessments in both counties. The assessments were conducted on September 22 through September 24, 2015. The preliminary damage assessment for Public Assistance totaled \$ 97,913,559 in estimated impact to the State. The majority of these costs are associated with debris removal, including debris on private property.

Although the total impacts to the State are \$97,913,559, in collaboration with FEMA we have deducted the debris removal costs that are not eligible for federal consideration. As such, the assessed eligible costs for Public Assistance are \$66,670,344, which amounts to a \$657.96 per capita impact in Lake County and a \$164.72 per capita impact in Calaveras County. (See Exhibit A).

Elizabeth Zimmerman

Page 2

October 1, 2015

The State of California understands that typically private property owners are responsible for removal of debris after a disaster. However, where the magnitude of the disaster creates an enormous amount of debris, it is in the public's interest to remove this debris expeditiously in order to eliminate threats to life, public health, and safety and to ensure economic recovery of the affected community.

On September 15, 2015, Lake County's Health Officer proclaimed a public health emergency exists in Lake County. That proclamation was amended on September 22, 2015, to reiterate the urgent nature of the hazardous debris. On September 22, 2015, Calaveras County also proclaimed a public health emergency due to hazardous debris.

Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) have determined the ash and debris from burned residential structures contain concentrated amounts of heavy metals, such as antimony, arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, and zinc that pose a health risk to the public and environment. As such, the CalEPA is currently conducting random testing to determine the specific level of contamination in the debris. Many of the homes in the affected communities were constructed prior to 1980 and contain toxins, such as asbestos, a binding agent found in many materials formerly used for construction.

Both Calaveras and Lake Counties have determined the volume of debris is beyond their capabilities to manage and remove. In response, the State's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is managing the overall debris removal operations to effectively and expeditiously eliminate the public health and safety threat that exists in these communities. However, the Valley Fire and Butte Fire represent the fifth and sixth debris operations for CalRecycle in California within the last twelve months, beginning with the Boles Fire in Siskiyou County, the Round Fire in Mono County, the Rocky Fire in Lake County, and five fires in Trinity County (Fork, Route, Mad River, South, and River Complexes). The cumulative impact of all the wildfires have depleted California's resources and are hindering its ability to effectively respond and recover.

To ensure the economic recovery of both Calaveras and Lake Counties, removal of this debris is necessary. Until this debris is properly removed homeowners will not be able to return to their properties safely to begin the rebuilding process. Additionally, based on historical weather seasons and the National Weather Service's projections, inclement weather could start as early as mid-October for Northern California, including Calaveras and Lake Counties. Therefore, time is of the essence.

Therefore, I am specifically requesting Public Assistance (Categories A – G) for Lake and Calaveras Counties. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Elizabeth Zimmerman

Page 3

October 1, 2015

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark S. Ghilarducci", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARK S. GHILARDUCCI  
Governor's Authorized Representative

Enclosure  
Exhibit A

# Exhibit A

CA Governor's Office of Emergency Services

September 2015 Fires PA PDA

Public Assistance PDA Summary

COUNTY	A	Non-FMAG B	FMAG B	C	D	E	F	G	PDA Total	Population	\$ per Capita	Thresholds	75%
LAKE	\$ 41,340,000	\$ 331,100	\$ 640,000	\$ 526,800	\$ -	\$ 346,600	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 42,547,000	64,665	\$ 657.96	\$ 230,207	\$ 31,910,250
CALAVERAS	\$ 22,186,250	\$ 68,900	\$ 760,000	\$ 107,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 23,727	\$ 67,000	\$ -	\$ 22,481,877	136,484	\$ 164.72	\$ 162,258	\$ 16,861,408
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$ 63,526,250	\$ 400,000		\$ 633,800	\$ 29,000	\$ 370,327	\$ 69,000	\$ 500	\$ 65,028,877				
STATE AGENCIES C	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 67,624,100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,000				
STATE AGENCIES L	\$ 1,554,356	\$ 7,536	\$ 56,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,425	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 1,566,467				\$ 1,174,850
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 65,155,606	\$ 407,536	\$ 125,024,100	\$ 633,800	\$ 29,000	\$ 374,752	\$ 69,000	\$ 650	\$ 66,670,344	37,253,956	<b>\$1.79</b>	\$51,037,920	\$ 49,946,508
<b>Category %</b>	<b>97.73%</b>	<b>0.61%</b>	<b>335.60%</b>	<b>0.95%</b>	<b>0.04%</b>	<b>0.56%</b>	<b>0.10%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>					
	A. DEBRIS REMOVAL					E. PUBLIC BUILDINGS & EQUIPMENT				POPULATION IS BASED ON 2010 CENSUS			
	B. PROTECTIVE MEASURES					F. PUBLIC UTILITIES				FEMA's state threshold = \$141 / Capita (currently \$52,528,078M)			
	C. ROADS AND BRIDGES					G. OTHER FACILITIES				FEMA's county threshold = \$3.56 / Capita			
	D. WATER CONTROL FACILITIES												
<b>IMPORTANT NOTES</b>													
FMAG B costs are shown for reference only and are not included in the PDA costs.													
FMAG B from ICS-209 to 9/25/15 0600 hours													
Lake County Private Property Debris Removal = \$37,340,000.00, which represents urban and rural homes and deductions for ineligible debris and insurance													
Calaveras County Private Property Debris Removal = \$22,181,250.00, which represents all destroyed homes and deductions for ineligible debris and insurance													