

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF BUDGETS

OFFICE OF FEDERAL RESOURCES

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Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.

September 14, 2023

Ms. Elissa Konove
Acting Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration, California Division
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Konove:

As required under 23 CFR 668.111(c), we request your consideration to approve Disaster CA23-5 August 2023 Wildfires in Del Norte and Siskiyou County as eligible under the Emergency Relief Program.

A Governor's two Proclamations executed on August 29, 2023, one for the Happy Camp Complex fires in Siskiyou County and the other for the Smith River Complex fires in Del Norte County, are included as part of the Disaster Survey Summary Report (DSSR), attached for your review. The DSSR contains the latest list of identified damaged sites and their corresponding currently estimated repair costs.

The preliminary damage estimate for the Happy Camp Complex fires in Siskiyou County is 1.3 million, and the Smith River Complex fires in Del Norte County is 8.6 million for State facilities, subject to increase and tracked individually. There are no reported Local damages at this time. The estimated federal share of repair costs on eligible roadways will be required to exceed the \$700,000 threshold per 23 CFR 668.105(j) as indicated in the attached Damage Survey Summary Report.

As provided for in the FHWA Emergency Relief Manual, updated May 31, 2013, under Chapter III, Section A, Detailed Damage Inspections, the Detailed Damage Inspection Reports / Damage Assessment Forms (DDIR/DAF) "are completed at a later date, usually after the Division Administrator has made a finding of ER eligibility." FHWA's Acknowledgement letter dated September 1,

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2023, for this disaster included that "all DAFs must be completed by November 30, 2023". Given the anticipated timeframe of a corresponding Finding of Eligibility and the necessary work to complete damage assessment, it is anticipated that additional time will be needed. Therefore, as part of this application the State of California formally requests the Damage Assessment Form due date be extended to December 30, 2023, in order to allow field staff to complete and submit DAFs to FHWA for approval.

Upon finding that the above Disaster is eligible, a Program of Projects will be developed and submitted to FHWA within 3 months of the Finding of Eligibility letter, as outlined in 23 CFR 668.13(a). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (916) 654-3043, or by e-mail sent to <fardad.falakfarsa@dot.ca.gov>.

Sincerely,



FARDAD FALAKFARSA
Chief
Office of Federal Resources

Attachment
Disaster Survey Summary Report (Disaster CA 23-5)

c: Peter Pangilinan, Senior Transportation Engineer, Project Delivery Districts 1 and 2 Federal Highway Administration
Ei Mon Kyaw, Transportation Engineer, Project Delivery, Federal Highway Administration

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bc: Matthew Schmitz, Director, Project Delivery, Federal Highway Administration
Gerald Kracher, Chief, Office of Emergency Management and
Infrastructure
Protection, Headquarters, Division of Maintenance, Caltrans
Dave Changizi, Senior Transportation Engineer, Headquarters, Division of
Maintenance, Caltrans
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Keith Duncan, Division Chief, Headquarters, Division of Budgets, Caltrans
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Assistance, Caltrans
Bob Baca, Senior Transportation Engineer, Division of Local Assistance,
Caltrans
Daniel Karavan, Transportation Engineer, Division of Local Assistance,
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Dalton LaBoskey, Transportation Engineer, Division of Local Assistance,
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