

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF BUDGETS
OFFICE OF FEDERAL RESOURCES
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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

August 30, 2023

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

Dear Ms. Konove:

Under the provisions of Section 125, Title 23 of the United States Code, this is a Letter of Intent by the California Department of Transportation to request Emergency Relief (ER) funds to assist in the cost of repairing damages on Federal-aid highways in California caused by rapidly spreading wildfires.

Beginning on August 15, 2023, the Head Fire and a series of other lightning caused fires, collectively known as the Happy Camp Complex fires in Siskiyou County, and a series of lightning strikes occurred in the Six Rivers National Forest, resulting in multiple fires collectively known as the Smith River Complex fires in Del Norte County, which spread rapidly due to dry fuels, winds, and lightning, high temperatures and continued critical fire weather conditions, impacting Siskiyou and Del Norte Counties. The Happy Camp Complex fires in Siskiyou County and the Smith River Complex fires in Del Norte County will be tracked individually, and each is required to meet the Federal ER threshold. The fires have caused extensive damage to critical infrastructures and roadside facilities.

The preliminary damage estimate information is being gathered by the State and Local agencies affected. Additional information will be provided with the subsequent ER Application under Disaster CA23-5 August Wildfires.

Under separate cover, the Office of Federal Resources will be submitting the ER Application, along with the Governor's Proclamation(s) and

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Damage Survey Summary Report, to provide the Division Administrator with a basis to make a finding that the disaster is eligible for ER funding.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Dave Changizi, Division of Maintenance at (916) 651-6132, or myself at (916) 654-3043 or by e-mail at <fardad.falakfarsa@dot.ca.gov>.

Sincerely,



FARDAD FALAKFARSA
Chief
Office of Federal Resources

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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
Rachel Jenkinson, Transportation Engineer, Headquarters, Division of
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Keith Duncan, Division Chief, Headquarters, Division of Budgets, Caltrans
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SM/rl