September 19, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write in support of the State of California’s request for a major disaster declaration in response to the impacts of Tropical Storm Hilary that began on August 19, 2023. Tropical Storm Hilary was the first tropical storm to strike California since 1939 and it brought severe and unseasonal precipitation and high winds, as well as river and urban flooding in many areas of our state. The heavy precipitation caused dangerous debris flows that threatened lives, businesses, and critical public infrastructure such as roads and waterways.

In response to these dangerous conditions, the State of California marshaled all available resources to respond to this storm. This includes supporting twenty-four shelters across the state, mobilizing the National Guard, prepositioning swift water rescue and urban search and rescue teams, and mobilizing more than 2,000 regional transportation crews and 3,900 state police officers.

However, the severity and intensity of this storm require additional federal coordination and resources to effectively support the ongoing recovery efforts. Therefore, we urge you to expeditiously approve California’s request for a major disaster declaration and provide all categories of Public Assistance for the following counties: Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Siskiyou, and Ventura; any other appropriate Stafford Act disaster assistance programs; U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans and funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Emergency Loan Program; and Hazard Mitigation statewide.

Sincerely,

Alex Padilla  
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress

Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker of the House
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Mike Levin
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Josh Harder  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress