

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 21, 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 to request your immediate action in declaring a major disaster declaration for Southern California regarding Tropical Storm Hilary should a request be made by Governor Newsom. We also request that additional resources be provided by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to affected local governments and municipalities to assist with disaster recovery efforts. Since August 18, 2023, the storm has caused widespread flooding, erosion, power outages, road closures, and debris flows that have threatened the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Californians. The intensity and damages of the storm have placed a significant strain on state and local government's ability to protect public health and safety. Additional actions are needed requiring federal assistance, coordination, and resources to supplement state and local efforts.

On August 19, 2023, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency for 15 counties including Alpine, Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernadino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, and Ventura. Should the state of California seek a federal disaster designation, we ask that your administration grant the request immediately to add federal assets and resources to these critical recovery efforts. Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue.

Sincerely,



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress



Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress