



FEMA

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Disaster News

MORE DISASTER AID OK'D FOR 3 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNTIES

PASADENA, Calif. – More federal and state grant money has become available to help pay for public recovery projects in three Southern California counties impacted by the recent wildfires – Orange, San Bernardino and San Diego counties.

An amendment to the original presidential disaster declaration makes additional funds available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance program for repair of roads, water control facilities, buildings and equipment, public utilities, and parks.

Eligible applicants include state and local government agencies, certain private nonprofit entities, and American Indian tribes.

Agencies in those counties, along with Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, are already eligible for funds to reimburse them for costs associated with debris removal and emergency protective measures taken before, during and after the fires.

FEMA will pay 75 percent of public assistance work. California law provides that the state pays 18.75 percent, and local governments pay the remaining 6.25 percent. However, for the past 10 years, the state legislature has voted to pay the full non-federal share for public work projects following every declared national disaster.

The State of California will hold public assistance briefings through November 29 to discuss how agencies should proceed with their applications. Preliminary damage assessments in the three counties were completed earlier this month.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates overall state-agency response to major disasters in support of local government. OES is also responsible for maintaining the State Emergency Plan and coordinating the California's preparedness, mitigation and recovery efforts.

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