

# SUPPLEMENTAL JUSTIFICATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION REQUEST

## Background

Additional information beyond the damage data collected during the preliminary damage assessment is usually required to support the Governor's request for a presidential declaration.

The information is needed in a narrative format to describe the impact of the event on the jurisdiction. It includes economic conditions, income, unemployment, disaster **impacts**, and local response with particular emphasis on the *impacts* of the damages to the community. This word picture communicates the extent of the damages to the community, in dollars, and the intangible impacts that affect recovery. The importance of this narrative cannot be stressed enough. It is often the difference between getting or not getting a presidential disaster declaration.

The narrative should be submitted to EMD **at the same time the preliminary damage assessments are completed**. In normal disaster events, communities will not be included in the Governor's request for federal assistance until they have submitted their supplemental justification.

The following outline should be used when writing the supplemental justification.

## Supplemental Justification

### I. BACKGROUND

Provide a brief narrative description of pre-disaster conditions, covering such factors as:

- General economic conditions in affected area(s), including major types of land use and economic generators.
- Income level(s) of affected persons
- Special language or ethnic considerations
- Availability of vacant housing in the affected area(s) for displaced citizens
- Extent, types and provisions of insurance to cover losses
- Description of uninsured damages
- Unemployment rate before and after the event
- Population, urban and/or rural areas

(Note: most of this information can be gathered before an event.)

### II. IMPACTS

Provide a narrative description of impacts to document a clear picture of the magnitude and severity of the disaster as reflected by losses and damages, effects on people and effects on local governments. The resultant hardships and economic

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and social consequences should be addressed. Describe the causes of the event, including various factors and conditions leading to the disaster or incident. The following factors should be addressed when applicable.

### A. Significant Effects on People

- Deaths, injuries, missing persons
- Isolated families, number of people, length of time (present and projected)
- Continuing public health and safety problems
- Extent of damages to homes
- Extent of disruption to services such as medical, emergency, public transportation, mail, school, etc.
- Disruption or loss of roads, highways and streets including closures, detours, circuitous travel patterns, etc. (present and future projections)
- Utility disruptions including power, water, sewer, communications, dikes, drainage systems, etc.
- Additional unemployment in the affected areas resulting from the event
- Other significant personal property losses
- Extent, types and provisions of insurance coverage of losses or damages (describe nature and extent of uninsured damages)

### B. Significant Effects on Local Governments

- Isolated families and communities
- Interruption or loss of essential public services, such as roads, streets, utilities, medical, emergency, public transportation, communications, etc.
- Search and rescue efforts
- Continuing public health and safety problems, including essential utilities
- Extent, types and provision of insurance coverage
- Loss of tax base and its impact
- Financial hardships, including previous losses from other events, dedicated funds, budget constraints, specific projects, etc.
- Loss of public facilities, equipment, materials, etc.
- Loss of governing capabilities (deaths or injuries to key officials, loss of records, etc.)

### C. Significant Effects on Private, Non-profit Organizations (with government-like services)

- Isolated facilities
- Interruption of critical services (power, water – including irrigation – sewer, wastewater treatment, communication, and emergency medical care)
- Search and rescue efforts
- Continuing health and safety problems

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- Extent, types and provision of insurance coverage
- Loss of financial base and/or financial hardships

### D. Significant Effects on Businesses

- Extent of disruptions in services or closings
- Extent of insurance coverage
- Financial hardships
- Effects on employees
- Loss or damages to facilities or inventories and their importance to the area(s)

### E. Significant Effects on Agriculture

- Major crop/livestock losses
- Soil erosion, siltation, dike and levee damage, loss of irrigation or other essential services such as power and transportation
- Extent of insurance
- Financial hardships
- Losses or damages to facilities and their importance to the area
- Outlook for future planting, replacement of livestock, essential services, etc.

### F. Significant Factors not Otherwise Covered Under Paragraphs A through E

### G. Summary

- Summary of total number and estimated damage to homes, farms and businesses
- Summary of total cost of repair, replacement, impacts to public agency facilities

## III. LOCAL RESPONSE

### A. Specific Assistance

- Provide narrative on specific actions and assistance of local government(s) as a result of the incident, number of personnel, equipment, departments involved, and days of utilization

### B. Other

- Details on other local resources that have been or will be used. Also, indicate assistance provided by community or private volunteer organizations.
- Indicate disaster/emergency history within past 12 months.

### C. Restrictions

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- Indicate resources that cannot be used due to any type of restrictions such as local legal prohibitions, debt, or borrowing limitations. Also, indicate what steps have been taken (if any) to remove or avoid the impact of such restrictions.

### **D. Financial Data**

- Furnish information concerning the availability of any local emergency money or discretionary funds. Provide general fund balance and status of applicable budgets for damage involved, e.g., road and bridge if local road or bridge damage is shown. Summarize annual budget of agency, its fund obligation and dedication, balances, revenue projections and impact to jurisdiction funds.