

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4008

DISTRICT OFFICES
567 W. SHAW AVE., STE. A3
FRESNO, CA 93704
(559) 243-8580

102 GROVE AVE., STE. B
OAKDALE, CA 95361
(209) 848-8001

460 SUTTER HILL RD., STE. C
SUTTER CREEK, CA 95685
(209) 267-5033

California State Senate

SENATOR
ANDREAS BORGEAS
EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
JUDICIARY
VICE CHAIR
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION
INSURANCE
NATURAL RESOURCES
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

October 16, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Mr. Robert J. Fenton, Jr.
Reg. Adm., Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, California 94607-4052

RE: Appeal for Reconsideration of California's Request for a Major Disaster Declaration

Dear Mr. President,

In response to the denial letter received by the State of California on October 14th, I am writing to respectfully request your reconsideration for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance as well as federal aid for Hazard Mitigation. The Creek Fire is one of the largest recorded fires in California history, and has caused unprecedented damage during these most unprecedented times. The fires, coupled with the pandemic, pose significant challenges for California residents and families as they seek to rebuild their lives.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you for your attention and sensitivity to California's devastating wildfires. During your recent visit to California, in addition to the Creek Fire (Fresno and Madera) additional fires were burning in the counties I represent, including the Blue Jay Fire (Mariposa), Bullfrog Fire (Fresno), Wolf Fire (Mariposa), Slink Fire (Mono), and the Moraine Fire (Tulare).

The Creek Fire, as was stated in the request for declaration, has burned more than 340,000 acres in and around our beautiful Sierra National Forest and forced thousands of residents to evacuate.

Members of the California National Guard performed heroic rescues of several hundred people who were camping over the Labor Day weekend. You appropriately recognized these brave individuals during your visit, and we are all fortunate for their courageous actions.

I have personally toured the damaged areas and listened to heartbreaking stories from people who lost their homes and businesses to the Creek Fire. Many of the structures destroyed were located on federal lands and the surrounding communities supported tourists who come to enjoy the National Parks. Tragically, the fire continues to burn and is just now barely surpassing approximately 55% containment, and recent reports indicate we are weeks away from full containment.

As was outlined in Governor Gavin Newsom's request for federal assistance dated September 28th, there is significant damage to roads, and access to facilities are blocked by thousands of hazardous trees and debris. There was also significant damage to the wastewater treatment facility that could take months to repair, further delaying residents' ability to return to their homes. In Madera County, officials are still assessing the damage as the fire continues to burn.

State, local and federal agencies have worked in a coordinated effort to battle the Creek Fire and protect threatened communities. California is suffering from the economic disaster brought on by the pandemic, unprecedented job loss, and now devastating fires. California is requesting federal aid to begin assisting those trying to clean up and rebuild in the aftermath of this destruction. The request for federal funds will greatly offset costs to mitigate damage and clear contaminated areas.

On behalf of the people of the 8th Senate District and all those impacted by wildfires in California, I appreciate the cooperation of your federal administration during this incredibly difficult time. I am hopeful your administration will reconsider approval of California's request for a federal Major Disaster Declaration.

Warm regards,



Andreas Borgeas