



STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

GREG BELL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

January 20, 2011

Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20500

Via: Ms. Robin Finnegan, Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VIII
Denver Federal Center, Building 710
P. O. Box 25267
Denver, CO 80225-0267

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121-5207 (the Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Utah as a result of severe winter storms and flooding. The storms and flooding damaged public facilities and private property and threatened the lives and safety of many residents in southwestern Utah.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting Public Assistance for Washington and Kane Counties.

The Utah Division of Homeland Security was notified by the Salt Lake National Weather Service Office on December 17, 2010, of a storm system that would bring significant amounts of rainfall to southern Utah and heavy snow across the mountains. The heavy precipitations in southern Utah arrived early Monday, December 20th, and continued through Wednesday, December 23rd, with resulting damages occurring through December 24th. This storm produced 16 inches of rainfall and 15.2 inches of snow in southern Utah and created the wettest December on record.

The Utah Division of Homeland Security, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) began monitoring the statewide severe winter weather event on December 17, 2010. The Washington County EOC was activated on December 20, 2010, and the State EOC deployed our Regional Liaison to their EOC. The State EOC also responded to requests for state resources. The State EOC continued to be activated at a Level III through December 24, 2010.

On January 19, 2011, I declared a state of emergency for Washington and Kane counties due to flooding and severe storm damage and directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan. State assets were mobilized and coordinated in support of storm-affected counties. The Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security, State Emergency Operations Center was activated and coordinated requests for state assets through the following State Emergency Response Team (SERT) agencies:

- Utah Department of Public Safety helicopter was used for reconnaissance and evaluation of the flood threat and damages. Utah Division of Homeland Security staff was deployed to the Washington County EOC to assist in coordinating state resources. The State Hazard Mitigation Team was also deployed.
- Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Rights, Dam Safety Section, deployed dam safety engineers to evaluate dam failure threat.
- Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Drinking Water deployed staff to assisted in responding to local water quality issues.
- Utah Department of Transportation deployed bridge engineers to inspect damaged bridges as a result of the flooding.
- Utah National Guard supported flood-fighting efforts that included mobilizing state sandbagging equipment.

Additionally, I requested the FEMA, Region VIII, Incident Management Team (IMT) to be deployed to southern Utah during the event to assist in evaluating the need for additional federal response assets.

On January 6, 2011, I requested a joint Federal, State and local survey of the damaged areas. The joint federal, state and local damage assessments were conducted January 12-14, 2011. The most severe impacts were to roads, utility systems, and parks and trails with nearly \$6 million in eligible damages throughout the two counties.

Utah is also requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program be made available statewide with priority given to applications within Washington and Kane Counties. The State of Utah has a Standard Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan - approved by FEMA on January 16, 2008. A Five County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which includes Washington and Kane Counties, was approved by FEMA in 2005. The State Plan and Regional Plan are currently in the process of being reviewed and approved by FEMA Region VIII.

These events have altered the Santa Clara and Virgin River channels and deposited a large amount of debris along the new channels. Deposited debris adds to a heightened flood risk in Washington County, as future storms, spring runoff, and an above average snow pack, will likely result in debris dams redirecting stream flows.

The State of Utah has, like many other areas in the nation, faced serious economic challenges throughout the past several years. Because of budget shortfalls, Utah State agencies have been asked to prepare a budget reflecting a 7% reduction for 2011.

Total public assistance damages for the two counties based on the Public Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) estimate is \$5,777,975 for a statewide per capita impact of \$2.59. The statewide per capita impact of \$2.59 is double the 2011 FEMA statewide per capita impact indicator of \$1.30, effective October 1, 2010. Washington County per capita impact is \$52.21 and Kane County per capita impact is \$175.00, both well above the county per capita impact indicator of \$3.27, effective October 1, 2010. Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are based on the figures detailed in ENCLOSURES A and B.

Tribal reservations are located in both Washington and Kane Counties; however the PDA did not identify any damage on the reservations.

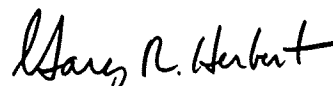
I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all of the applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. Total expenditures are expected to exceed \$1,444,494 in accordance with the table in ENCLOSURE B.

I am not requesting Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) at this time.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the state agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United State of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The state agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated Ron Mosher (Utah Division of Homeland Security Operations Bureau Chief) as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. You may contact Ron at 435-669-7836 or ronmosher@utah.gov. Ron will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



Gary R. Herbert
Governor

Enclosures (2)

ENCLOSURE A

UTAH PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSEMENT –DECEMBER 2010 STORM

Conducted January 12 through 13, 2011

Estimates of Eligible Public Assistance Under PL 93-288, as Amended

COUNTY	2000 Population	Category A	Category B	Category C	Category D	Category E	Category F	Category G	Total	Dollars Per Capita
		Debris Clearance	Protective Measures	Road Systems	Water Control	Buildings & Equipment	Utility Systems	Other		
Washington County	90,354	85,299	241,973	2,631,412	150,000	-	1,009,624	598,872	4,717,180	\$52.21
Kane County	6,046	-	-	15,795	-	-	1,045,000	-	1,060,795	\$175.00
TOTAL STATE COSTS		85,299	241,973	2,647,207	150,000	-	2,054,624	598,872	\$5,777,975	\$2.59

County Per Capita = \$3.27 State Per Capita = \$1.30

The 2000 census population of Utah is 2,233,169

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION REQUEST

Governor's Certification

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditure and obligations will include the non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. As stated in my request letter, and based on the information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE	Amount	
	State	Local
Public Assistance:	0%	25%
A - Debris Removal	\$0	\$21,325
B - Emergency Protective Measures	\$0	\$60,493
C - Roads and Bridges	\$0	\$661,802
D - Water Control Facilities	\$0	\$37,500
E - Buildings and Equipment	\$0	\$0
F - Utilities	\$0	\$513,656
G - Parks, Recreation Facilities and Other Items	\$0	\$149,718
TOTAL:	\$0	\$1,444,494