

MIKE THOMPSON

5TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
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September 1, 2020

The Honorable Peter Gaynor  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Federal Center Plaza  
500 C St, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Gaynor:

I write to request the amendment of the Major Disaster Declaration for the State of California issued August 22, 2020 to include Public Assistance, Emergency Work Category A: Debris removal.

As you may know, an extreme weather event which began on August 14, 2020 caused record-breaking temperatures and Red Flag Warnings throughout California. During these exacerbated fire conditions, the State experienced widespread lightning strikes which resulted in hundreds of fires across California. Several of these fires, including the River Fire in Monterey County, the Jones Fire in Nevada County, the Carmel Fire in Monterey County, the CZU August Lightning Complex in San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties and LNU Lightning Complex Fire in Lake, Napa, Sonoma, Solano and Yolo Counties, have rapidly grown. Across the State, these fires have destroyed 3,478 structures and have collectively burned more than 1,660,332 acres.

This massive explosion of fire activity has resulted in an immense strain on California's resources and firefighting capabilities. It is increasingly difficult for the State and local governments to obtain the necessary resources to respond to and recover from these fires. California is instituting all possible actions at its disposal to combat this massive disaster. However, the size and scope of the current fire activity demands assistance, coordination, and federal action. For these reasons, we ask you amend the Major Disaster Declaration for the State of California issued August 22, 2020 to include Public Assistance, Emergency Work Category A: Debris removal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Thompson".

MIKE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress