



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
GOVERNOR

February 10, 2016

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

Through: Mr. Jerome Hatfield
Region II Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Homeland Security
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0002

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 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a Major Disaster for the State of New Jersey applicable to Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Union, and Warren Counties as a result of a severe winter snow storm that caused damages from January 22 through January 29, 2016. As part of this request, I am requesting snow assistance under 44 CFR § 206.227, applicable to Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Union, and Warren Counties.

This winter storm brought blizzard conditions and record snowfall to the State beginning in the evening on Friday, January 22, 2016 and ending in the early hours on Sunday, January 24. The dangerously high winds combined with dense snowfall caused hazardous travel conditions, fallen trees, and power outages. There were at least 270,000 customers without power. New Jersey Transit suspended bus and rail service across the State due to the treacherous environment on roadways and heavy snow accumulation on rail lines. In addition, a near-full moon on January 22 created high tides across the State, including record high tidal cycles from Friday evening into Saturday morning in at least two locations. These high tides, along with strong

offshore winds of 60 miles per hour, contributed to a storm surge that caused coastal flooding in areas of southern New Jersey. The cumulative effects from the storm and coastal flooding caused beach erosion and severely damaged or destroyed dunes, dune grass, crossovers, and bulkheads. The erosion and damages to these protective coastal barrier systems are to the point where a future five-year storm will cause damage to improved property. Should additional winter or tropical storms impact the area, the State will also be at risk of additional flooding because of damage to the dune systems from this storm.

In addition to the damage described above, this winter storm blanketed the State with between 11 and 30 inches of snow beginning on Friday, January 22. Such record and high totals have severely taxed the State's resources to clear and remove snow from State, county, municipal, and interstate roadways and other public facilities. Out of the State's 21 counties, six exceeded their respective record snowfall totals for a two-day period, ranging from 26 to 30 inches, and six met the threshold for their respective near-record snowfalls for a two-day period, ranging from 22 to 30 inches. And, two counties had significant snowfall totals that met the requirements for snow assistance as contiguous counties exceeding the respective core county's record or near-record snowfall totals. These snowfall totals are captured in Enclosure D.

In response to the blizzard, I declared a State of Emergency on January 22, 2016, and directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan. In addition, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) activated the State Emergency Operations Center on January 22 to monitor and manage resource requests and response and recovery efforts throughout the State. NJOEM coordinated the State's response to the storm and assistance to affected counties and municipalities in conjunction with State Emergency Support Functions 1 (Transportation), 2 (Communications), 3 (Public Works and Engineering), 5 (Emergency Management), 6 (Mass Care), 7 (Resource Support), 8 (Public Health), and 12 (Energy). State assets deployed as part of the response effort included resources from the New Jersey State Police Urban Search and Rescue Team, the New Jersey National Guard, and the New Jersey Department of Transportation. The Department of Transportation mobilized crews for 450 spreader and plow trucks, as well as 2,300 private contractors to tackle the snow-covered roadways. The Department of Environmental Protection approved 18 requests to dispose of snow in the State's waterways.

In addition to the State's response, Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Salem, and Somerset Counties activated their respective Emergency Operations Centers to manage the response in their jurisdictions. Two municipalities in Ocean County issued mandatory evacuation orders, and an additional 15 municipalities in Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties issued voluntary evacuation orders. Warming centers were opened across the State, and the American Red Cross worked with public entities in Atlantic, Cape May, and Ocean Counties to establish shelters to assist residents displaced by flooding and power outages.

On January 29, 2016, the State requested assistance from FEMA to conduct a joint preliminary damage assessment (PDA) in Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Union, and Warren Counties. In preparation for the joint PDA, the State completed a

review of the damage estimates through the NJOEM Public Assistance Unit, which is comprised of individuals who have extensive experience and training in estimating FEMA Public Assistance program damages. NJOEM also partnered with the State's Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Coastal Engineering, to pinpoint which coastal areas are excluded from the PDA because they are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The joint PDA occurred from February 2 through February 5, 2016. Counties and municipalities were able to provide better data compared to immediate estimates by conducting the PDA process more than one week after the storm. The final PDA determined that State, county, and local property in Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Union, and Warren Counties suffered significant damages. See Enclosures B and C. Further, NJOEM provided FEMA Region II with supporting documentation for all completed Category A and B work, and documentation on the engineered beaches as required under 44 CFR § 206.226(j)(2)(i)-(ii) and FEMA's Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide.

Based on the above, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected county and local governments, and that federal assistance is necessary to supplement the efforts and available resources of State, county, and local governments and disaster relief organizations. I am requesting Public Assistance for Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Union, and Warren Counties. As part of this request for Public Assistance, I am specifically requesting snow assistance which includes snow removal, snow dumping, de-icing, and salting and sanding of roads for Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Union, and Warren Counties. The State has a Hazard Mitigation Plan that was approved by FEMA in April 2014, and as such, I am also requesting Hazard Mitigation Assistance state-wide.

I certify that, for this disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shares of costs required by the Stafford Act. Total expenditures are estimated to exceed the statewide per capita threshold. Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Union, and Warren Counties have surpassed their respective county thresholds as tabulated in Enclosure B. The total costs are estimated to exceed \$82 million.

In addition, pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, regarding debris removal, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States 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 Captain Mario Sinatra of the New Jersey State Police, Office of Emergency Management, as the Governor's Authorized Representative and as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. Sergeant First Class Jared Beatrice will serve as the Alternate Governor's Authorized Representative and as the Deputy State Coordinating Officer.

They will work in conjunction with FEMA and will provide information or justification on my behalf when necessary.

This winter storm has put a severe strain on State, county, and local resources and budgets. On July 22, 2015, you declared a Major Disaster for New Jersey affecting Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties for Public Assistance (DR-4231). For the reasons detailed above, I respectfully request at this time a Major Disaster Declaration for Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Union, and Warren Counties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Christie", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Chris Christie
Governor

Enclosures

FEMA Form 010-0-13

B: Public Assistance PDA Summary Spreadsheet

C: Estimated Assistance from Other Federal Agency Programs

D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data