



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. BOX 001
TRENTON
08625
(609) 292-6000

PHILIP D. MURPHY
GOVERNOR

August 30, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Through: Mr. Thomas Von Essen
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region II Administrator
Department of Homeland Security

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), as implemented by 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I respectfully request an Individual Assistance Severe Storm Declaration for the State of New Jersey, specifically the counties of Bergen, Essex, Ocean, Monmouth, and Passaic, resulting from the severe rain storm event which impacted the State with flooding conditions beginning on August 11 and continuing through August 13, 2018.

In response to the situation, appropriate action was taken under our State law, including execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. A state of emergency was declared in the above-referenced counties on August 14, 2018, and several counties and municipalities declared their own states of emergency during this period.

While New Jersey has experienced flooding in the past, the intensity of this storm required extraordinary measures which strained the resources of the State and several counties to maintain public safety and coordinate evacuations. The rainfall and subsequent flooding reached near historic records established and maintained by the National Weather Service (NWS). NWS stations in Mount Holly and Uptown reported that most of the affected areas received 5-8 inches of rain during this period.

As a result of the heavy rain, many rivers, creeks, and streams subsequently reached flood stage. This caused 800 homes in Bergen, Essex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Passaic counties to be damaged. Sixty-six homes received major damage. An additional 325 received minor damage and 409 were considered affected. Many residences needed to be evacuated and sheltered.

On August 23 and 24, 2018, joint preliminary damage assessments were conducted by representatives of FEMA, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, the New Jersey Department of Human Services, U.S. Small Business Administration and county and local officials. It revealed that the most severely impacted counties of the State were: Bergen, Essex, Monmouth, Ocean and Passaic.

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 emergency assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting Individual Assistance for Bergen, Essex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Passaic Counties. I am requesting Hazard Mitigation assistance statewide. The State's Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA on April 19, 2014.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster, but is not exhaustive. Two shelters were opened during the storm. In total, approximately 95 individuals have been documented as having received shelter assistance during a period beginning on August 11, 2018 and continuing until August 14, 2018.

I certify that, for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all the applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

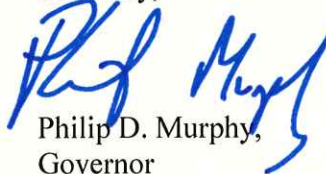
I have designated Captain Bryan Lawyer, of the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management, as the Governor's Authorized Representative and State Coordinating Officer for this request.

In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-way necessary to accomplish the approved work; (2) hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal government against any claims arising from such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and (3) assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdiction matters.

In addition, in the event a request for debris removal becomes necessary, 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 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.

Based on the August 11 through August 13, 2018 storm damages detailed above, and in accordance with the Stafford Act, I respectfully request an Individual Assistance Severe Storm declaration.

Sincerely,



Philip D. Murphy,
Governor