

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 25, 2011

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Ms. Nancy Ward
Regional Administrator, Region IX
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, California 94607-4052

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you in strong support of the State of California's appeal regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) decision to deny a major disaster declaration and provide federal assistance to address the damages sustained from the severe storm system that struck California in March 2011.

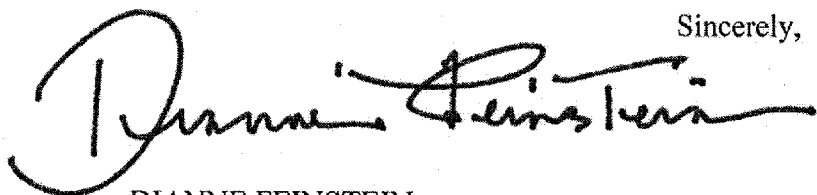
Between March 15 and 27, 2011, a severe storm system struck California bringing heavy rain and snow, high winds and flooding, destroying and damaging property throughout the state. Seventeen counties in our state were hit hard by this storm system including Alameda, Amador, Butte, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Monterey, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sierra, Stanislaus, Sutter, Trinity, and Tuolumne.

We understand that a Stafford Act major disaster declaration for a storm event is limited to (1) a single storm, or (2) a series of storms that are deemed to be part of the same storm system that impact the same geographical areas, such that the impacts from the separate storms are indistinguishable, and are separated by three days or less. According to the National Weather Service and the California Department of Water Resources, the damages sustained were from a single low pressure storm system which set up over the region for two weeks shifting from north to south and back again across the state. This is consistent with the second category for a qualifying storm event. Furthermore, these conditions are similar to other weather-related federal disasters declaration in 1986, 1997, 1998, 2004/2005 and 2010.

Current estimates of the damage caused by the storm system now exceed \$51 million, causing significant financial impacts to the state and the affected local jurisdictions that are beyond their capabilities. Many of us have had the opportunity to view the damage in our communities first-hand, and it is clear that a major disaster declaration is critical to helping our state recover from this devastating storm system.

Therefore, we strongly support the State of California's appeal regarding a major disaster declaration and federal disaster assistance related to the March 2011 storm system. We appreciate your consideration of this request, and we stand ready to assist you in expediting support and resources to the impacted communities throughout California.

Sincerely,



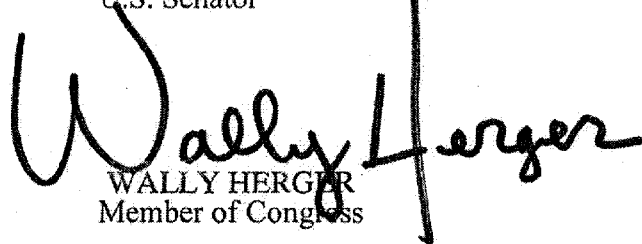
DIANNE FEINSTEIN
U.S. Senator



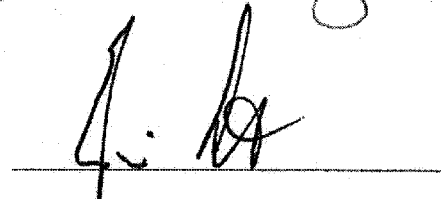
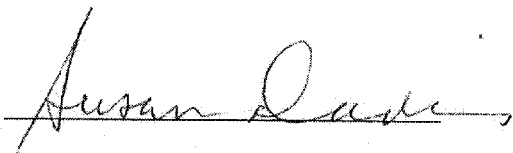

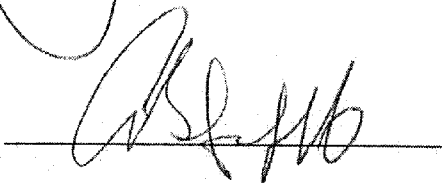
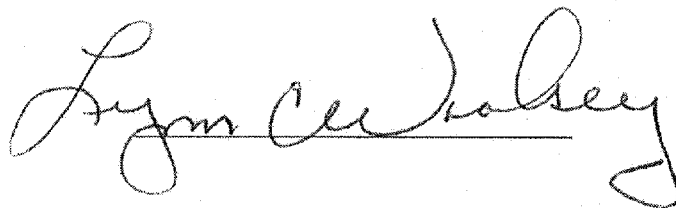
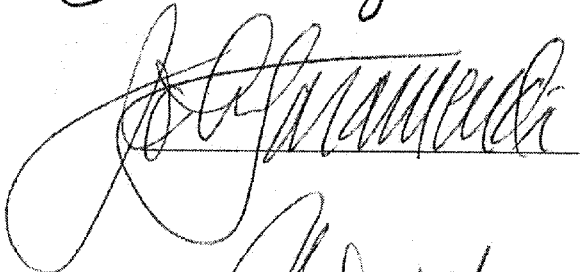
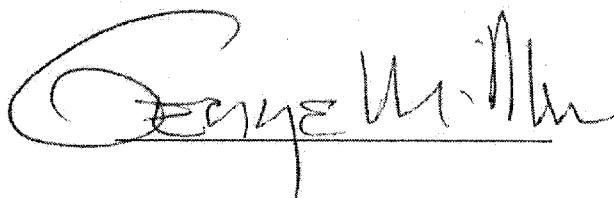
BARBARA BOXER
U.S. Senator



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress



John Bell

Emmett

Joe Lopez

Widoni

Sam Farn

Michael E. Jozan

Ray Miller

Brian P. Gilman

and G. [unclear]

Luis Capps

Julie Slier

J. M. [unclear]

[unclear]

Barbara Lee

Bob Fish

Grace J. Napolitano

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