



April 12, 2022

Mark Ghilarducci, Director
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
3650 Schriever Ave
Mather, CA 95655

Re: California Disaster Assistance Act Reimbursement Request for 2021 Winter Storms

Dear Mr. Ghilarducci:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors for Placer and Nevada Counties, we urge the California Office of Emergency Services to expedite the approval of the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) reimbursement for response and recovery costs related to the December 2021 winter storms. We appreciate CalOES staff taking the time to do a site visit to our jurisdictions in February; however, now more than a month later, we are still awaiting a decision on CDAA support.

On December 30, 2021, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency due to the winter storms which left tens of thousands of residents without power and many who have experienced property damage due to downed power lines and trees. Additionally, the storm caused major water infrastructure damage to the Boardman Canal which supplies drinking water to the several urban areas of Placer County including the City of Auburn. Placer County and its local agencies documented almost \$12 million in response and recovery costs, including an estimated \$6 million to clear downed trees and debris from public roads and rights-of-way, and \$500,000 for a permanent repair for the Boardman Canal.

Nevada County also experienced severe impacts due to downed power lines and trees throughout much of the community. Some of the hardest hit communities were Alta Sierra, Banner Mountain, and Cascade Shores. Over 270 miles of publicly maintained roads will require clearing due to the imminent fire and life safety hazards on primary wildfire ingress and egress routes. Nevada County and its local agencies have documented almost \$10 million in response and recovery costs, including an estimated \$5 million to clear downed trees from public roads and rights-of-way.

Furthermore, our counties continue to receive requests for assistance to help provide debris removal on private property – mainly tree removal. Unfortunately, the CDAA does not allow for reimbursement of private property clean-up therefore, we are requesting additional reimbursement for this work at an estimated \$5 million. Many homeowners are unable to afford to remove the large volume of debris from their property. With the current megadrought, this green waste must be removed before the start of this fire season when this waste could become fuel for fire which will endanger lives and property in both Placer and Nevada Counties.

We are happy to discuss any unresolved issues to expeditiously conclude this matter. You may contact Placer County's Assistant Director of Emergency Services at datkinso@placer.ca.gov or at 530-886-5306 or Nevada County's Office of Emergency Services Program Manager at paul.cummings@co.nevada.ca.us or 530-265-7015 to schedule a meeting or discuss this matter further.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Cindy Gustafson, Chair (District 5)
Placer County Board of Supervisors

Susan Hoek, Chair (District 4)
Nevada County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Governor Newsom
Assemblymember Megan Dahle
Senator Brian Dahle
Secretary Wade Crowfoot
Placer County Board of Supervisors
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
SYASL
CSAC
RCRC
Paragon