



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 28, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Mr. Robert J. Fenton, Jr.  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200  
Oakland, California 94607-4052

Mr. President,

First, let me extend my sincere gratitude for the federal government's support throughout this unprecedented global pandemic, for the wildfires currently impacting California, and for your recent visit to McClellan Air Force Base on September 14, 2020. I sincerely appreciate the Presidential Emergency Declaration for both the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (FEMA-4482-DR-CA) and the August 2020 Northern California Wildfires

(FEMA-4558-DR-CA). Unfortunately, as you witnessed during your visit, California is experiencing another siege of fires from early September, which continue to devastate communities throughout the State. In addition, at least two additional significant fires – the Glass Fire and the Zogg Fire – began burning yesterday and have rapidly spread and caused significant destruction. California is very much still engaged in a firefight with respect to those fires and will assess that damage as soon as possible.

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 in Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Siskiyou counties, as a result of wildfires that began in early September 2020, and are continuing. The severity and magnitude of these fires continue to cause significant impacts to the State and to the affected local jurisdictions, such that recovery efforts remain beyond the State's capabilities.

## **INCIDENT OVERVIEW**

In the beginning of September 2020, Santa Ana and Diablo wind events, and increased offshore winds across much of the State, combined with a heat wave, resulted in several Red Flag warnings and critical fire weather conditions identified by the National Weather Service Regional Operations Center.<sup>1</sup> This weather event, combined with very dry relative humidity values and dry fuels across the State, resulted in critical fire weather conditions across California.<sup>2</sup> Due to the high temperatures and increased fire danger, the investor-owned power utility providers implemented a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) September 7-9, 2020 that affected 22 counties throughout California, further complicating an already complex and difficult situation. Unfortunately, this extreme heat event and critical fire weather conditions led to new fires, which spread rapidly, leaving a path of

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<sup>1</sup> Cal OES Situation Cell Weather Outlook – September 4, 2020

<sup>2</sup> National Weather Service California Weather Summary September 4-9, 2020 Enclosure

destruction.

Thus far, these fires have scorched more than 1,887,932 acres, destroyed 3,368 structures, including nearly 1,000 homes, and damaged an additional 232 structures. Tragically, the fires have also claimed the lives of at least three people. While formal damage assessments are underway, as access to burned areas is afforded, further assessments will continue.

The Creek Fire in Fresno and Madera counties started September 4th, and has burned 291,426 acres. The Creek Fire is already the single largest fire in California history, fire complexes aside. To date, it has destroyed or damaged more than 550 homes, and currently threatens more than 8,000 residences. This fire has forced more than 24,000 people to evacuate. Over the Labor Day weekend, several hundred campers were trapped by the inferno, including families with young children, and the California National Guard deployed CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to perform multiple harrowing rescues of 385 people and 28 pets in dangerous conditions from Mammoth Pool Reservoir in the Sierra National Forest. The brave soldiers rescued the trapped campers, with the fire line within 50 feet of the aircraft when it landed. The pilots described the experience to local news outlets as the most dangerous mission they had ever experienced in their two-decade long careers. During your visit, you graciously honored these individuals, bringing further accolades to these brave soldiers. While that mission was successfully completed, the fire remains minimally contained, continues to threaten several communities, and officials estimate it will take a month before the area is safe enough for residents to return.

The Oak Fire in Mendocino County started September 7th, and was extinguished on September 14th after burning 1,100 acres and destroying 59 homes. The fire resulted in the evacuation of over 3,200 people.

The Bobcat Fire started in Los Angeles County on September 6th, and thus far has

burned 113,986 acres, destroyed 101 homes, and damaged 27 additional homes. On September 13th, nearly 70,000 people were under evacuation orders as a result of the fire threatening densely populated communities. The fire also threatened high voltage power transmission lines, as well as federal and state communications infrastructure on Mt. Wilson and Mt. Disappointment.

On September 5th, the El Dorado Fire started in San Bernardino County and thus far, has burned over 22,601 acres and destroyed 10 structures. Evacuation orders remain in place because of the imminent threat to nearly 18,000 homes. Fire crews are working diligently to control the fire in this very difficult terrain.<sup>3</sup>

Also on September 5th, the Valley Fire ignited in San Diego County, and has since scorched 17,093 acres in two weeks, destroying 30 homes and damaging an additional six. The Valley Fire also threatened the Sycuan Indian Reservation. Additionally, on September 8, the local utility provider reported power outages in the fire area, impacting more than 2,250 residents.

Siskiyou County experienced four significant fires within days of one another, thus far burning more than 200,529 acres. The most significant of these fires, the Slater Fire, ignited September 8th, and destroyed more than 200 homes. The fire wiped out the community of Happy Camp, tragically claiming the lives of at least two people. The Devil Fire started just one day later, on September 9th, and quickly ravaged 4,000 acres of pristine hillside. The Red Salmon Fire, although burning for several weeks, crossed into Siskiyou County and is currently threatening the community of Forks of Salmon, a heavily impoverished logging community along the Salmon River drainage. The Fox Fire, the most recent fire to threaten Siskiyou County's communities, ravaged nearly 2,000 acres in less than a week. These fires remain far from contained within

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<sup>3</sup> <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7148/>

Siskiyou County and continue to threaten more than 6,000 homes.

## **RESPONSE OVERVIEW**

On September 6th, 2020, I proclaimed, under the California Emergency Services Act, a State of Emergency in Fresno, Madera, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties, and on September 10th, 2020, in Siskiyou County, as well as September 25th, 2020, for Los Angeles and Mendocino counties due to fires. Local jurisdictions also proclaimed local emergencies.

My Office of Emergency Services' State Operations Center (SOC) has been activated at the highest level since August 19, 2020, to coordinate the response to unrelenting wildfires occurring in the State, even as the SOC remained activated for COVID-19 response activities since March 2020. The State activated its Emergency Plan and deployed all available assets, including local and state mutual aid, as well as mobilizing out-of-state resources. All Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Regional Emergency Operations Centers have activated as of August 19, 2020. Additionally, Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Siskiyou counties activated their Emergency Operations Centers.

## **IMPACT TO INFRASTRUCTURE**

Battling these relentless fires requires a colossal effort. As noted above, there are multiple major fires burning throughout the State with little to no containment. The fires currently threaten critical infrastructure in these seven counties, encroaching on public safety communication towers, electrical transmission lines, water treatment plants, irrigation districts, telecommunications towers, school districts, and medical facilities just to name a few.

In accordance with Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR) section 206.33(a), Cal OES, along with federal and local officials, began formal assessments of the public infrastructure damage within the impacted counties. However, since the fires are still raging, areas remain inaccessible and crews must conduct damage

assessment as conditions permit. Although several of the counties received an FMAG, the incident periods for those fires have not been determined. Impacted counties sustained costs beyond those captured under the FMAG program. As such, the estimates captured in Category B are incomplete and the costs of those activities performed outside the incident period have yet to be finalized. For example, the Bobcat Fire in Los Angeles was not declared until a week after the fire started. Therefore, Category B in the following table reflects costs incurred prior to the FMAG, and as of September 24th, 2020, the fire is only 50 percent contained. In addition, the Creek Fire started burning two days before the FMAG was declared, and is currently only 34 percent contained.

At this time the estimated costs for Public Assistance Program eligible known damage are identified as follows<sup>4</sup>:

County	Cat. A	Cat. B	Cat. C	Cat. D	Cat. E	Cat. F	Cat. G	IDE Total
Fresno	\$197,040,000	\$2,028,000	\$712,000			\$632,000		\$200,412,000
Los Angeles	\$7,840,000	\$68,143,336	\$1,209,090	\$1,885,000	\$577,000		\$9,344,760	\$88,999,186
Madera	\$2,100,000	\$200,000	\$175,000				\$200,000	\$2,675,000
Mendocino	\$4,130,000	\$1,093,319						\$5,223,319
San Bernardino	\$350,000	\$1,646,805			\$3,210	\$204	\$5,821,000	\$7,821,219
San Diego	\$2,950,000	\$956,901	\$425,000		\$48,000		\$4,000,000	\$8,379,901
Siskiyou	\$31,690,000	\$100,000	\$1,070,000					\$32,860,000
TOTAL	\$246,100,000	\$74,490,742	\$3,591,090	\$1,885,000	\$628,210	\$632,204	\$19,365,760	\$346,370,625

Damage to public infrastructures includes, but is not limited to, several miles of local roads (including guard rail and signage) and park facilities. Since these fires are burning in high density forest areas, Cal OES expects a significant number of hazardous

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<sup>4</sup> Although clearing parcels to protect and preserve property and eliminate an immediate threat to public health and safety historically has cost \$140,000 per parcel, the calculation utilizes FEMA's \$70,000 per parcel to clear the contaminated debris.

trees must be removed from the public rights of way, which poses an extraordinary hardship for the impacted counties. Additional specific examples of public infrastructure damage reported include:

- In Fresno County, there is damage to nearly 45 miles of county-maintained roadways in addition to a library, Big Creek Primary School, and Pine Ridge School. Further, access to remote facilities and residences is hampered by more than 300,000 standing hazardous trees on public rights of way. Shaver Lake marina sustained damage to its wastewater treatment plant, which serves over 3,500 individuals and could take more than 12 weeks to repair, creating a delay for repopulation.
- In Los Angeles County, the Bobcat Fire has left countless miles of hazardous trees on county roads. It also threatened Mount Wilson Observatory and damaged part of the Canyon Park trail. Further damages are still under assessment as this fire is still burning.
- In Madera County, the fire suppression activities caused significant damage to roadways as a result of dozer activity. There are hazardous trees which need to be removed from public rights of way. Further infrastructure damage is unknown as the fire activity continues, and assessments are ongoing accordingly.
- Mendocino County has significant Category A and B costs associated with the Oak Fire. Due to ongoing fire activity, further assessments are in progress.
- San Bernardino County experienced significant damage to parks as a result of the El Dorado Fire. In addition to signage, 3-acre, 12-acre, and 4-acre conservation easement areas used to mitigate flood control facility impacts sustained damage. Assessments of infrastructure damage remain in progress and full extent of damages is unknown at this time due to continued fire activity.
- Within San Diego County, the Valley Fire brought destruction to the City of San Diego's Barrett Honor Camp where six main buildings and four sheds/outbuildings sustained major damage, as well as a 500-kilowatt generator and electrical distribution center, and two dormitories. Further infrastructure

damages are currently unknown as the fire activity continues to rage and assessments are not yet complete.

- Siskiyou County sustained significant damage as a result of the Slater Fire to roadways and three bridges. In addition, an estimated 15,000 hazardous trees will need to be removed from the public rights of way. Similarly, due to ongoing fire activity, infrastructure damage assessments are ongoing.

## **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

As of this week, more than 2,400 fire engines and 123 state-assigned aircraft remain deployed in response to the September fires, including more than 758 Cal OES and local government engines. In total, there have been over 1,074,006 gallons of fire retardant and 3,108,509 gallons of water used for fire suppression. In addition, more than 19,000 firefighters are on the front lines of 27 major wildfires/complexes and one extended attack wildfire burning throughout California. Jurisdictions are drawing on all available resources to contain the fires and prevent damage to homes and infrastructure. The California National Guard (CNG) is deployed and has 14 helicopters for water dropping and troop transport, with one MEDEVAC assigned statewide for a total of 15 Type I helicopters. Ten of the CNG helicopters and personnel are from six other states through the Emergency Assistance Compact (EMAC). In addition, the National Guard is providing firefighting Incident Awareness and Assessment (IAA) aircraft and personnel for fire mapping and infrared imagery from six states. A total of 1,240 CNG personnel are committed to date, with 20 hand crews currently committed statewide.

California currently has 83 engines and 319 personnel from five states through the latest EMAC request for 350 engines to assist in battling the wildfires. Since mid-August, twenty states have committed EMAC firefighting, personnel and air assets to aid in combating these historic wildfires. The State of California and local governments continue to struggle with catastrophic wildfires throughout the State as well as the



extreme impacts to resources resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, California has committed two Type I State National Urban Search and Rescue Teams and two Regional State Task Forces to support needs in areas that sustained heavy fire damage, which includes searching areas and structures on the North Complex Fire/West Zone in Butte County.

The State of California, local governments, community-based organizations, and volunteers have taken extraordinary steps to respond to these fires. To alleviate fire conditions, State resources including, but not limited to, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), CNG, California Highway Patrol (CHP), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Department of Social Services (CDSS), California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), California Department of Education (CDE), California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), and Cal OES are activated and providing assistance, both in the field and in the SOC. For example, CDSS is assisting with shelter operations by providing support to individuals with access and functional needs. I also directed Caltrans to request participation in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief (ER) Program, which provides federal relief for emergency and permanent repairs to federal aid highways. These State agencies are not eligible to receive funding under the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA); however, the financial impact to California is substantial.

Additionally, American Red Cross and other Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster are providing support to the community and disaster survivors.

The State of California established 19 evacuation centers and is currently sheltering 4,403 people throughout the State to support the nearly 20,000 Californians under mandatory evacuations. Due to COVID-19, and to protect the public health and safety, local jurisdictions are utilizing hotel rooms in lieu of congregate shelters. As depicted in the chart below, nearly 1,700 fire survivors remain housed in these non-

congregate shelters.

County	Non-Congregate Shelter Census at Peak	Current Non-Congregate Shelter Census
Fresno	1,368	811
Los Angeles	184	184
Madera	731	57
Mendocino	14	7
San Bernardino	635	254
San Diego	770	0
Siskiyou	782	377
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,484</b>	<b>1,690</b>

Californians are exhausted. Volunteer organizations are suffering from fatigue and a reduced stream of financial resources coming into their organizations to assist in relief efforts. Many of the counties impacted by these wildfires are still recovering from previous devastating wildfires, storms, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## STATE FISCAL CAPACITY

The United States' longest economic expansion in history ended in February 2020. As a result of the recession induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, California went from a projected \$5.6 billion budget surplus in the January 2020-21 Governor's Budget to a \$54.3 billion projected deficit in the Budget Act for fiscal year 2020-2021. From March through July 2020, the year-over-year drop in revenues was 6.7 percent. The California Department of Finance projects revenues will decline 21.7 percent for fiscal year 2020-2021 and 22.5 percent for fiscal year 2021-2022.

California's economy is suffering in a way we have not seen since the 2009 Great Recession. The first quarter of 2020 has shown a decline of 4.7 percent (\$3.164 trillion) from the previous quarter in 2019 (\$3.183 trillion). Now in the third quarter of 2020, the State economy has also been damaged by the COVID-19 pandemic, excessive heat, major wildfires, and poor air quality.

Although California remains the largest state economy in the nation, this rapid decline, coupled with the wildfires currently burning throughout the State, will have a huge impact on local businesses across all industries and cause major disruptions to the supply chain within the United States.

<b>Impacted Counties</b>	<b>Gross Domestic Product<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Per Capita Income<sup>6</sup></b>
California	\$2,721,651,005	\$35,021
Fresno	\$43,436,946	\$23,284
Los Angeles	\$710,893,266	\$32,469
Madera	\$7,099,931	\$21,394
Mendocino	\$3,552,687	\$27,395
San Bernardino	\$85,114,555	\$23,956
San Diego	\$219,361,505	\$36,156
Siskiyou	\$1,776,081	\$28,130

To mitigate the effects of the devastating fires, my State of Emergency Proclamations provide financial assistance through CDAA to local agencies and certain non-profit organizations. Without a major disaster declaration, CDAA will provide a cost share with those Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) granted in the impacted counties at a rate of 18.75 percent, which is 75 percent of the non-federal share, and will account for 75 percent of the remaining non-FMAG expenses. The local governments will be responsible for a 6.25 percent cost-share with the FMAG and a 25 percent cost-share with CDAA. In addition, California will cost share with the FHWA ER program damage, which is anticipated to be in the millions of dollars.

## **HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

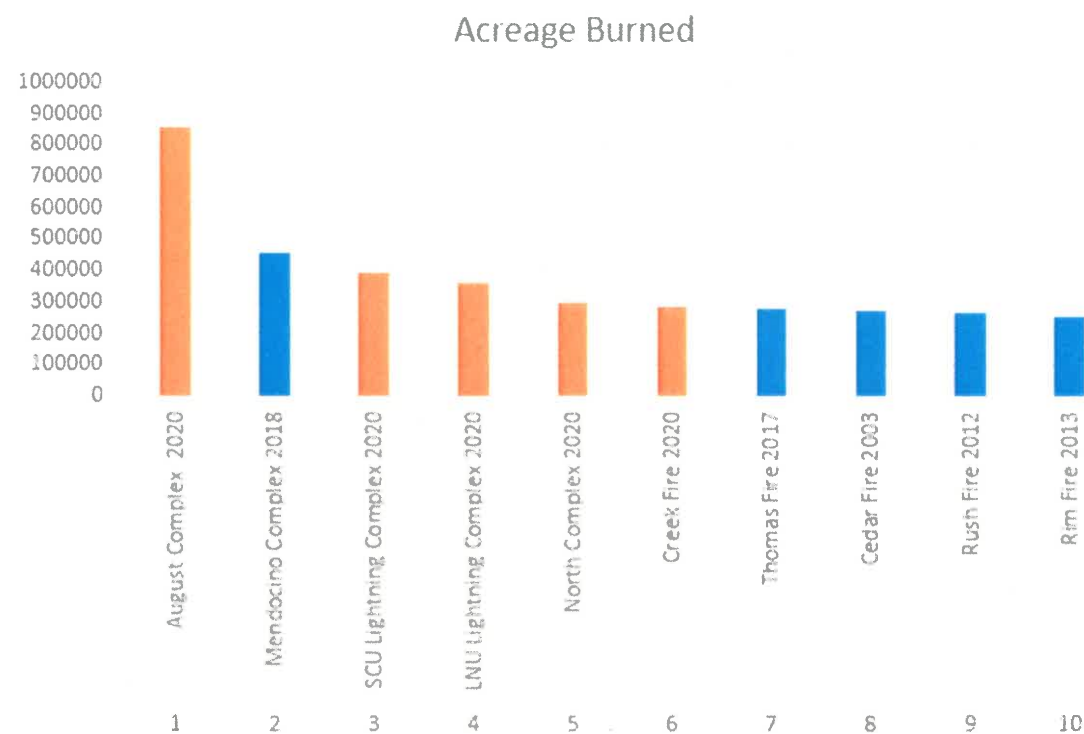
California has suffered multiple consecutive disasters in addition to the August 2020 Wildfires (FEMA-4558-DR-CA). This includes the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic (FEMA-4482-DR-CA) that is still ongoing and has severely impacted California's resources. The Carr Fire and Mendocino Complex Fires (FEMA-4382-DR-CA), previously the largest fires in California history, destroyed more than a thousand homes. This

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<sup>5</sup> Bureau of Economic Analysis, Local Area Gross Domestic Product 2018

came shortly after a devastating 2017, where California experienced numerous deadly and destructive fires and mudslides (FEMA-4353-DR-CA), and the deadly Northern California fires, which also resulted in a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4344-DR-CA).

In November 2018, you issued a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4407-DR-CA) for wildfires in Northern and Southern California, including the Camp Fire, the deadliest and the most destructive wildfire (in terms of structures lost) in California history, and the sixth-deadliest U.S. wildfire overall. The Camp Fire destroyed 18,804 structures and burned over 150,000 acres. Most recently you issued a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4558-DR-CA) for unprecedented fires in Northern California, which are still burning. In fact, six of California's seven largest fires and four of California's largest wildfires have occurred since August 2020, including one in September.



## UNINSURED HOME AND PERSONAL PROPERTY LOSSES

County	Cause	Acres Burned	Residences Major Damage	Residences Destroyed	Average Home Value <sup>7</sup>	Estimated Cost Destroyed Residences
Fresno	Creek Fire	291,426	44	532	\$237,500	\$126,350,000
Madera			1	30	\$235,200	\$7,056,000
Los Angeles	Bobcat Fire	113,986	27	101	\$543,400	\$54,883,400
Mendocino	Oak Fire	1,100	0	59	\$356,800	\$21,051,200
San Bernardino	El Dorado Fire	22,601	2	5	\$305,400	\$1,527,000
San Diego	Valley Fire	17,093	6	30	\$526,300	\$15,789,000
Siskiyou	Slater/Devil/ Fox/Red Salmon Fires	200,529	10	202	\$186,300	\$37,632,600
<b>Total</b>		<b>646,735</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>959</b>		

## DISASTER RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT

County	Self-Employed Workforce <sup>7</sup>	Service Industry Workforce <sup>6</sup>
Fresno	55,668	291,900
Los Angeles	1,107,080	3,636,600
Madera	7,504	33,000
Mendocino	8,390	24,620
San Bernardino	154,048	1,212,700
San Diego	292,941	1,179,300
Siskiyou	3,347	10,370

## DISASTER IMPACTED POPULATION PROFILE

California's official poverty rate as of 2018 is 11.9 percent, slightly higher than the national 11.8 percent, and ranks 26th amongst all states and Washington D.C. Even before the pandemic, California experienced higher rates of poverty (11.9 percent versus 11.8 percent) than the rest of the nation, a factor that is not likely to have improved. When considering an alternate poverty measure that compensates for cost of living and benefits factors, California ranks 2nd in the nation after Washington D.C. at 17.9 percent, compared to 13.1 percent nationally.

In addition, during the second quarter of 2020, nearly three million Californians

<sup>6</sup> Employment Development Department, Labor Force and Industry Employment Data for Counties

were unemployed, representing more than 14 percent of the nation's total unemployment. In 2019, California's nonfarm jobs accounted for 11.5 percent of the nation's jobs. These jobs decreased by more than two million or 13 percent in the second quarter, a steeper drop than the 12 percent for the United States, and about 12.5 percent of the nation's job losses.

Demographic data from the impacted counties indicate significant and disproportionate impacts to vulnerable populations, including individuals at lower income levels, the elderly, disabled, and those that are medically electricity dependent. In addition, those at lower income levels are also experiencing higher rates of unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Impacted Counties	Total Population <sup>7</sup>	Poverty Rate <sup>7</sup>	Unem-ployed <sup>8</sup>	Disabled <sup>9</sup>	Elderly (>65) <sup>7</sup>	Persons <18 <sup>7</sup>	Total SSI <sup>7</sup>	Total SNAP <sup>10</sup>	Limited-English Proficient <sup>7</sup>
Fresno	999,101	21.3%	10.9%	11.9%	12.6%	28.2%	25,921	211,750	44.8%
Los Angeles	10,039,107	14.2%	16.6%	9.6%	14.1%	21.4%	225,890	1,069,091	56.6%
Madera	157,327	20.2%	10.0%	12.9%	14.3%	27.4%	3,273	26,529	45.1%
Mendocino	86,749	17.5%	8.8%	16.6%	23.1%	21.1%	3,159	11,264	22.0%
San Bernardino	2,180,085	14.9%	10.8%	10.9%	11.9%	26.1%	43,914	335,516	41.6%
San Diego	3,338,330	11.5%	9.9%	9.5%	14.5%	21.4%	53,051	257,770	37.7%
Siskiyou	43,539	17.1%	9.1%	19.8%	26.1%	20.1%	1,947	6,228	8.4%

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Based on historic precipitation patterns, experts expect a high probability of frontal storms. The risk of flooding and erosional events will increase as a result of the fires creating hazardous conditions within and downstream of the burn areas. These areas are at risk due to flooding and sedimentation affecting water quality, roads, and hydroelectric powerhouses.

<sup>7</sup> US Census Bureau, 2018 Census

<sup>8</sup> California Economic Development Department, Labor Force and Unemployment Rate for Cities and Census Designated Places

<sup>9</sup> Cal OES, California Access and Functional Needs Viewer

<sup>10</sup> California Department of Social Services, CalFresh Data Tables (Oct. 2018)

Impaired soil productivity and hydrologic function can affect individuals, property, and infrastructure on or in close proximity to burned lands. This can also have a profound impact on habitats for state and federally listed threatened or endangered terrestrial and aquatic animal species within and in close proximity to burned lands. This impact in addition to impacts caused by the fires themselves on state and federally listed endangered and threatened species and their habitats.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on infrastructure damage estimates exceeding \$229 million, California has surpassed its federal per capita indicator for Public Assistance by more than 607 percent. FEMA's Individual Assistance Declaration Factors criteria for receiving an Individual Assistance declaration have also been met. California has demonstrated a critical need for FEMA's Individuals and Households Programs, based on the disaster impacted population profile, impact to community infrastructure, casualties, and disaster related unemployment. As demonstrated above, the impacted communities have a high rate of poverty, elderly and disabled residents, as well as recipients of government assistance. Additionally, this is the second time in a few short years these communities have been devastated by wildfire. Coupled with the significant impacts to already vulnerable communities and the tragic loss of lives and jobs, these wildfires have resulted in unprecedented economic and infrastructure impacts within these communities. This all comes during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and relentless successive disasters to strike California, making the impact even more significant.

As noted above, the State economy has been significantly damaged by the COVID-19 pandemic, excessive heat, major wildfires, and poor air quality. California began 2020 with \$5.6 billion budget surplus, dropping to a \$54.3

billion deficit, impacting local businesses across all industries and causing major disruptions to the supply chain for the United States. Federal assistance is critical to support physical and economic recovery of California and its communities. The longer it takes for California and its communities to recover, the more severe, devastating, and irreversible the economic impacts will be.

Based on all Public Assistance and Individual Assistance factors and indicators, and considering the totality of the circumstances, both with respect to these wildfires as well as the relentless and successive disasters California has endured, including the ongoing unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, this event clearly warrants a Major Disaster Declaration.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I certify for this major disaster the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shared costs as required by the Stafford Act.

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.36, this incident is of such magnitude and severity that effective response is beyond state and local capability, and supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives and protect property, public health, and safety. California is specifically requesting a Major Disaster Declaration to include Hazard Mitigation statewide, as well as, Public Assistance (all categories) Direct Federal Assistance, and Individual Assistance for the counties of Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Siskiyou.

As this disaster progresses, subject to additional programs warranted, we reserve the ability to amend this request for additional federal assistance.

I have designated the Director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Mark Ghilarducci, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. Mr. Ghilarducci will work with the Federal Emergency



Management Agency in continuing to assess damage and may provide more information or justification on my behalf and can be reached at: Mark.Ghilarducci@caloes.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom  
Governor

Enclosures:

Stafford Act and State Disaster Declarations for Last 24 Months

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

National Weather Service California Weather Summary September 4-9, 2020

List of Federally Recognized Tribes in California

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION**  
**MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

OMB Control Number 1660-0009  
Expires 09/30/2019

1. Request Date Sep 28, 2020

**Burden Disclosure Notice**

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

<b>2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration.</b>  CALIFORNIA		<b>2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s).</b> 37,253,956	
<b>3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name</b> GAVIN NEWSOM		<b>4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number</b> MARK S. GHILARDUCCI	
<b>5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number</b> MARK S. GHILARDUCCI			
<b>6. Declaration Request For:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401) <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501 (a))			
<b>7. Incident Period:</b> Beginning Date <u>Sep 4, 2020</u> End Date _____ or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuing		<i>If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).</i>	
<b>7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)</b> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"><div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Drought <input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake <input type="checkbox"/> Explosion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Flood <input type="checkbox"/> Hurricane <input type="checkbox"/> Landslide <input type="checkbox"/> Mudslide</div><div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Severe Storm <input type="checkbox"/> Snowstorm</div><div style="width: 100%;"><input type="checkbox"/> (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning) <input type="checkbox"/> (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data) <input type="checkbox"/> Straight-Line Winds</div><div style="width: 100%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Tidal Wave <input type="checkbox"/> Tornado <input type="checkbox"/> Tropical Depression <input type="checkbox"/> Tropical Storm <input type="checkbox"/> Tsunami <input type="checkbox"/> Volcanic Eruption <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Storm</div><div style="width: 100%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <u>EXTREME HEAT</u></div></div>			
<b>8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.</b> Beginning September 2020, California fires comprised 27 different incidents that burned 1,887,932 acres. These fires have destroyed more than 3,368 structures, including approximately 1,000 homes, while damaging an additional 232 structures. The fires have claimed three lives. The severity and magnitude of these fires is depleting the capabilities of the state and local jurisdictions to effectively respond. California is requesting supplementary federal assistance necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health, and safety, and avert the threat of a larger disaster, as well as assist California and its communities in recovering from these devastating wildfires. The fires addressed in this request are: Bobcat Fire, Creek Fire, El Dorado Fire, Oak Fire, Slater Fire, and Valley Fire.			
<b>9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.</b> The State activated its Emergency Plan and deployed all available assets, including local and state mutual aid, as well as mobilizing out-of-state resources. The State Operations Center was activated on August 19, 2020. All counties in this request also activated their Emergency Operations Centers. As of this week, more than 2,400 fire engines and 123 aircraft deployed in response to these fires, including more than 626 Cal OES and local government engines, and more than 19,000 firefighters statewide on the front lines. Jurisdictions are drawing on all available resources to contain the fires and prevent damage to homes, the California National Guard assigned 15 helicopters for water dropping and troop support, and 14 other state agencies also deployed resources. California received 83 engines from 20 states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact to assist with statewide fire suppression efforts.			

**10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\***

☒ Individual Assistance      Dates Performed **Requested** Sep 19, 2020    **Start** Sep 21, 2020    **End** ongoing

**Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)**

Due to ongoing life-saving response activities, and both State and local resources being overwhelmed, damage assessments are being started where possible and are ongoing, since the fires are still raging and a good portion of damage cannot be safely inspected. Crews will continue progress on these assessments as conditions allow in a safe manner.

☒ Public Assistance      Dates Performed **Requested** Sep 14, 2020    **Start** Sep 17, 2020    **End** ongoing

**Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)**

Due to ongoing life-saving response activities, and both State and local resources being overwhelmed, damage assessments are being started where possible and are ongoing, since the fires are still raging and a good portion of damage cannot be safely inspected. Crews will continue progress on these assessments as conditions allow in a safe manner.

**11. Programs and Areas Requested**

Individual Assistance ☐ N/A    ☒ Individuals and Households Program    ☒ Crisis Counseling Program    ☒ Disaster Unemployment Assistance  
☒ All    ☒ Disaster Case Management    ☒ Disaster Legal Services    ☒ Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation).

Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Siskiyou

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).  
 See attached list of Federally-recognized Tribes.

Please see **Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance** for additional information in support of this request\*.

*\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request*

**11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)**

Public Assistance   ☐ N/A   ☒ Debris Removal (Category A)   ☒ Emergency Protective Measures (Category B)   ☒ Permanent Work (Categories C-G)\* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mendocino, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Siskiyou

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).  
See attached list of Federally-recognized Tribes.

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request\*.

**Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity**

☐ I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold ☒ harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

**Request for Direct Federal Assistance**

☐ I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

☒ I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

Fire Suppression, Transitional Sheltering Assistance, sheltering support, and non-congregate sheltering due to COVID environment.

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.  
All state resources have been exhausted.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways 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; (3) Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

**Request for Snow Assistance**

☒ N/A   ☐ I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request\*.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

## 11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation\* ☒ Statewide

OR

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

## 12. Mitigation Plan Information\*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date September 27, 2023

b. Type of Plan

☒ Enhanced☐ Standard

## 13. Other Federal Agency Programs

☐ I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies☒ I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal AgenciesPlease see **Enclosure C**: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs for additional information in support of this request\*.

## 14. Findings and Certifications

☒ I certify the following:

a. 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 government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on September 6, 2020 in accordance with the Stafford Act.

c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

## 15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

☒ Cover Letter ☐ Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)\*☐ Enclosure B (Public Assistance)\*☐ Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs)☐ Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)☒ Additional Supporting Documentation 24 Mos Disaster Declarations, National Weather Service Data, and List of CA Tribes


Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

09/28/2020

Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

Stafford Act and State Disaster Declarations in Previous 24 Months

Event Number	Disaster Name	Counties
FM-5376	Glass Fire	Napa and Sonoma
FM-5374	Bobcat Fire	Los Angeles
FM-5373	SQF Complex	Tulare
FM-5363	Bear Fire	Butte, Plumas, and Yuba
FM-5361	Slater Fire	Siskiyou
FM-5350	El Dorado Fire	San Bernardino
FM-5348	Creek Fire	Fresno and Madera
FM-5339	Sheep Fire	Lassen
DR-4558/CDAA-2020-06	August 2020 Wildfires	Lake, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo
FM-5338	SCU Lightning Complex	Santa Clara and Stanislaus
FM-5336	CZU Lightning Complex	San Mateo and Santa Cruz
FM-5333	Carmel Fire	Monterey
FM-5332	Jones Fire	Nevada
FM-5331	LNU Lightning Complex	Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo
FM-5329	River Fire	Monterey
FM-5325	Apple Fire	Riverside and San Bernardino
CDAA-2020-05	Atmospheric River Event	Monterey
CDAA-2020-04	Sandalwood Fire	Riverside
CDAA-2020-03	Easy/Maria Fires	Ventura
DR-4482/CDAA-2020-01	COVID 19	Statewide
FM-5303	Cave Fire	Santa Barbara
FM-5302	Maria Fire	Ventura
FM-5301	Hillside Fire	San Bernardino
FM-5300	46 Fire	Riverside
FM-5299	Hill Fire	Riverside
FM-5298	Easy Fire	Ventura
FM-5297	Getty Fire	Los Angeles
FM-5296	Tick Fire	Los Angeles
FM-5295/CDAA-2019-06	Kincade Fire	Sonoma
FM-5293/CDAA-2020-02	Saddleridge Fire	Los Angeles
EM-3415/CDAA-2019-05	California Earthquakes	Kern and San Bernardino
CDAA-2019-04	April 2019 Spring Storm	Modoc

DR-4434/CDAA-2019-03	Late February 2019 Storms, Flooding, Landslide and Mudslides	Amador, Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, and Yolo
DR-4431/CDAA-2019-02	Mid-February 2019 Storms, Flooding, Landslide and Mudslides	Calaveras, Colusa, Los Angeles, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Shasta, and Trinity
CDAA 2019-01	Winter 2019 Storms	Yolo
CDAA 2018-10	October 2018 Monsoon	San Bernardino
DR-4407/EM-3409/ CDAA 2018-09	November 2018 California Wildfires, Mud and Debris Flows	Butte, Los Angeles, and Ventura
FM-5268	Holy Fire	Riverside
CDAA 2018-08	Whaleback Fire	Lassen
DR-4382/EM-3398/ CDAA 2018-06	Summer 2018 California Wildfires and High Winds	Colusa, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, and Shasta



**Western Region**  
Regional Operations Center

801-524-7907  
wr.roc@noaa.gov  
weather.gov/wrh

## **California Weather Summary**

### **September 4-9, 2020**

A widespread heat wave occurred across the state of California from Friday, September 4, 2020 through Monday, September 7, 2020 (Labor Day). This heat wave was followed by a widespread gusty wind event starting September 7 and continuing through Wednesday, September 9; combined with very dry relative humidity values and dry fuels across the state, this wind event created critical fire weather conditions across both northern and southern California.

The excessive heat began in earnest across southern California on September 4, and then spread to the entire state on Saturday, September 5. The peak of the heat wave in many locations was Sunday, September 6; these very hot recorded temperatures on September 6 included 121 degrees at Woodland Hills, which is the hottest temperature ever recorded at an official climate station in Los Angeles County. Temperatures remained hot on September 7, though some areas did experience some cooling, including across coastal portions of southern California due to increased onshore flow, as well as in the Central Valley of California where increasing smoke decreased afternoon temperatures by a few degrees.

Gusty northerly to easterly winds began across northern and central California late Monday, September 7, and spread southward to much of the state on Tuesday, September 8. Widespread wind gusts of 30-50 mph were observed on September 8, with a few locations recording gusts greater than 50 mph. Winds weakened a bit but remained gusty on Wednesday, September 9, with widespread wind gusts of 20-40 mph observed. Winds across California decreased considerably through the afternoon and evening hours of September 9.



## List of Federally Recognized Tribes within California

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Alturas Rancheria of Pit River Indians  
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Barona Band of Mission Indians  
Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria  
Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians  
Big Lagoon Rancheria  
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley  
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley  
Big Sandy Rancheria of Western Mono Indians  
Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians  
Bishop Paiute Tribe  
Blue Lake Rancheria  
Bridgeport Paiute Indian Colony  
Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians  
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians  
Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indian- Colusa Indian Community  
Cahto Tribe  
Cahuilla Band of Indians  
California Valley Miwok Tribe  
California Valley Miwok Tribe  
Campo Band of Diegueño Mission Indians  
Cedarville Rancheria of Northern Paiute Indians  
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

## List of Federally Recognized Tribes within California

Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the  
Trinidad Rancheria

Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians

Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians

Cocopah Indian Reservation

Cold Springs Rancheria

Colorado River Indian Tribes of the Colorado  
River Indian Reservation

Cortina Rancheria - Kletsel Dehe Band of  
Wintun Indians

Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians

Death Valley Timbi-sha Shoshone Tribe

Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

Elem Indian Colony Pomo Tribe

Elk Valley Rancheria

Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise  
Rancheria

Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

Fort Bidwell Indian Community

Fort Independence Indian Community of  
Paiutes

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

Greenville Rancheria

Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki

Guidiville Indian Rancheria

Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake

## List of Federally Recognized Tribes within California

Hoopa Valley Tribe  
Hopland Band of Pomo Indians  
Ilipay Nation of Santa Ysabel  
Inaja-Cosmit Band of Indians  
Ione Band of Miwok Indians  
Jackson Rancheria Band of Me-Wuk Indians  
Jamul Indian Village  
Jamul Indian Village  
Karuk Tribe  
Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts  
Point Rancheria  
Koi Nation of Northern California  
La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians  
La Posta Band of Diegueño Mission Indians  
Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe  
Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno  
Indians  
Lytton Rancheria  
Manchester Band of Pomo Indians  
Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation  
Mechoopda Indian Tribe  
Mesa Grande Band of Diegueño Mission Indians  
Middletown Rancheria  
Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians  
Morongo Band of Mission Indians  
North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians

## List of Federally Recognized Tribes within California

Pala Band of Mission Indians

Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians

Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians

Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians

Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians

Pinoleville Pomo Nation

Pit River Tribe of California

Pit River Tribe of California - Astarawi Band

Pit River Tribe of California - Atsuge Band

Pit River Tribe of California - Atwamsini Band

Pit River Tribe of California - Hammawi Band

Pit River Tribe of California - Hewisedawi Band

Pit River Tribe of California - Kosealekte Band

Pit River Tribe of California - Madesi Band

Pit River Tribe of California- Ajumawi Band

Pit River Tribe of California- Atwamsini Band

Pit River Tribe of California Historical Preservation  
Office

Pit River Tribe of California, Aporige Band

Potter Valley Tribe

Quartz Valley Indian Community

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian  
Reservation

Ramona Band of Cahuilla

Redding Rancheria

## List of Federally Recognized Tribes within California

Redwood Valley or Little River Band of Pomo Indians

Resighini Rancheria

Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians

Robinson Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

Round Valley Indian Tribes of the Round Valley Reservation

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

San Pasqual Band of Diegueño Mission Indians

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians

Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians

Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians

Susanville Indian Rancheria

Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

Table Mountain Rancheria

Tejon Indian Tribe

Tejon Indian Tribe

Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation

Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Tule River Indian Tribe

Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

## List of Federally Recognized Tribes within California

United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn  
Rancheria

Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe (Benton Paiute  
Reservation)

Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians