

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION
COVER LETTER**

August 22, 2020

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

Through: George A. Robinson
Regional Director
FEMA Region VI
800 North Loop
Denton, TX 76209

SENT VIA EMAIL

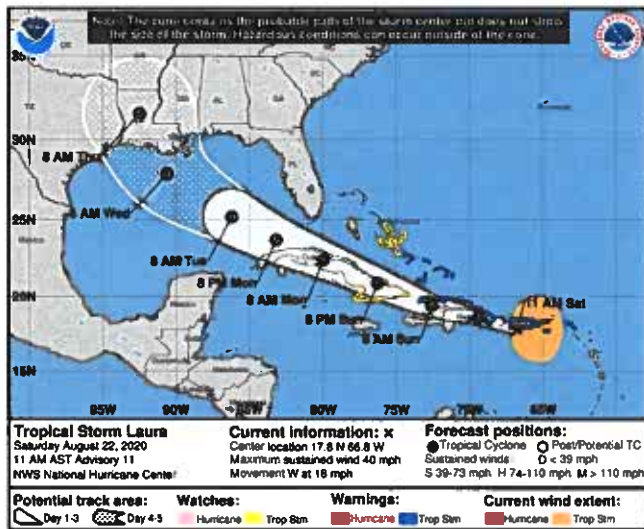
Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 501(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. Sections 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR Section 206.35, I request that you declare an emergency for the State of Louisiana effective August 22, 2020, as a result of Tropical Storms Laura and Marco. The National Weather Service forecasts that Tropical Storms Laura and Marco will make landfall in or around Louisiana between Monday, August 24, 2020, and Wednesday, August 26, 2020. The impact of torrential rainfall, storm surge, high winds, and potential tornadoes will pose a serious threat to the lives and property of the people of Louisiana.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), Tropical Storm Marco is expected to reach the Gulf of Mexico as early as Sunday, August 23, 2020, and potentially strengthen to a hurricane while in the Gulf. The NWS anticipates that Tropical Storm Marco will make landfall anywhere from southwest Louisiana to Texas. Either way, Louisiana will likely be in the right front quadrant of the storm, which bears the highest winds, rain, and storm surge. Tropical storm-force impacts are expected to be felt in Louisiana by early Monday, August 24, 2020, and the NWS expects to issue Tropical Storm warnings for most of south Louisiana.

Unfortunately, Tropical Storm Laura should reach the Gulf of Mexico on Monday, August 24, 2020, just a day after Tropical Storm Marco. The NWS expects Laura to strengthen to a hurricane as well, and to make landfall in Louisiana or in a neighboring state. The NWS advises that tropical storm-force winds, rain, and storm surge from Tropical Storm Laura could impact Louisiana through late Wednesday, August 26, 2020. The cumulative impact of these storms will likely have much of Louisiana facing tropical storm/hurricane force impacts for a much longer period of time than it would with any one hurricane. These extended impacts could bring flooding and wind damage to numerous Louisiana communities statewide.

Tropical Storm Laura – August 22, 2020 11:00 AM



Tropical Storm Marco – August 22, 2020 11:00 AM



Given these threats, I anticipate the need for emergency protective measures, evacuations, and sheltering for the high-risk areas. The length of possible inundation is unknown and will likely require de-watering activities. At this time, due to the dangers presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, any sheltering activities will need to include non-congregate settings.

In response to this situation, I have taken the appropriate action under state law and declared a statewide emergency (108 JBE 2020) on August 21, 2020. Furthermore, I have directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan in support of the statewide emergency declaration in accordance with Section 501 of the Stafford Act. A copy of that declaration is attached. As of the time of this request, 14 parishes have issued parish emergency declarations, 5 parishes are in the process of completing their emergency declarations, and more are anticipated over the next 24 to 48 hours.

The following information is furnished on the nature of state and local government resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

GOHSEP

- Activating its EOC to Level 3 on August 23, 2020, and is coordinating response measures across the state.
- Holding daily parish coordination calls, beginning on August 21, 2020.
- Processing sandbag, emergency generator and pump requests.
- Providing levee-protection measures to vulnerable areas in Grand Isle, LA.
- Coordinating pre-positioning of search and rescue assets for potential impacts in both Southwest and Southeast coastal parishes.

PARISHES

- Fourteen parishes have already issued emergency declarations, and more parishes are in the process of declaring.
- Parish EOCs are activated and preparing for extended wind and rain impacts.

In addition to the state and local efforts listed above, Louisiana has expended hundreds of millions of dollars during its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. State agency expenditures as of this date are estimated at over \$900 million. These large expenditures have hindered our ability to fund additional measures to address subsequent disasters and emergencies. The added expenses associated with non-congregate sheltering are especially burdensome, as both local governments and non-governmental entities who traditionally provide shelters have reduced capabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. For these reasons, and pursuant to 44 CFR Section 206.35, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster. I am specifically requesting:

Public Assistance Category B (Emergency Protective Measures)

Public Assistance Category B, to include emergency protective measures associated with mass care evacuation and shelter support, as well as pre-approval of non-congregate sheltering, is requested for the following parishes:

Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana, Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Terrebonne, Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington.

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

Direct Federal Assistance (DFA)

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

- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – sandbags, self-contained pumps, damage assessment teams, power generation, technical assistance, mapping, and GIS support.
- United States Coast Guard - air transportation assets, technical assistance, search and rescue operations.
- Civil Air Patrol - air assets.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service - wildlife management assistance within the Atchafalaya basin and technical assistance.
- United States Department of Agriculture - crop damage assessment, livestock assistance, technical assistance, water management, and inundation mapping.

This assistance is requested statewide.

In accordance with 44 CFR Section 206.208, the State of Louisiana agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

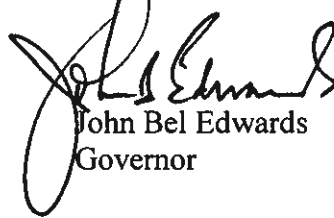
1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way necessary to accomplish the approved work;
2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work;
3. Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and

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4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

I have designated James B. Waskom as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) and Casey Tingle as the Alternate GAR. I have designated Casey Tingle as the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) for this request. Director Waskom and Mr. Tingle will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and will provide further information and justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



John Bel Edwards
Governor

Enclosures
OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
State Emergency Declaration (108 JBE 2020)
NWS Slides