

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION
COVER LETTER**

September 13, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

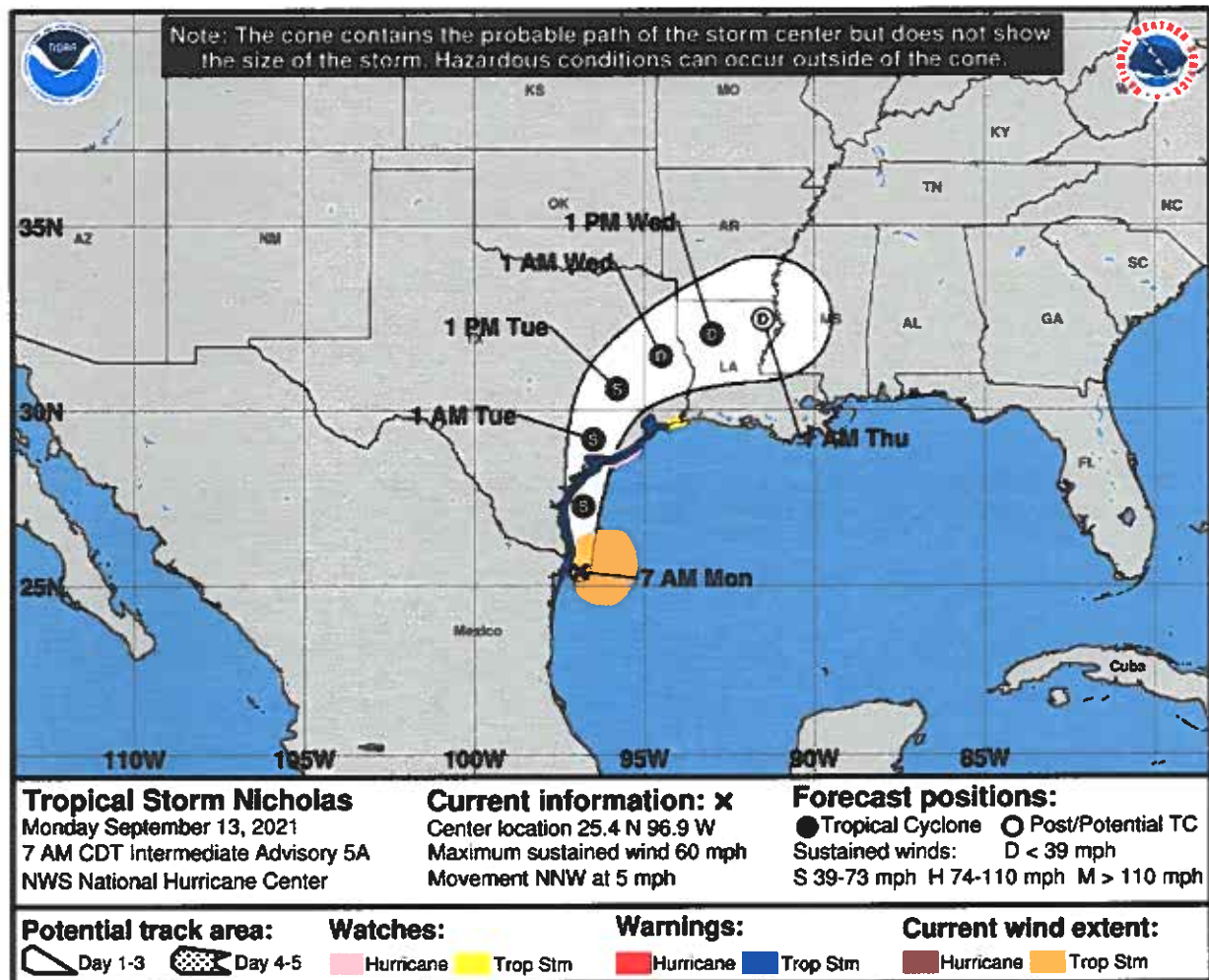
Through: George A. Robinson
Regional Director
FEMA Region VI
800 North Loop
Denton, TX 76209

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 September 12, 2021, as a result of Tropical Storm Nicholas. The National Weather Service ("NWS") forecasts that Tropical Storm Nicholas will make landfall in Texas late Monday, September 13, 2021 or Tuesday, September 14, 2021, with winds approaching hurricane strength. The impact of torrential rainfall and flash flooding will pose a serious threat to the lives and property of the people of Louisiana.

The National Weather Service (NWS) anticipates that Tropical Storm Nicholas will bring heavy rainfall to south Louisiana, especially the southwest region. Much of the State is expected to see 5 to 15 inches of rainfall, with some parishes in the southwest portion possibly seeing higher amounts. This amount of rain will lead to flash flooding in those areas.



I anticipate the need for emergency protective measures, evacuations, and sheltering for high-risk areas. The length of possible inundation is currently unknown; however, the State anticipates the need for de-watering activities. Search and Rescue (SAR) assets will need to be prepositioned near the impact area to provide life-saving measures for survivors, should there be any. Additionally, many critical facilities in southwest Louisiana are still operating under reduced capacity after surviving Hurricanes Laura and Delta last year. The State will be providing assistance to that area, which would include medical assets, but additional federal assets will be needed to meet this area's needs.

At this time, Louisiana intends to conduct traditional sheltering operations for evacuees. However, due to the dangers presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as our current sheltering efforts related to Hurricane Ida survivors and first responders, our normal sheltering capacity is extremely limited. Should the number of evacuees exceed our capacity, we will need to conduct non-congregate sheltering (NCS) or point-to-point sheltering with other states. All of these options will be difficult to complete while maintaining compliance with COVID mitigation measures. Federal assistance will be needed for Louisiana to successfully complete safe sheltering operations.

In response to this situation, I have taken the appropriate action under state law and declared a statewide emergency (173 JBE 2021) on September 12, 2021. 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, parishes indicate they will issue emergency declarations within the next 24 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

- The state EOC has already been activated to Level 1 since August 27, 2021, due to Hurricane Ida, and is now also coordinating response measures for Tropical Storm Nicholas across the state.
- Holding daily parish coordination calls, beginning on September 12, 2021.
- Processing sandbag, emergency generator, and pump requests.

PARISHES

- Parishes in southwest Louisiana are preparing emergency declarations.
- Parish EOCs are activating and preparing for extensive rain impacts.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, Louisiana has expended hundreds of millions of dollars during its fight to provide equipment and services to keep its citizens alive and to mitigate the effects of that virus. In 2020, the State also responded to three different hurricanes. Hurricane Laura, which made landfall in August 2020, destroyed much of the southwest region's infrastructure. Hurricane Delta, which passed through the same area just six weeks later, further damaged those same resources. That area's capacity to provide critical services is still limited. Through September 2021, Louisiana has also experienced a winter weather disaster, a storm that produced widespread flooding and tornadoes, and just two weeks ago we were hit with Hurricane Ida, a Category 4 hurricane that has been categorized as one of the top five destructive storms to hit the State. Hurricane Ida devastated the southeast portion of the state. Thousands of Hurricane Ida survivors, as well as first responders, are sheltered in temporary accommodations.

For these reasons, and pursuant to 44 CFR Section 206.35, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that an 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, emergency protective measures, including Direct Federal Assistance, for all parishes in Louisiana, namely:

Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, De Soto, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, LaSalle, Lincoln, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Terrebonne, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, Washington, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Carroll, West Feliciana, and Winn.

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; and
- United States Department of Agriculture - crop damage assessment, livestock assistance, technical assistance, water management, and inundation mapping.

This assistance is requested statewide.

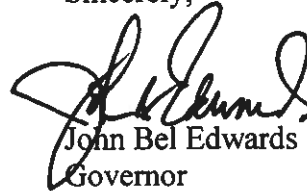
In accordance with 44 CFR Section 206.208, the State of Louisiana agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

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

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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 (173 JBE 2021)