

Office of the Governor  
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



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**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION  
COVER LETTER**

**August 26, 2021**

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

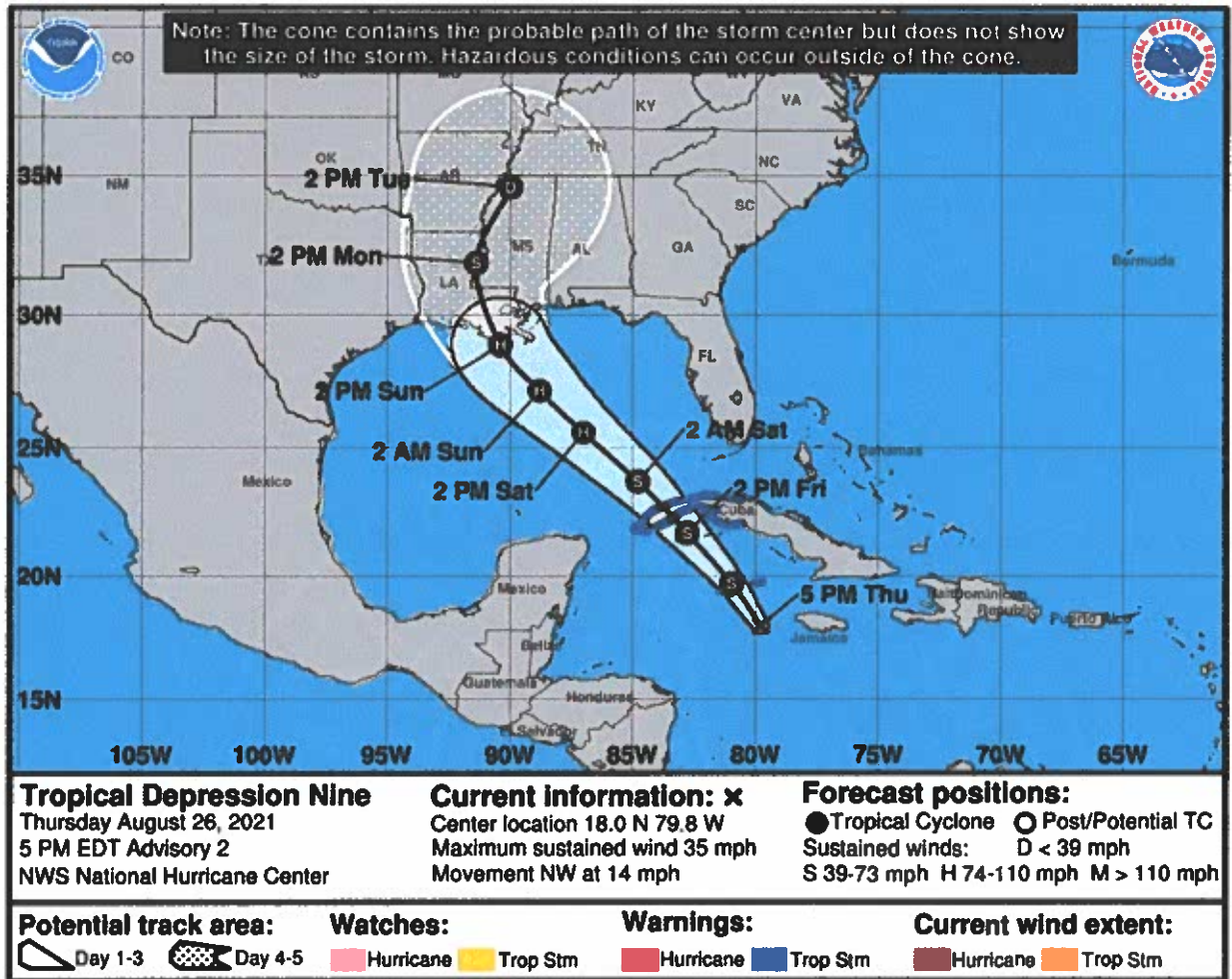
Through: George A. Robinson  
Regional Director  
FEMA Region VI  
800 North Loop  
Denton, TX 76209

**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 August 26, 2021, as a result of Tropical Storm Ida. The National Weather Service forecasts that Tropical Storm Ida will make landfall in Louisiana as a Category 2 or 3 hurricane on Sunday, August 29, 2021. 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 Ida is forecast to make landfall in Louisiana at or near major hurricane strength. The NWS anticipates that it will bring severe impacts to south Louisiana through storm surge, rainfall, and high winds. At this time, the NWS anticipates that tropical storm force winds will buffet the entire Louisiana coastal region, with up to 10 inches of rain in some areas and potential storm surge of 4-6 feet. A hurricane watch is likely to be issued at 4:00 a.m. on Friday, August 27, 2021, with a warning issued shortly thereafter.



I anticipate the need for emergency protective measures, evacuations, and sheltering for the 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.

At this time, Louisiana intends to conduct traditional sheltering operations for evacuees. However, due to the dangers presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, our normal capacity is 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, and 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 (165 JBE 2021) on August 26, 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, seven parishes have issued parish emergency declarations

and many other parishes indicate they will issue emergency declarations within 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**

- Activated its EOC to Level 3 on August 27, 2021 and is coordinating response measures across the state.
- Holding daily parish coordination calls, beginning on August 27, 2021.
- Processing sandbag, emergency generator, and pump requests.

**PARISHES**

- Seven parishes have already issued emergency declarations, and more parishes are in the process of declaring.
- Parish EOCs are activating and preparing for extensive wind and 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. During that time, the State has also responded to three different hurricanes, a winter weather disaster, and additional storms this year that produced widespread flooding and tornadoes. Many survivors in southwest Louisiana are still struggling to find housing a full year after Hurricane Laura made landfall one year ago today. 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.
- United States Department of Agriculture - crop damage assessment, livestock assistance, technical assistance, water management, and inundation mapping.

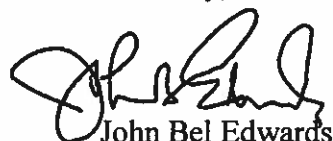
This assistance is requested statewide.

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.

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 (165 JBE 2021)