

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION

October 27, 2020

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

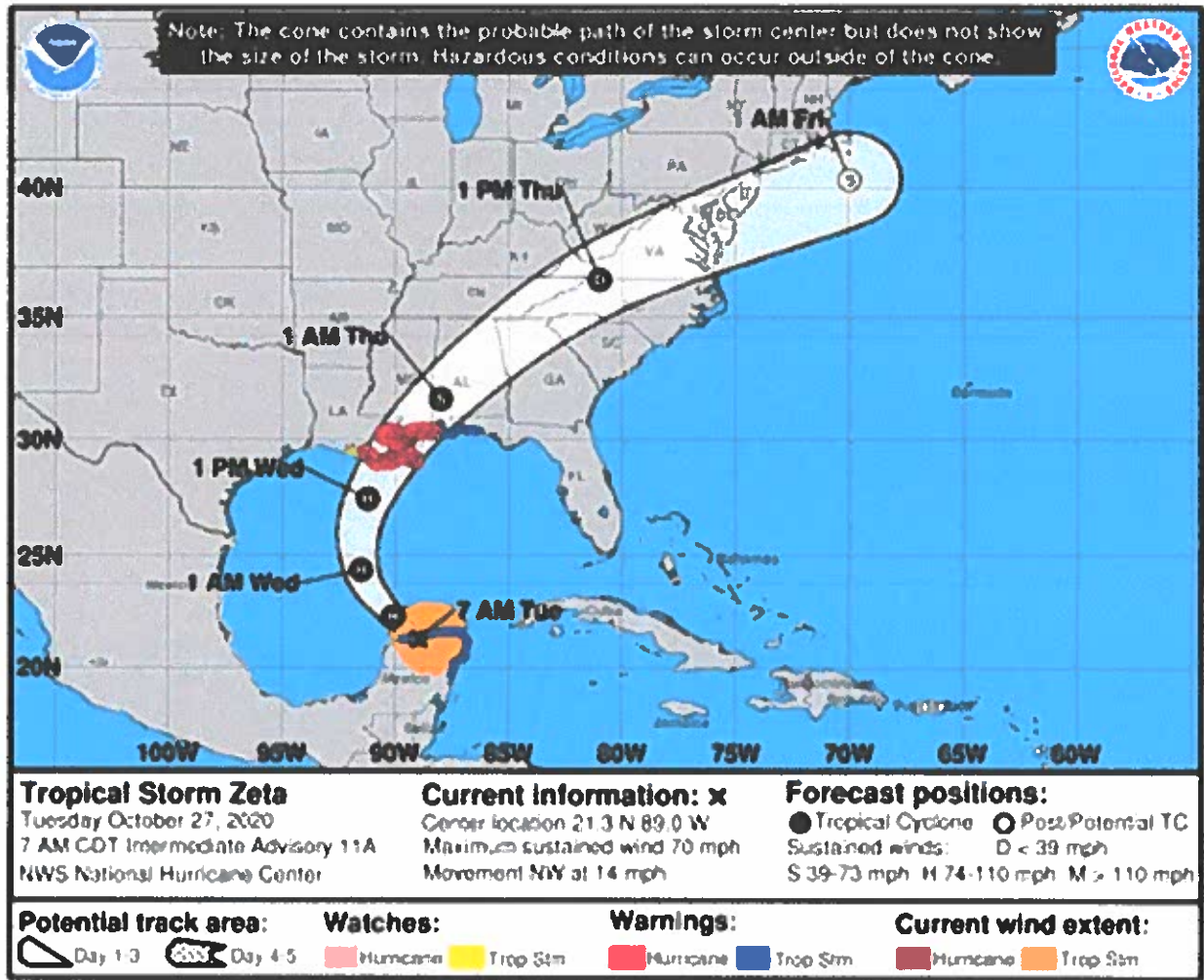
Through: George A. Robinson
Regional Director
FEMA Region VI
800 North Loop
Denton, TX 76209

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 C.F.R. §206.35, I request that you declare an emergency for the State of Louisiana effective October 26, 2020, as a result of Tropical Storm Zeta. The National Weather Service forecasts that Tropical Storm Zeta will become a hurricane and is expected to make landfall in Louisiana on Wednesday, October 28 2020 with heavy rainfall beginning as early as late Tuesday night. The impact of heavy rainfall, coastal flooding due to storm surge, damaging 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), Hurricane Zeta will hit Louisiana as a Category 1 hurricane. Even if the storm weakens prior to landfall, NWS anticipates that it will bring severe impacts to south Louisiana through storm surge, rainfall, and high winds. The NWS intends to issue hurricane, storm surge, and flash flood warnings within the next 24 hours. It is forecasting sustained winds of 70 mph in some areas, with the heaviest winds anticipated to impact east and south of the metro New Orleans area. Rainfall of 2 to 6 inches is forecasted for areas immediately east of the eyewall, with localized flash flooding possible in those parishes. NWS is currently basing its projections on a Category 1 landfall, however Hurricane Zeta could bring strong damaging winds and storm surge and a few tornadoes in its rain bands in its track to Louisiana.



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.

At this time, due to the dangers presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Louisiana is conducting sheltering activities in non-congregate settings (NCS), whenever and wherever possible. Unfortunately, all of the major hotels that can accommodate NCS are directly in the path of the storm. Almost 4,000 evacuees from Hurricanes Laura and Delta are currently being sheltered in those hotels, primarily in the New Orleans area. Should the State need to relocate those individuals because of threats from Hurricane Zeta or need to evacuate others from areas not affected by Hurricanes Laura or Delta, that evacuation and sheltering operation would be beyond the State's capabilities without federal assistance.

In response to this situation, I have taken the appropriate action under state law and declared a statewide emergency (144 JBE 2020) on October 26, 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, 5 parishes have issued parish emergency declarations and many other 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

- Activating its EOC to Level 3 on October 27, 2020, and coordinating response measures across the state
- Holding daily parish coordination calls, beginning on October 25, 2020
- Processing sandbag, emergency generator, and pump requests
- Providing levee-protection measures to vulnerable low-lying areas

PARISHES

- Five (5) parishes have already issued emergency declarations, and more parishes are in the process of declaring
- Parish EOCs are activated and preparing for extensive wind and rain impacts
- Jefferson Parish has ordered voluntary evacuations in some areas (Grand Isle) beginning Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

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. In the midst of this pandemic, Louisiana is currently sheltering thousands of evacuees from Hurricane Laura, the strongest storm to make landfall in Louisiana in over 100 years, which struck Louisiana less than two (2) months ago. This was followed by Hurricane Delta one (1) month later which impacted the same region with additional damages and continued displacement of evacuees. The added expenses associated with sheltering these survivors in non-congregate settings are especially burdensome, as both local governments and non-governmental entities that traditionally provide shelters have reduced capabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. For these reasons, and pursuant to 44 C.F.R. 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, emergency protective measures, including those associated with mass care evacuation and shelter support, as well as pre-approval of non-congregate sheltering, is requested for the following parishes:

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

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 C.F.R. §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

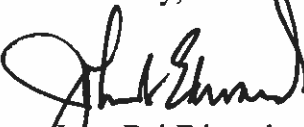
The Honorable Donald J. Trump

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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 (144 JBE 2020)