

DAMAGE SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

DISASTER CA25-7

MID-SEPTEMBER 2025 WINTER STORMS

SAN BERNADINO AND IMPERIAL COUNTIES

COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Prepared by:

California Department of Transportation
Division of Budgets
Federal Resources Office

Introduction

This Damage Survey Summary Report (DSSR) has been prepared for submission to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in response to a series of storm systems impacting San Bernadino and Imperial Counties, which first began on September 18, 2025. According to FHWA's Emergency Relief Manual (May 2013), the purpose of this DSSR is to "summarize the damage assessment and provide information and documentation for the FHWA Division Administrator to make a finding that a natural disaster or catastrophic failure has occurred within the intent of 23 U.S.C. 125." The DSSR also "provides the Division Administrator with a basis to make a finding that the disaster is eligible for funding under the FHWA ER program."

Damage Description

Beginning September 18, 2025, a powerful storm system struck the State of California, bringing high winds, substantial precipitation, flash flooding, and mudslides across San Bernadino and Imperial counties. The storms affected roads and other critical infrastructure, resulted in severe erosion, washouts, undermined embankments, damaging structures and obstructing major highways and local roads, and in including damage to canal systems and electrical to transmission lines and poles that resulted in a widespread loss of power throughout Imperial County.

On December 23, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency for the series of winter storm systems events impacting San Bernadino and Imperial Counties. This Damage Survey Summary Report includes copies of the Governor's State of Emergency Proclamation.

Damage Estimate

To date, the estimated cost to repair or reconstruct the damage to federal-aid highways in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 125 is \$40.7 million for State facilities and \$0.16 million for the Local agencies, subject to increase.

Additional Information

The following attached information describes the winter storm system damage in additional detail:

- Governor's State of Emergency Proclamation December 23, 2025.
- State and Local damage estimates (to date).
- Sampling of newspaper articles.
- Sample pictures of reported damage sustained

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GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FILED
in the office of the Secretary of State
of the State of California

DEC 30 2025

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

By 
Deputy Secretary of State

WHEREAS beginning on September 18, 2025, a powerful storm system ("2025 Mid-September Storm") impacted San Bernadino and Imperial Counties; and

WHEREAS the 2025 Mid-September Storm, fueled by tropical storm Mario, produced exceptionally high winds, heavy rainfall, flash flooding, and mudslides; and

WHEREAS the 2025 Mid-September Storm caused damage to roads and other infrastructure, including flooding and mudslides impacting State Routes 38, 62, and 178 in San Bernardino County that resulted in severe erosion, washouts, undermined embankments and other issues; and

WHEREAS the 2025 Mid-September Storm caused significant infrastructure damage in Imperial County and especially within the City of Brawley, including damage to canal systems and electrical to transmission lines and poles that resulted in a widespread loss of power throughout Imperial County; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to the 2025 Mid-September Storm in San Bernadino and Imperial Counties; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by the 2025 Mid-September Storm, by reason of its magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the extreme peril posed by the 2025 Mid-September Storm; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of 2025 Mid-September Storm.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in San Bernadino and Imperial Counties due to the 2025 Mid-September Storm.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All agencies of the state government shall utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all individuals are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.
2. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to public entities in Imperial County, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.
3. The California Department of Transportation shall formally request immediate assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program, United States Code, Title 23, section 125, in order to obtain federal assistance for local road and highway repairs or reconstruction that are needed due to the 2025 Mid-September Storm.
4. The restrictions set forth in Penal Code section 396, which are automatically triggered upon proclamation of a state of emergency, are suspended, and no such restrictions are imposed, with respect to the 2025 Mid-September Storm in San Bernadino and Imperial Counties.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 23rd day of December 2025.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
Secretary of State

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STATE & LOCAL
DAMAGE ESTIMATES

State Damage Estimate CA25-7:

											FHWA ER
Count	District	Date of Incident	DO (Y/N)	EA #	Work Description	County	Route	Begin PM	End PM	Cost Estimate	
1	8	9/18/2025	Y	1T320	Repair the damaged roadway	SBD	178	10	12	\$2,500,000	
2	8	9/18/2025	Y	1T330	Repair the damaged roadway	SBD	38	14.9	44.2	\$36,000,000	
3	8	9/18/2025	Y	1T350	Repair the damaged roadway	SBD	62	54	83	\$2,200,000	
TOTAL										\$ 40,700,000	

Damage Survey Summary Report

01/16/2026

Local Damage Estimate CA25-7:

Disaster Damage Site Information				Emergency Opening (Project Total
DISTRICT*	COUNTY	ROUTE	Federal-aid Roadway*** (check)	PM (Begin)	PM (End)	A EO Force Account	B EO Contract	Estimated Total Cost
8	San Bernardino	Chagall Road	Local	Oak Glen Road	Easterly City Limits	\$ -	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000
8	San Bernardino	Oak Glen Road	Major Collector	Pendleton Rd	Easterly City Limits	\$ -	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000
								\$ 160,000

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SAMPLING OF NEWS ARTICLES

U.S. NEWS

Sudden heavy rain in Southern California unleashes mudslides, 2-year-old drowns in floodwaters



By [DAMIAN DOVARGANES](#) and [AMY TAXIN](#), September 19, 2025

YUCAIPA, Calif. (AP) — Sudden heavy rain east of Los Angeles unleashed [mudslides](#) that plowed into homes and trapped drivers for hours on roadways while floodwaters swept away a vehicle carrying a father who was later rescued and his 2-year-old son who drowned, authorities said Friday.

Authorities rescued 10 people traveling in at least six vehicles who were stranded on state Route 38 in the area of Jenks Lake, near the San Bernardino National Forest, the fire district said. The route is narrow and winds through towering trees, curving back and forth up the mountainside and linking cities east of Los Angeles with the resort town of Big Bear Lake.

The mudslides affected the tiny mountain communities of Forest Falls, Oak Glen and Potato Canyon, the county's fire protection district said in a statement. One home in Forest Falls had giant tree trunks flung in its yard and piled so high they reached the roof.



Tropical Storm Mario hits Imperial County: Flooding and power outage notifications

JESSAMYN DODD Staff Writer Sep 20, 2025



EL CENTRO — Imperial County faced widespread power outages and flooding following heavy rains brought by Tropical Storm Mario.

The Imperial County Sheriff's Office (ICSO) reported wires down at Aten and Dogwood Road, including power lines completely blocking lanes.

One line south of the intersection trapped vehicles in the northbound lanes, while more damage was reported between Worthington and Aten.

State Route 111 was shut down in both directions from Cole Road to Highway 98, and Highway 78 was closed due to flooding between Ogilby Road and Palo Verde. Arizona 95 also remained closed as floodwaters covered roadways in the Blythe area.

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) confirmed that the storm caused widespread damage. Crews were dispatched to restore power and clear any hazards.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Typical Storm Damage Photos: 08-SBD-38



Typical Storm Damage Photos: 08-SBD-38



Typical Storm Damage Photos: 08-SBD-178