



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**California Division**

January 26, 2026

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[HDACA@dot.gov](mailto:HDACA@dot.gov)

In Reply, Refer To:  
HDA-CA

**ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE ONLY**

Mr. Raul Lerma, Chief  
Office of Federal Resources  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: FY25 Emergency Relief Finding of Eligibility for the August 2025  
Wildfires (CA25-8)

Dear Mr. Lerma:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reviewed the application for Emergency Relief funds for disaster event CA25-8 dated January 16, 2026, as required under 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 668.111(c) and (d). FHWA has determined that the event meets the requirements established under 23 United States Code (USC) 125 and is eligible to receive Emergency Relief funding. The Governor's Proclamation included in your application for Emergency Relief funding identified San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

Per 23 CFR 668.113(a), please submit a Program of Projects for this disaster event by May 31, 2026. The Program of Projects will constitute the current list of sites authorized for Emergency Relief funding under disaster event CA25-8.

The effective disaster event start date for this disaster event CA25-8 is August 1, 2025. The FHWA Acknowledgement letter dated December 15, 2025, established a Damage Assessment Forms (DAFs)/Detailed Damage Inspection Reports (DDIRs) submittal deadline of March 13, 2026. The ER application requested an extension to the DAF/DDIR deadline to perform necessary work to complete the damage assessments. This extension is granted and the DAFs/DDIRs must now be submitted by April 30, 2026.

Per 23 CFR 668.105(h), all Emergency Relief projects associated with this event are expected to advance to construction authorization by September 30, 2027.

Should you have any questions relating to this determination, please contact Peter Pangilinan, Emergency Relief Program Manager, at (916) 498-5886 or [Peter.Pangilinan@dot.gov](mailto:Peter.Pangilinan@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

Aimee Kratovil  
Acting Director, Project Delivery  
Federal Highway Administration

TO (via email):

Raul Lerma, Chief, Emergency Relief Program Manager OFR, Caltrans HQ  
[Raul.Lerma@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Raul.Lerma@dot.ca.gov)

CC (via email):

Dee Lam, Chief, Division of Local Assistance (DLA), Caltrans HQ  
Bob Baca, Acting Chief, Office of Federal Resources (OFR), Caltrans HQ  
Saba Mohan, Emergency Relief Program Coordinator OFR, Caltrans HQ  
Adam Ambrosini, Emergency Relief Program Coordinator OFR, Caltrans HQ  
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