



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

California Division

December 15, 2025

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 498-5001
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: Acknowledgement of Caltrans Letter of Intent for the July-August 2025 Wildfires
(CA25-8)

Dear Mr. Lerma:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Intent (LOI), dated December 9, 2025, to request Emergency Relief funds, authorized under 125 of Title 23, U.S.C., for the repair of eligible damage to Federal-aid highways resulting from the Madre and Gifford Wildfires (fires) beginning on July 2, 2025, and on August 1, 2025. The anticipated Governor's Proclamation will identify San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties as being impacted by the fires. The fires damaged critical infrastructure and roadside facilities throughout the Counties.

You should proceed with performance of emergency operations, including emergency repairs, on the Federal-aid highways necessary to restore essential traffic, to protect the remaining facilities, and to minimize the extent of damage. Also, you may proceed with preliminary engineering, meaning surveys, design, and preparation of construction plans to perform the permanent restoration work required as an associated part of the emergency operations and to use agency forces and/or negotiated equipment rental contracts, as necessary, to perform the work.

Permanent repairs completed during permanent restoration must receive Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) authorization prior to the start of work. To accelerate restoration efforts, Caltrans and Local Public Agencies are allowed to perform certain Permanent Repairs under Caltrans' Emergency Opening procedures (PR under EO). Agencies electing to use PR under EO must provide the certification form to certify that the work is within the existing right of way and that permanent repairs are the most economical option to restore essential traffic, or that a temporary detour that could safely accommodate essential traffic does not exist. These permanent repairs are subject to Right of Way and Environmental requirements but may be performed prior to the completion of normal Federal-aid procedures and documentation.

When performing PR under EO, submittal of the Detailed Damage Inspection Report/Damage Assessment Form (DDIR/DAF) is not necessary to start work. If FHWA does not concur with the use of PR under EO procedures, the costs incurred by the applicant are not eligible.

The eligibility of such work for Emergency Relief funds will be contingent upon a favorable finding of eligibility of the disaster by FHWA and subsequent approval of the work on a DAF(s) by FHWA. The basis for FHWA's decision will be the Emergency Relief Application which must include the Damage Survey Summary Report, Emergency Relief Application letter, and the Governor's Proclamation and/or President's Declaration.

If FHWA finds Caltrans' Emergency Relief Application to be eligible, all emergency work must be included in a program of projects under Emergency Relief disaster number CA25-8. The program of projects must be submitted within three months of FHWA's event eligibility determination. The program of projects must include a detailed outline of the necessary emergency operations performed and a description of the permanent restoration work proposed.

All DAFs must be submitted to FHWA by March 13, 2026. Sufficient record keeping must be done to permit audit of cost eligibility on a site-by-site basis.

The two-year deadline described in the Emergency Relief Manual and U.S.C. 125 (d)(1)(b) pertains to the deadline given to Caltrans for the submittal of the final program of projects eligible for Emergency Relief reimbursement under a particular disaster event.

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.

Sincerely,

Aimee Kratovil
Acting Director, Project Delivery
Federal Highway Administration

TO (via email):

Raul Lerma, Chief, Emergency Relief Program Manager Office of Federal Resources (OFR),
Caltrans HQ

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

Shawn Hart, Acting Chief, Office of Emergency Management and Infrastructure Protection,
Division of Maintenance, Caltrans HQ

Mike McCracken, Acting Senior Transportation Engineer, Office of Recovery and Operations,
Division of Maintenance, Caltrans HQ

Rachel Jenkinson, Transportation Engineer, Division of Maintenance, Caltrans HQ

Keith Duncan, Division Chief, Division of Budgets, Caltrans HQ

Daniel Karavan, Emergency Relief and Other Federal Program Coordinator DLA, Caltrans HQ

Dalton LaBoskey, Emergency Relief and Other Federal Program Coordinator DLA, Caltrans HQ

Doug Hecox, Acting Division Administrator, FHWA-CA

Brigitte Mandel, Acting Deputy Division Administrator, FHWA-CA

Zylkia Martín-Yambó, Team Leader, Project Delivery, FHWA-CA

Andrew Bianchi, Team Leader, Project Delivery, FHWA-CA

Trevor Hart, Acting Finance Manager, Financial Services, FHWA-CA

Christopher Long, Team Leader, Technical Services, FHWA-CA

Peter Pangilinan, Emergency Relief Program Manager, FHWA-CA

Dee.Lam@dot.ca.gov

Bob.Baca@dot.ca.gov

Saba.Mohan@dot.ca.gov

Adam.Ambrosini@dot.ca.gov

Shawn.Hart@dot.ca.gov

Mike.McCracken@dot.ca.gov

Rachel.Jenkinson@dot.ca.gov

Keith.Duncan@dot.ca.gov

Daniel.Karavan@dot.ca.gov

Dalton.Laboskey@dot.ca.gov

Doug.Hecox@dot.gov

Brigitte.Mandel@dot.gov

Zylkia.Martin-Yambo@dot.gov

Andrew.Bianchi@dot.gov

Trevor.Hart@dot.gov

Christopher.Long@dot.gov

Peter.Pangilinan@dot.gov