

California Department of Transportation

DIVISION OF BUDGETS
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December 9, 2025

Mr. Doug Hecox
Acting Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration, California Division
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Hecox:

Under the provisions of Section 125, Title 23 of the United States Code, this is a Letter of Intent by the California Department of Transportation to request Emergency Relief (ER) funds to assist in the cost of repairing damages on Federal-aid highways in California caused by wildfires.

Beginning on July 2, 2025, the Madre wildfires began in San Luis Obispo County, spreading rapidly due to high winds, low humidity, and dry conditions. In addition, on August 1, 2025, the Gifford wildfires began burning in the same area and, under similar conditions, spread beyond the Madre fires' burn area, impacting San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

The preliminary damage estimate information is currently being gathered by the State and Local agencies affected. Additional information will be provided with the subsequent ER Application under Disaster CA25-8 September 2025 Storm.

Under separate cover, the Office of Federal Resources will be submitting the ER Application, along with the Governor's Proclamation(s) and Damage Survey Summary Report, to provide the Division Administrator with a basis to make a finding that the disaster is eligible for ER funding.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Mike McCracken, Division of Maintenance at (916) 997-0646, or myself at (279) 234-2581 or by e-mail at <raul.lerma@dot.ca.gov>.

Sincerely,

RAUL LERMA, Chief
Program and Project Management Branch
Office of Federal Resources

Mr. Doug Hecox
December 9, 2025
Page 2

c: Peter Pangilinan, Senior Transportation Engineer, Project Delivery Districts 1 and 2
Federal Highway Administration
Andrew Bianchi, Transportation Engineer, Project Delivery, Federal Highway
Administration

bc: Zylkia Martin-Yambo, Acting Director, Project Delivery, Federal Highway Administration
Shawn Hart, Acting Chief, Office of Emergency Management and Infrastructure
Protection, Headquarters, Division of Maintenance, Caltrans
Mike McCracken, Acting Senior Transportation Engineer, Office of Recovery and
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Daniel Karavan, Transportation Engineer, Division of Local Assistance, Caltrans
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