



September 12, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Through: Ms. Gracia Szczech  
Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region IV  
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road  
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR §206.36, I request you declare an expedited major disaster for the state of Georgia as a result of the impacts from Hurricane Irma beginning on September 7, 2017 and continuing. This event inflicted substantial damage to the State, especially to Georgia's coastal counties, from high winds, torrential rainfall and storm surge with wind driven wave breakers. Nearly the entire state of Georgia was under a Hurricane or Tropical Storm warning, to include Georgia's northernmost counties.

All initial reports, including those developed by the National Weather Service and National Hurricane Center, indicate that Hurricane Irma will produce significant flooding, high winds and widespread power outages over much of the State. Currently, over a million Georgians are without power and this number is sure to rise as the storm progresses throughout the state.

Destructive coastal storm tide inundation in concert with high damaging surf impacted Georgia's coastline. Initial reports indicate historic flooding in Camden and Glynn Counties as a result of storm surge coupled with astronomically high tides. For reference, current high-tide numbers are approximately a foot below minor flood levels, without storm system impacts.

In response to this disastrous event, I took appropriate action under Georgia law and declared a State of Emergency on September 6, 2017, allowing Georgia to take proactive measures to save lives and protect property from the anticipated impact of Hurricane Irma. As the track shifted and the storm threatened more of Georgia, I expanded Georgia's State of Emergency several times and most recently declared a State of Emergency existed for the entirety of Georgia. I also authorized the Director of Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) to take all appropriate action and directed the execution of the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan. I ordered the mandatory evacuation of our coastal counties, east of Interstate 95 as well as the contraflow of Interstate 16 to facilitate citizens away from our most vulnerable areas. Further, I authorized up to 5,000 Georgia National Guardsmen be called to State Active Duty to bolster our state response.

Many counties have initiated protective actions, including activating local Emergency Operations Centers and executing local states of emergency. The State is coordinating sheltering operations, including special needs shelters, well inland and along evacuation routes.

As of today, ninety-four (94) Georgia counties are covered under a Federal Emergency Declaration and Georgia requested the balance of counties be added to mirror our current State of Emergency. I determined this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments, and additional Federal assistance is necessary. This request is for Public Assistance (Categories A-G), including Direct Federal Assistance, for all Georgia Counties and Hazard Mitigation statewide.

I am also asking for the full complement of Individual Assistance Programs for Georgia's six coastal counties (Camden, Glynn, McIntosh, Liberty, Bryan, Chatham) due to massive flooding and wind damage sustained, including the Individual and Households Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Disaster Legal Services, Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Program and the Small Business Administration Disaster Loans Program.

The State of Georgia has a federally approved enhanced state mitigation plan. The most recent update to the plan was approved by FEMA on March 18, 2014 and is effective through March 30, 2019.

As stated in my Emergency Declaration request, anticipated Direct Federal Assistance may include a Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Veterinary Medical Assistance Team, National Veterinarian Emergency Response Team, EPA Waterborne Hazardous Materials Clean-Up Team, Infrastructure Inspection Teams (Waste Water), Dam Safety Inspection Team, search and rescue operations, water and food operations, generators with necessary fuel and debris removal to support immediate response and recovery operations in the impacted areas.

While the State and local governments prepared as efficiently as possible in the days prior to landfall, much of the support local jurisdictions will need has yet to be requested. The following information provides a snapshot of the nature and amount of state, local, and nonprofit organizational resources dedicated to help alleviate the conditions of the disaster:

- The State Operations Center (SOC) activated on September 7, 2017 and coordinated the provision of state resources in response to local requests for assistance and to facilitate the joint federal – state – local response efforts. More than 150 State and federal and local government employees, representatives from private sector partners and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD's) are currently working in the SOC. Georgia utilizes WEBEOC to track significant events and already processed numerous requests for assistance.



- The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is fully activated and responding to requests for assistance for repairs and prepared to deploy bridge inspection teams to the coast.
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) marshalled all available boats, operators, high ground clearance vehicles and its Critical Action Teams and is executing search, rescue and security operations in the impacted area. DNR Parks Division has opened all state parks for sheltering operations and currently have over 7,000 citizens sheltered across the state.
- Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS) has more than 1000 DPS officers placed on Phase A readiness, meaning prepared for 12 hour shifts and deployment without life support for up to 5 days. Currently, DPS officers are moving to the coastal region to support re-entry perimeter security since several of Georgia's coastal counties cannot currently provide essential services necessary for a return to normalcy.
- Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) is conducting emergency debris clearing, fire support and Logistics Staging Area management.
- Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is coordinating and performing special needs sheltering operations throughout the state.
- The American Red Cross is currently sheltering over 7,000 citizens in emergency shelters in multiple counties.

#### Factors for Public Assistance:

##### 1) Estimated Cost of Assistance

State and local officials are still conducting search and rescue, with life safety as their top priority. Considering the amount of devastation, I

expect our emergency managers to remain in the response phase of incident management for the next 72 hours. Only after resolving all life safety concerns can we begin to assess the monetary damage sustained in the affected area.

## 2) Power Outages

Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) reports over 450,000 customer outages. Georgia Power reports an additional estimated 750,000 customer outages in the state for a total of 1.2 million Georgians without power. With such severe and widespread damage, power will remain a concern for the foreseeable future. Due to the lack of power, several southern counties are reporting water and wastewater system failures, which create an additional safety concern.

## 3) Localized Impacts

As of this morning, at least two (2) Georgians have been fatally injured as a result of the severe weather system. Quantifiable damage information is slowly coming in as first responders tend to life safety concerns. However, I can provide a snapshot of two (2) of the most impacted areas. Initial reports from Camden County detail at least 2,000 homes flooded from the storm and Glynn County reports power and water are unavailable on its heavily inhabited barrier islands of Saint Simons and Jekyll.

The local communities are overwhelmed with the massive amount of fallen trees, debris, downed power lines and poles. Many areas are inaccessible to citizens and emergency crews throughout the impacted region. The State of Emergency remains in effect, allowing state resources to help secure the uninhabitable areas and aid in road clearing and debris removal, so emergency services can access all parts of the State. For the aforementioned reasons, life safety remains our main concern as this storm progresses through the State. Normal county and city operations will be seriously disrupted due to road conditions and power outages. Many businesses will remain closed resulting in a significant loss of revenue. Especially in our coastal counties, local and state resources are simply not

enough for the impacted area to recover from this series of disasters efficiently.

#### 4) Hazard Mitigation

As previously noted, the State of Georgia has an approved enhanced state mitigation plan. Previous mitigation efforts by the State and local governments undoubtedly contributed to a reduction of both loss to property and injury or death to individuals. Further Hazard Mitigation assistance will continue to create a more resilient region and State.

#### 5) Recent Multiple Disasters

The State of Georgia is still recovering from the January, 2016 flooding disaster (DR-4259). Georgia received a major disaster declaration on February 26, 2016.

The State of Georgia is still recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Matthew (DR-4284). Georgia received an expedited major disaster declaration on October 8, 2016.

The State of Georgia is still recovering from the devastation of two separate tornado systems, both of which impacted South Georgia in January, 2017. The compounding effect of these two storms in a localized area has proven devastating to the impacted communities and families. Georgia received major disaster declarations (DR-4294 and DR-4297) for each storm system.

Aside from Major Disaster Declarations, Georgia had two fire disasters requiring Fire Management Assistance Grants in the last ten (10) months.

To conclude, the State of Georgia exceeded its ability to fully recover from this destructive storm system impacting the entirety of Georgia. Hurricane Irma caused and continues to cause massive amounts of fallen trees, debris, downed powerlines and



destroyed structures. This storm prompted a widespread and ongoing response from state and local officials and activation of the SOC.

Attached hereto and in support of this request is FEMA form 010-1-13 and Georgia's watches and warnings map, which demonstrates just how widespread the impacts from Hurricane Irma are for Georgia. I have designated Homer Bryson as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Deal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nathan Deal

Governor

Enclosures

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

National Weather Service Maps

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

1. Request Date Sep 12, 2017

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration. . Georgia		2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). 9,687,653
3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name Nathan Deal	4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number Homer Bryson (404) 635-7001	
5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number Homer Bryson (404) 635-7001		

7. Incident Period:	Beginning Date Sep 7, 2017	End Date	or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuing	<i>If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).</i>
---------------------	-------------------------------	----------	---	---

☐ Drought    ☐ Earthquake    ☐ Explosion    ☐ Fire    ☒ Flood    ☒ Hurricane    ☐ Landslide    ☐ Mudslide  
☒ Severe Storm (rain, high water, wind-driven rain, hail, lighting)    ☐ Snowstorm (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data)    ☒ Straight-Line Winds  
☐ Tidal Wave    ☒ Tornado    ☒ Tropical Depression    ☒ Tropical Storm    ☐ Tsunami    ☐ Volcanic Eruption    ☐ Winter Storm  
☐ Other (please specify)

9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.

The Governor declared a state of emergency on September 6, 2017 and activated the State Emergency Operations Plan. The State Operations Center coordinated the provision of state resources in response to requests for assistance. WEBEOC was utilized to track significant events and requests for assistance. Significant efforts are currently concentrated on emergency protective measures primarily in the areas of sheltering, evacuation, and pre-positioning of assets.

FEMA Form 010-0-13, (3/13)



10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\*

☐ Individual Assistance      Dates Performed \_\_\_\_\_ Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Start \_\_\_\_\_ End \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

☐ Public Assistance      Dates Performed \_\_\_\_\_ Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Start \_\_\_\_\_ End \_\_\_\_\_

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance    ☐ N/A    ☐ Individuals and Households    ☐ Crisis Counseling Program    ☐ Disaster Unemployment Assistance  
    ☒ All    ☐ Disaster Case Management    ☐ Disaster Legal Services

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation).

Bryan, Camden, Chatham, Glynn, Liberty, and McIntosh Counties

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance for additional information in support of this request\*.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

## 11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance ☐ N/A ☒ Debris Removal (Category A) ☒ Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) ☒ Permanent Work (Categories C-G)\*  
(not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

All 159 Georgia Counties

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance for additional information in support of this request\*.

## Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity

☐ I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

## Request for Direct Federal Assistance

☐ I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

☒ I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

Anticipated Direct Federal Assistance may include Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Disaster Mortuary Operations Response Team, Veterinary Medical Assistance Team, National Veterinarian Emergency Response Team, EPA Waterborne Hazardous Materials Clean-Up Team, Infrastructure Inspection Teams (Waste Water), search and rescue operations, water and food operations, dam safety inspection team, generators with fuel and debris removal to support immediate response and recovery operations in the impacted areas.

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

State and local resources will be overwhelmed by the magnitude of the Hurricane and the related impacts. The State of Georgia does not have sufficient quantities of the requested resources and there is not sufficient time to procure the resources from the private sector prior to hurricane landfall.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways 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 or FEMA-Tribe Agreement; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

## Request for Snow Assistance

☒ N/A ☐ I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data for additional information in support of this request\*.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

## 11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation\* ☒ Statewide

OR

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

## 12. Mitigation Plan Information\*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date 03/30/2019

b. Type of Plan

☒ Enhanced☐ Standard

## 13. Other Federal Agency Programs

☐ I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies ☒ I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal AgenciesPlease see **Enclosure C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs** for additional information in support of this request\*.

## 14. Findings and Certifications

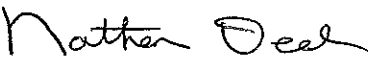
☒ I certify the following:

a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on 9/7/2017 in accordance with the Stafford Act.

c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

## 15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

☒ Cover Letter ☐ Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)\* ☐ Enclosure B (Public Assistance)\*☐ Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs) ☐ Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)☒ Additional Supporting Documentation National Weather Service  
Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's SignatureSep 12, 2017

Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request