



California Congressional Delegation Asks President Bush to Help  
8 California Counties Recover from Devastating Storms  
February 1, 2005

*Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and 47 other members of the bipartisan California Congressional Delegation are urging President Bush to declare a disaster in eight counties in California that were struck by devastating snow and rainstorms this winter.*

*The members of the delegation sent a letter to President Bush asking that he approve Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's federal disaster request. Representatives David Dreier (R-Calif.), Chairman of the California Republican Congressional Delegation, and Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.), Chair of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, coordinated the delegation's request to the President.*

*Following is the text of the letter:*

January 31, 2005

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge your expedited approval of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's federal disaster declaration request in the counties of Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura, California, due to the severe winter storms that caused devastating flooding and mudslides.

Beginning on December 28, 2004, California witnessed a series of snow and rainstorms throughout the state resulting in widespread damage including flooding, mudslides, heavy debris flows, and damage to roads, bridges and public buildings. Our constituents also experienced tragedy when seventeen lives were lost as a direct result of the storms, including ten in the La Conchita mudslides, four in severe floodwaters in San Bernardino County, and one individual remains missing in the San Antonio Reservoir in Ventura County. Over 15,400 claims have been filed with insurance companies due to storm damage with approximately 1,200 homes damaged and 215 destroyed. More than 5,500 residents were evacuated due to three separate events involving potential dam or creek bank failures, and more than 300 highways and local roads were closed during the storms and sustained extensive damage.

Based on the Preliminary Damage Assessment performed by federal, state, and local authorities, the Governor has determined federal assistance is necessary under Individual Assistance, including the Individuals and Households Program, Crisis Counseling, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation and any other Stafford Act programs as appropriate for the eight counties. We strongly support this assessment of needs and also strongly agree that the traumatic nature of storm related deaths, the relatively low rate of insurance in some of the most severely impacted communities, and the lack of other assistance programs warrants the implementation of individual assistance programs for this disaster.

As California is still recovering from previous disasters like the Southern California Wildfires of October 2003, and the San Simeon Earthquake in December 2003, we respectfully urge you to expeditiously review the Governor's request and ensure that all appropriate federal assistance is granted.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein	Dennis Cardoza	Daniel E. Lungren
David Dreier	Linda T. Sanchez	Bob Filner
Jerry Lewis	George Radanovich	Tom Lantos
Lois Capps	Devin Nunes	Duncan Hunter
Elton Gallegly	Joe Baca	Lucille Roybal-Allard
Zoe Lofgren	Brad Sherman	Juanita Millender-McDonald
Bill Thomas	Mike Thompson	Diane Watson
Henry A. Waxman	Gary Miller	Darrell E. Issa
George Miller	Loretta Sanchez	Ellen O. Tauscher
Ed Royce	Michael M. Honda	Barbara Lee
Ken Calvert	Lynn Woolsey	Hilda L. Solis
Howard L. Berman	Nancy Pelosi	Sam Farr
Anna Eshoo	Randy "Duke" Cunningham	Grace F. Napolitano
Adam Schiff	Maxine Waters	John T. Doolittle
Mary Bono	Howard "Buck" McKeon	Wally Herger
Jim Costa	Jane Harman	Susan A. Davis

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