

Monterey County Disasters 2016-17 Fact Sheet

Soberanes Fire 2016

Overview

- July 22, 2016: The Soberanes Fire began in the Garrapata State Park area and went on to burn over 132,000 acres in Monterey County. The fire became the costliest firefight in U.S. history at \$275 million. Over 80% of the fire was on federal and state lands. The cost to Monterey County, with no firmly committed source of reimbursement, is estimated at \$10.5 million.
- July 23, 2016: A local emergency was proclaimed by the County Administrative Officer, and was ratified by the Board of Supervisors on July 26, 2016 (Res. 16-206).
- July 26, 2016: Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency.

CalOES - Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG)

- On or about July 25, 2016, the Incident Commander applied to CalOES for Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) assistance. The FMAG request was approved by CalOES on July 28, 2016. On January 18, 2017, the County submitted a FMAG request to CalOES in the amount of \$10.3 million.

CalOES – California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA)

- On August 3, 2016 the County sent a letter to the Governor and the Director of CalOES requesting CDAA assistance.
- On October 21, 2016 CalOES sent a letter to Monterey County stating:
“As a result of assessments conducted in response to Monterey County’s request for CDAA funding, it was determined Monterey County has not exceeded its capabilities to respond to and recover from this event. Therefore, CDAA funding is denied.”
- If CDAA appeal succeeds, the County would request approximately \$10.5M for recovery costs.

Winter Storms 2016-17

Overview

- January 3, 2017: A series of heavy winter storms began which caused significant flooding, erosion, and damages to County roads and parks. Costs for emergency and long term repairs on roads and infrastructure is estimated at \$18.5 million. These costs are expected to rise as new damage is uncovered and repairs continue.
- January 12, 2017: A local Emergency was declared by the County Administrative Officer, and was ratified by the Board of Supervisors on January 19, 2017 (Res. 17-008).
- January 23, 2017: Governor's Proclamation of State of Emergency in 50 Counties across California for the 2016-17 winter storms, including Monterey County. The Proclamation opens the possibility of CDAA grant assistance. However, the Proclamation uses the phrase “as appropriate” as determined by the CalOES Director.

CalOES – California Disaster Assistance Act

- January 18, 2017: Monterey County OES requested CDAA assistance from the Governor and CalOES through a formal letter, citing damages estimated at \$15,735,000 and rising.

Current Efforts:

The County hired Jerry Quinn, a consultant with expertise in disaster recovery, to assist with cost recovery efforts related to the FMAG reimbursement, the CDAA appeal for the Soberanes fire, and the CDAA application for the 2016-17 winter storms.

The County's grant consultant, Jennifer Capitolo with Nossaman LLP, has been in contact with the Governor's office regarding the County's CDAA applications.

January 25, 2017



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October 21, 2016

The Honorable Jane Parker
Monterey County Board of Supervisors
160 West Alisal Street, First Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Subject: CDAA Determination for Monterey County – Soberanes Fire

Dear Chair Parker:

This letter is in response to Monterey County's request for California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) funds to defray costs incurred as a result of the Soberanes Fire.

To assist with firefighting related costs, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) made a request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) for the Soberanes Fire, which FEMA approved on July 28, 2016 (FEMA-5137-FM-CA). The FMAG will provide federal reimbursement of 75 percent of the eligible fire suppression activities costs associated with the fire. Further, in accordance with the California Emergency Services Act, on July 26, 2016, Acting Governor Tom Torlakson proclaimed a State of Emergency for Monterey County due to the Soberanes Fire. The State of Emergency was issued to help mobilize additional firefighting and disaster response resources.

As a result of assessments conducted in response to Monterey County's request for CDAA funding, it was determined Monterey County has not exceeded its capabilities to respond to and recover from this event. Therefore, CDAA funding is denied.

Cal OES is committed to continuing to work closely with your team during the recovery efforts. Feel free to contact me directly at (916) 845-8506, if you have any additional questions or if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

MARK S. GHILARDUCCI
Director

cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Canella, California State Senate
The Honorable Diane Feinstein, California State Senate
The Honorable Bill Monning, California State Senate
The Honorable Luis Alejo, California State Assembly
The Honorable Mark Stone, California State Assembly
Mr. Lew C. Bouman, County Administrative Officer, Monterey County
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