



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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September 8, 2025

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
200 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: **Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act (H.R. 4669) – SUPPORT**

Dear Congresswoman Lofgren and Congressman Panetta:

On behalf of the County of Monterey, we write to express our strong support for the bipartisan *Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act* (H.R. 4669). This legislation provides long-overdue reforms to streamline disaster recovery, increase transparency and efficiency, and make federal assistance more accessible to the communities we serve.

Counties are the nation's frontline responders during disasters – providing emergency services, clearing debris, operating shelters, and managing long-term recovery. Yet we often face an overly bureaucratic and delayed federal process that slows our ability to deliver timely support to residents and rebuild critical infrastructure. The FEMA Act directly addresses these barriers.

Specifically, we support key provisions in the FEMA Act that will have a transformative impact on county disaster response and recovery:

- **Universal Disaster Application:** Simplifies and unifies survivor applications across federal agencies, reducing confusion, duplication, and delays for disaster survivors during the most stressful times of their lives.
- **Public Assistance Program Reform:** Transitions from a reimbursement-based model to a grant-based model for FEMA Public Assistance, ensuring counties – many of which operate on tight budgets – can more quickly restore vital infrastructure without fronting millions of dollars.
- **Public Assistance Dashboard:** Increases transparency and visibility into the status of project approvals, obligations, and disbursements, helping counties plan better, hold partners accountable and identify bottlenecks.
- **Mitigation Program Reforms:** Modernizes FEMA's mitigation programs so counties can proactively address vulnerabilities before the next disaster strikes, better protecting lives, property and taxpayer dollars.

At this critical moment – with growing disaster frequency, increased financial strain, and persistent recovery challenges – the FEMA Act offers counties a pathway to more timely, coordinated, and effective disaster assistance. The bill recognizes counties as essential partners in emergency management and reflects meaningful engagement with local officials across the country.

We thank you for your leadership and urge swift passage of the FEMA Act to better serve our residents and strengthen the nation's disaster response and recovery framework.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Chris M. Lopez, Chair
Board of Supervisors



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cc: The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator for California
The Honorable Adam Schiff, U.S. Senator for California
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)

