

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 5, 2025

Cameron Hamilton
Acting Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency 500
C Street, SW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Acting Administrator Hamilton,

As members of the California delegation, we write to express our appreciation for Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) assistance and support in response to the devastating wildfires in Los Angeles this past January. We also write to respectfully urge FEMA to approve Cal OES's request to extend the application deadline for Individual Assistance (IA) to May 9, 2025, for victims under the January 8, 2025, California Wildfires and Straight-line Winds Major Disaster Declaration.

As you know, FEMA has the authority to extend these deadlines in extraordinary circumstances, such as this disaster. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Eaton, Palisades, and Hurst fires destroyed over 11,600 homes, displaced 22,600 households, and took 29 lives. These fires devastated homes, schools, businesses, places of worship, and entire neighborhoods. Initial estimates find that the economic losses resulting from these fires could make this one of the costliest natural disasters in U.S. history.

Currently, the application deadline for Individual Assistance through FEMA is March 10, 2025, in line with the standard 60-day application period for most disaster declarations. Due to the massive scale of destruction caused by the January wildfires, many victims will not know the total sum of their losses or whether these losses exceed their insurance coverage before the end of the 60-day application period. The widespread damage to infrastructure has made access to many homes in the affected areas difficult or impossible. Additionally, many fire victims have lost computers, cell phones, and other technological devices, limiting their ability to submit applications and to receive messages transmitted by FEMA and other authorities pertaining to relief. For these reasons, it is imperative that FEMA grant California's request to extend the IA application deadline to May 9, 2025.

We urge you to swiftly extend the application deadlines so that Southern Californians impacted by the fires can evaluate their losses with ample time and apply for relief. Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to delivering relief to those who lost their homes, businesses, and loved ones in this disaster.

Sincerely,



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



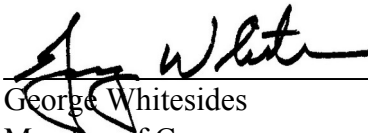
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Josh Harder
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



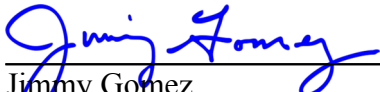
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



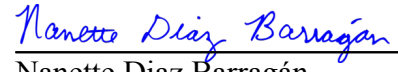
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



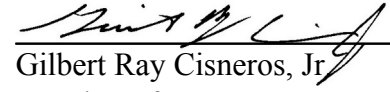
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



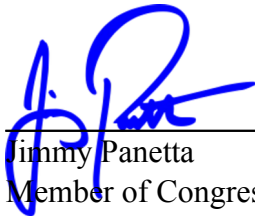
Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr
Member of Congress



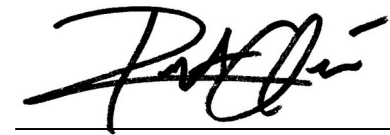
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



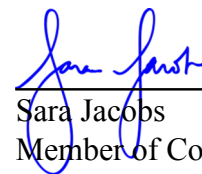
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



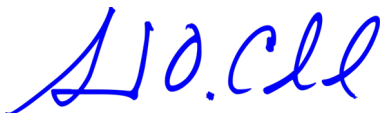
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress




Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



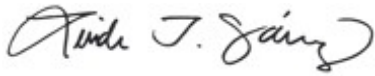
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



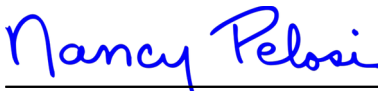
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



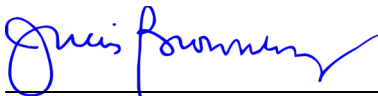
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



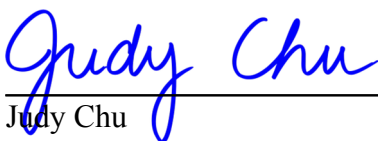
Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



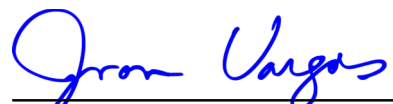
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



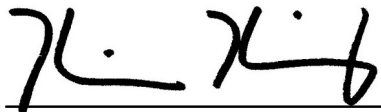
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



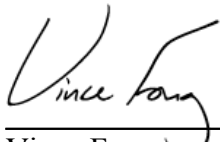
Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



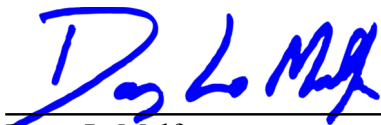
Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress



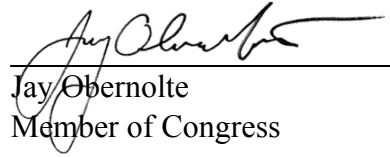
Vince Fong
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



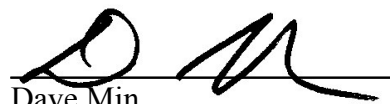
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress



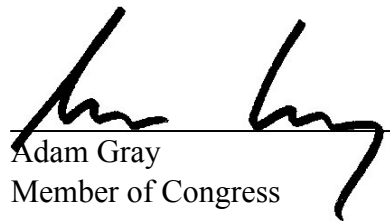
David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



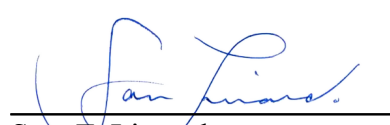
Dave Min
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Adam Gray
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress