

July 10, 2019

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Regional Administrator Tony Robinson
FEMA Region 6
Denton, TX

RE: Request for Presidential Disaster Declaration – Major Disaster

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 that you declare a major disaster for the state of Texas as a result of severe weather and flooding that began on June 24, 2019, and continues.

In response to the current situation, I have taken the appropriate action under state law by directing the execution of the state's emergency management plan and by declaring a state of disaster on June 27, 2019, for three Texas counties.

Pursuant to 44 CFR 206.36, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster. I am requesting Individual Assistance, Direct Federal Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation statewide for the following counties:

Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy counties

As we are able to assess damages to the other affected counties, including infrastructure damage, I reserve the right to request additional types of federal assistance and for additional counties in Texas.

This flooding event comes almost exactly one year after what the National Weather Service termed "The Great Flood" in this same location. On July 6, 2018, a major disaster declaration was issued for Cameron, Hidalgo, and Jim Wells counties in response to severe storms and flooding. This declaration provided Individual Assistance to these counties; however, over \$60 million in infrastructure damages went unanswered due to duplication of benefits issues

because the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was deemed responsible for the damages. Unfortunately, the NRCS had no funding to assist, leaving these hard hit counties with no federal recovery assistance. One year later, while these jurisdictions are still trying to manage the effects of the 2018 storm, another disaster has occurred. These jurisdictions are having difficulty recovering on their own.

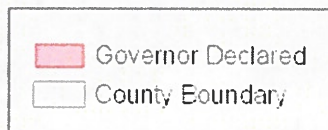
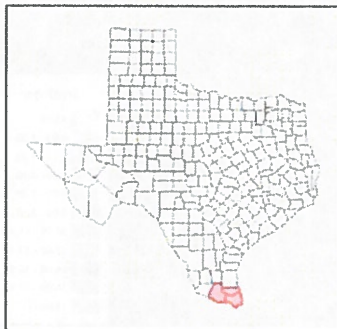
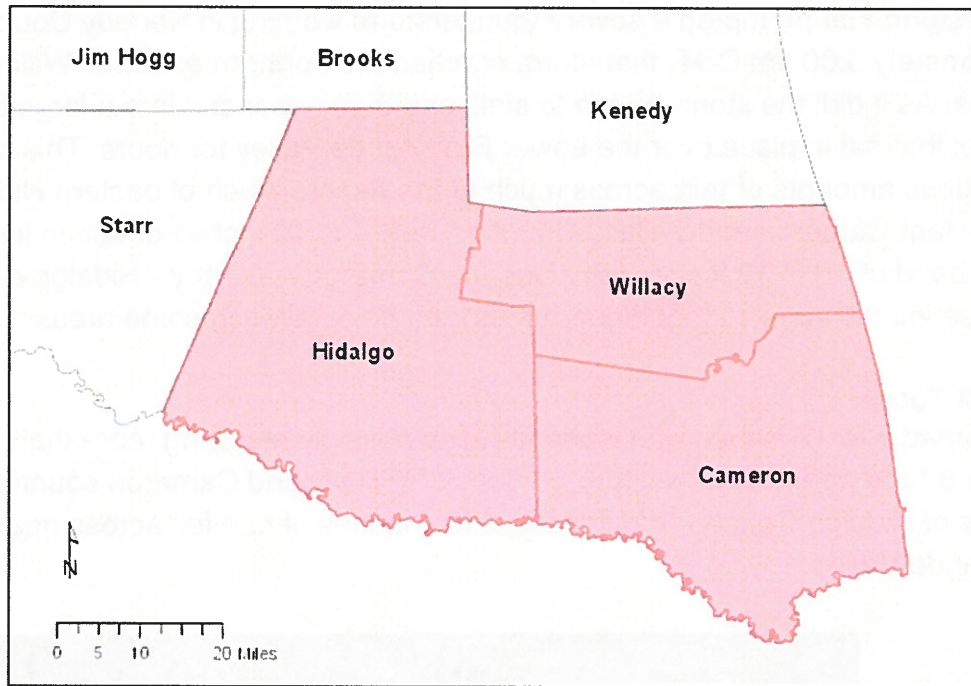
In addition, the state continues to struggle with catastrophic Hurricane Harvey recovery and the other nine major disasters to strike the state in the last four years. The state has fought aggressive wildfires, with five Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) declared in the last three years, four in 2018 alone. Of the 254 counties in Texas, 182 counties have been declared in one of these disasters. The three counties included in this request are still recovering from one or more of these previous disasters, with Cameron County recovering from four of these disasters. The population of the counties under these nine declarations is over 24.3 million people, representing 86 percent of the total population of Texas. Those 24.3 million people living in an area hit by disaster is greater than the population of 48 other states.

Texans, first responders across the state, local officials, and volunteer organizations are exhausted. The last several years have taken a terrible toll on the people and the property of this state. Texans are resilient, but few can recover without assistance when new disasters occur during recovery efforts from previous disasters. Texans will overcome these challenges, but assistance is needed from the federal government.





Counties Under Governor's Declaration 19-0022 June Severe Weather



**Texas Department of Public Safety
Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)
TDEM Critical Information Systems**

Data Source: Office of the Texas Governor
Map Created: July 8, 2019

Figure 1: Counties Requested

INCIDENT OVERVIEW

On the morning of June 24, 2019, thunderstorms across Southeast Texas produced an outflow boundary that began traveling southwestward down the Texas coast. By late that afternoon, the boundary began interacting with moisture coming onshore from the Gulf of Mexico. Aided by the afternoon heating of the day, the boundary produced a strong thunderstorm that prompted a severe thunderstorm warning in Kenedy County. By approximately 5:00 pm CDT, that storm reached the northern extent of Willacy and Hidalgo counties. As it did, the storm began to stall, and then expanded into a large thunderstorm complex that sat in place over the Lower Rio Grande Valley for hours. This complex dumped tremendous amounts of rain across much of the region. Much of eastern Hidalgo County, and western Cameron and Willacy Counties, saw 4 to 10 inches of rain in just a few hours. A narrow band of 10 to 12 inches fell along the Cameron – Willacy - Hidalgo county lines. Radar estimates suggest that higher totals may have fallen in some areas.

Rainfall Totals

Widespread 8 to 12 inches with isolated areas possibly receiving more than 12 inches fell in about a 6-hour period over western portions of Willacy and Cameron counties and eastern portions of Hidalgo County. Additionally, 2 to 4 inches of rain fell across nearly the rest of the Rio Grande Valley.

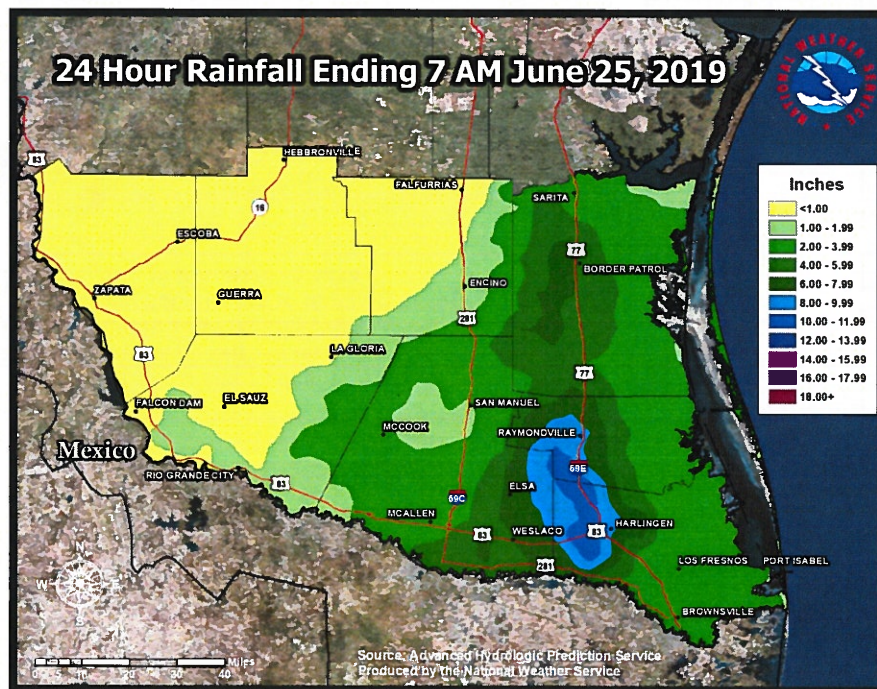


Figure 2: 24 Hour Rainfall Ending 7:00 AM, June 25, 2019

Location	County	Rainfall Total (in inches)
Harlingen 4.7 WSW	Cameron	11.60
Harlingen 3.1 WSW	Cameron	11.40
Harlingen 4.4 W	Cameron	11.12
Harlingen 6.2 WSW	Cameron	11.03
Harlingen 4.2 W	Cameron	11.00
Harlingen 4.7 W	Cameron	10.96
Raymondville Co-Op	Willacy	9.70
Harlingen 0.4 W	Cameron	8.60
Weslaco Co-Op	Hidalgo	6.95
Harlingen Co-Op	Cameron	6.29
Brownsville 3.5 N	Cameron	4.52
Lozano 1.4 S	Cameron	4.50
Brownsville 1.7 NNE	Cameron	4.18
Brownsville 4.1 ENE	Cameron	4.16
Brownsville 2.8 N	Cameron	3.92
Brownsville 1.5 WNW	Cameron	3.73
Mission	Hidalgo	3.46
Brownsville 0.4 WSW	Cameron	3.25
McAllen 3.5 N	Hidalgo	3.20
Brownsville 2.2 W	Cameron	3.14
Los Fresnos 0.3 NE	Cameron	3.12
Edinburg 2.4 N	Hidalgo	3.08
McAllen	Hidalgo	2.83
Brownsville 6.4 SE	Cameron	2.70
McAllen 2.7 NNE	Hidalgo	2.65
Los Fresnos 2.1 NNE	Cameron	2.64
Edinburg Co-Op	Hidalgo	2.49
Laguna Atascosa	Cameron	2.39
San Benito 7.8 E	Cameron	2.38
Mission	Hidalgo	2.37
4 W Edinburg	Hidalgo	2.35
Port Mansfield Co-Op	Willacy	2.53
Port Mansfield 1.1 SE	Willacy	2.53
Brownsville 6.4 WNW	Cameron	2.27
Rancho Viejo 0.7 E	Cameron	2.21
McAllen Co-Op	Hidalgo	2.20
Linn-San Manuel	Hidalgo	2.19

Rainfall Records

- New daily rainfall records were set at most available Rio Grande Valley climate recording locations:

- Raymondville (Willacy County), with 9.7 inches* (prior: 1.83 inches in 1922; new June daily record - prior: 6.23 inches on 6/21/1993)
- Weslaco (Hidalgo County), with 6.95 inches* (prior: 3.72 inches in 1951)
- Harlingen (Cameron County), with 6.29 inches* (prior: 2.23 in 1926; new June daily record - prior: 5.89 inches on 6/20 2018)
- McAllen (Hidalgo County), with 3.30 inches (prior: 1.83 inches in 1973)
- Edinburg (Hidalgo County), with 2.49 inches* (prior: 1.36 inches in 2014)
- Brownsville (Cameron County), with 2.06 inches (prior: 2 inches in 1920)

*Based on 7 AM to 7 AM records

These single day rainfall totals, except for Brownsville and Edinburg, were above the monthly averages for June. For Harlingen and Weslaco, these values were around three times the monthly average and more than four times the monthly average for Raymondville.

This resulted in catastrophic flooding across much of Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy counties – including, but not limited to, the cities of Raymondville, Sebastian, Harlingen, Primera, La Feria, Mercedes, Elsa, and Monte Alto. Some locations saw water as high as four feet above ground. Much of the flooding went on for days beyond the initial event.





In addition to the flooding, severe thunderstorm wind gusts – estimated to be in the 65 to 75 miles per hour (mph) range - caused damage in many locations of eastern Hidalgo County. Numerous homes and other structures were either heavily damaged, or destroyed by these winds.

Flood and Severe Weather Reports and Impacts

For most of Willacy County's population, the western third of Cameron, and a corner of eastern Hidalgo, the following occurred:

- Nearly a foot of rain fell in about six hours (perhaps more based on radar) in these areas.
- Hundreds of streets and several hundred homes were flooded.
- More than 100 persons were evacuated to safe high ground from dozens of homes threatened by 2 or more feet of water in several locations in each county.
- At least 40,000 utility power customers were without power at the peak of the storm
- Early damage estimates are easily in the tens of millions of dollars.
- Estimated 65 to 75 mph winds caused at least five poorly built mobile homes to be rolled or demolished in eastern Hidalgo County.
- Lightning struck a wind turbine and set it ablaze in Willacy County.

Cities and towns with the most impact included:

- Raymondville (Willacy County) - The entire north half of the city's streets were flooded, with dozens if not more than 100 homes and business taking on inches to feet of water.
- Sebastian (Willacy County) - All neighborhood streets were flooded due to rainfall and drainage issues through the 25th and beyond.
- Harlingen/Primera (Cameron County) - Frontage roads, businesses along them, and neighborhoods - all north of Interstate 2 - had multiple flood issues due to rainfall and overwhelmed drainage systems.
- Harlingen (Cameron County) - The Arroyo Colorado near Harlingen crested at 22.67 feet, the highest level since June 2018 and the fourth highest on record. It was the second time in two years that only runoff from rainfall caused the rises. The high water flooded parks and other activities inside the levee.

- La Feria through Mercedes (Cameron/Hidalgo County Line) – This area experienced a situation similar to portions of northwest Harlingen. This was the primary area of overlapping impacts similar to the June 2018 event, just one year later.
- Elsa through Monte Alto (Hidalgo County) – A severe thunderstorm produced sporadic straight-line wind damage. At least five residences were demolished, one rusting grain silo tower collapsed, and dozens of trees were uprooted and numerous tree limbs blown down. Flooding rains and poor drainage left at least 4 feet of water in at least one neighborhood, requiring evacuations.



RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Response information listed in this document is current as of July 7, 2019. State agencies have been coordinating through the Texas Division of Emergency Management to provide assistance as requested and needed by local jurisdictions. Evacuations and rescues have been a focus in all affected areas. In total, state agencies supported and assisted local jurisdictions in conducting over 900 rescues in Cameron, Willacy, and Hidalgo counties.

Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF 1)

TX-TF 1 deployed one boat squad to the affected areas to assist the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). TX-TF 1 completed 32 evacuations.

Texas Military Department (TMD)

TMD provided one high profile platoon of 5 vehicles and 12 personnel to support the affected areas in water evacuations from residential areas. In addition, TMD assisted in delivering 100 gallons of water to the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Group, which provided services in local shelters.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

Texas Game Wardens provided two search and rescue teams to support affected areas in water evacuations from vehicles and residential areas.

Texas A&M AgriLife

Texas Agrilife supported DDC-21 and local jurisdictions through providing assistance preparing and submitting daily situation reports.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

DSHS provided Tetanus & Hepatitis A Vaccines for 200 adults and 50 children for Cameron County. In addition, Willacy County has standing water and inaccessible areas due to flooding, and the current mosquito count is very high. To combat this, 20 barrels of Adulticide Clarke Mosquito Units and 200 boxes of Larvacide Briquets for vector operations were provided.





Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

TxDOT provided five high profile vehicles and personnel in support of high water rescue operations, assisted motorists, and placed traffic control devices on flooded routes. TxDOT reported a total of 30 flooded highways, which included 16 closed highways throughout the affected area. Currently, TxDOT crews are assessing infrastructure damage as the flood waters recede.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

TCEQ supported DDC-21 operations to support the assessment of drinking water and wastewater facilities in impacted areas to determine operational status and address any significant incidents.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Texas Highway Patrol (THP) assisted with evacuations, road closures and traffic direction throughout the affected areas. A DPS Tactical Marine Unit supported approximately 45 water evacuations in the affected area.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management continues to support coordination of the state response and recovery efforts for the disaster from Disaster District 21 with field staff providing support and damage assessments in the affected areas. Through the Texas Emergency Management Assistance Team, a Volunteer Agency Liaison (VAL) was provided to support Cameron County.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

Civil Air Patrol conducted flyovers with geo-tagging to view flooded areas in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties.



Voluntary Agency Assistance

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) have been very active throughout Texas since the beginning of 2019. VOADs provided many services for the April and May severe weather events throughout Texas as well as their continued assistance of our federal partners with the ongoing influx of immigrants along our southern border.

Since June 24, VOADs have been providing mass care sheltering, feeding, bulk distribution, damage assessments, emergency food boxes, clean-up kits, personal care and comfort kits, blankets, and many more services to the residents of the Rio Grande Valley. These resources, however, are not a long-term recovery solution.



Voluntary agency statistics through July 7, 2019:

- Three total shelters opened, with a peak population of 83 on July 1.
- The Salvation Army, Southern Baptist Convention, and the American Red Cross have provided over 9,300 meals and snacks across three counties since June 26.
- Crisis Cleanup has identified 119 households in need muck and gut teams in all three counties and continues to average 30-50 calls a day from households seeking assistance.

American Red Cross is operating three shelters. They have set up mobile feeding and distributed emergency supplies to include bottled water and clean-up kits. They also have licensed and trained health and mental health workers assisting residents with the replacement of medications and durable medical equipment at shelter locations.

The Salvation Army is currently providing meal support to three shelters in the Rio Grande Valley (lunch and dinner). The Harlingen Corps of The Salvation Army began distribution of bulk goods Monday July 1. Bulk goods include cleanup kits, food boxes, vouchers for clothes and bedding at their Family Store, and water and hygiene products.

Southern Baptist of Texas Convention has one feeding unit in at the First Baptist Church in Harlingen and a shower unit in Raymondville. Muck out units have also begun to mobilize across the three counties.

Texas Baptist Men will begin muck out operations in 100 identified homes beginning July 9.

United Methodist Committee on Relief sent flood buckets for distribution in the valley.

Convoy of Hope delivered a tractor-trailer of emergency supplies to Monte Alto, Texas consisting of hygiene kits, toilet paper, paper towels, tarps, blankets, lanterns, and cleaning supplies.

Crisis Cleanup has activated a new incident on their website for the Rio Grande Valley flooding. The website allows relief organizations in an affected area to coordinate efforts in order to serve those residents more efficiently.



Information Technology Disaster Resource Center is providing tech equipment to agencies responding to the Rio Grande Valley as well as staffing the Crisis Cleanup Homeowner Intake Hotline for those seeking assistance in the clean out of damaged homes.

Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley is currently accepting material donations for Willacy, Cameron, and Hidalgo Counties.

One Star Foundation is working in collaboration with TDEM and Texas VOAD to provide coordination support.

United Methodist Committee on Relief delivered 1,230 clean up kits and providing 4 muck and gut cleanup crews.

Habitat for Humanity is working on 60+ full assistance application submissions.

Behavioral Health Impacts

In June of 2018, the Rio Grande Valley experienced unprecedented flooding and devastation from a torrential rain system that hovered over the southern portion of the state for over four days. Some areas receiving up to 10 inches of rain in just a matter of hours. Initial estimates put the devastation at 2,200 homes destroyed or receiving major damage and over 6,000 reporting minor damage due to rising floodwaters.



Almost a year to the day later, the Rio Grande Valley has experienced another event that brought back memories for those who are still repairing their homes and communities that are still rebuilding.

Many of the children living in these communities have again been displaced from their homes and may be staying in shelters. Children are particularly vulnerable after a disaster and their reactions and emotional recovery can be influenced by both their age and personal circumstances.

Both the children and adults will need behavioral health support, as many may face both housing and financial issues as they return to their homes or while displaced from their homes. These types of conditions lead to feelings of being overwhelmed which can influence cognitive functioning for making decisions and problem solving.



First responders in the Rio Grande Valley have been working long hours with little down time. These factors can contribute to stress related symptoms such as difficulties sleeping, anxiety, depression, and isolation. They may also be at risk for burnout and/or compassion fatigue.

Prior events have taught us there will be the need for behavioral health services as recovery efforts begin in the near future after this type of disaster especially given the number

of disasters over the past year allowing little reprieve for survivors.

The Valley – Socioeconomic and Economic Factors

In June of 2018, Cameron, Hidalgo, and Jim Wells counties suffered severe weather and flooding that resulted in a major disaster declaration granting FEMA Individual Assistance. Just a year later, Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties suffered through more disastrous flooding in areas still under recovery from the previous year's storm. The spirit of the Texans living in these counties is strong, but repeat disasters severely inhibit the area from recovery.

Each county surpasses the average poverty level at both the state and national level, with Willacy County having 35 percent of its residents below the poverty level. These three counties are three of the poorest counties in Texas, with more than 45 percent of children living below the poverty level. Unemployment levels are twice, and with Willacy County, three times the national and state averages.

The following is detailed information on the impacted population, percentage below poverty level, median household income, and percentage of elderly, disabled, pre-disaster unemployment rates, youth population, disability population, and those populations that speak a first language other than English.

June 2019 Severe Weather and Flooding Event								
	Persons Below Poverty Level in percent	Median Household Income in dollars	Percent of Elderly (Age 65 and Older)	Percent of Disabled (Under the Age of 65) in percent	Percent Pre-Disaster Unemployment (May 2019)	18 Years and Younger	With a Disability	Speak a Language Other than English
National	12.3%	\$57,652	16%	8.7%	3.6%	22.4%	8.7%	21.3%
Texas	14.7%	\$57,051	12.6%	8%	3.5%	25.8%	8.0%	35.3%
Counties								
Cameron	27.7%	\$36,095	13.5%	8.5%	6.2%*	30.3%	8.5%	73.4%
Hidalgo	29.5%	\$37,097	11.1%	8.7%	6.6%*	32.6%	8.7%	84.3%
Willacy	35%	\$29,104	14%	12.2%	9.9%*	23.6%	12.2%	59.6%

Data from U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Numbers in red are less than or more than the national and Texas averages

*Unemployment statistics for counties are the 2018 averages

Personal Income by County

As you will note from the table below, this measurement, which the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Affairs provides, includes income that people receive from wages, proprietors' income, dividends, interest, rents, and government benefits. This measurement for the three affected counties is near half of the average at both the state and national levels.

Personal Income for the U.S., State and Counties	
National	\$51,640
Texas	\$47,362
Cameron County	\$27,241
Hidalgo County	\$25,617
Willacy County	\$30,047

Preliminary Damage Assessments

FEMA, state, and local preliminary damage assessments (PDA) were conducted July 1 to 3, 2019, for Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties. The official results determined 1,188 homes were destroyed or received major damage and 182 homes affected or received minor damage.

PDAs		
County	Destroyed and Major	Minor and Affected
Cameron	660	33
Hidalgo	377	93
Willacy	151	56
Totals	1,188	182

These numbers reflect the official numbers from the FEMA, State, and local Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments conducted July 1-3, 2019.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Data

The following table provides a brief analysis of historical NFIP percentage of insurance in Cameron and Hidalgo counties.

County Name	2018 Total Housing Units	NFIP Percentage of Insurance	Total Policy Count
Cameron	151,023	12.4%	18,708
Hidalgo	276,743	3.5%	9,590
Willacy	7,372	9.7%	716
Total	435,138	8.5% (average)	29,014
Just under 9% (average) of the population has NFIP coverage in these three counties			

ESTIMATED COST OF ASSISTANCE

The estimated cost of assistance for the FEMA Individuals and Households Program (IHP) is \$27,576,001. The state of Texas has Total Taxable Resources (TTR) of \$1,704,800,000. The new evaluation of FEMA IA factors includes calculation of a Cost to Capacity (ICC) Ratio. The following calculation applies to this disaster.

IHP Estimated Cost of Assistance/TTR in millions = ICC Ratio

$$\$27,576,001/\$1,704,800 = 16.18$$

ICC Ratio = 16.18

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

It has been less than two years since one of the most catastrophic disasters in history hit Texas: Hurricane Harvey. Last year, this same area received severe flooding from which they still are struggling to recover. In the last four years, Texas has received an additional eight presidential disaster declarations for severe weather events (DR-4223, DR-4245, DR-4255, DR-4266, DR-4269, DR-4272, DR-4377, and DR-4416) and an additional FMAG (2015 – Hidden Pines). This is in addition to six other open disasters, including major disasters such as Hurricanes Rita and Ike, and the most destructive wildfires in Texas history in 2011. Over 180 counties are still in the process of recovering from this barrage of disasters in three years. Some of the same areas hit by this round of severe rainfall barely have the resources to house their residents, rebuild their communities, or the capability to fend off more storms during hurricane season. Assistance is still needed.

CLOSING

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.36 (Major Disaster), this incident is of such magnitude and severity that effective response is beyond state and local capability, and supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives and protect property, public health, and safety. Because of this disaster, the state of Texas is specifically requesting a major disaster declaration for:

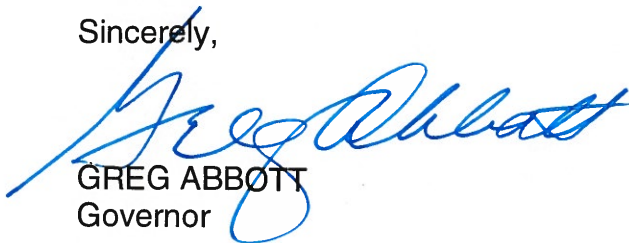
Individual Assistance including the Individuals and Households Programs (IA), Other Needs Assistance (ONA), Crisis Counseling, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Legal Assistance, Disaster Case Management, Direct Federal Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation statewide (the state of Texas has a current, standard State Hazard Mitigation Plan, approved in 2018) for the following counties:

Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties

I am also requesting U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program for Physical and Economic Loss for all counties requesting Individual Assistance.

I have designated Nim Kidd as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) and Mike Miller and Suzannah Jones as the Alternate GARs. Nim Kidd is designated as the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and Suzannah Jones designated as Deputy State Coordinating Officers (DSCOs) for this request. Chief Kidd will work with FEMA and will provide further information and justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



GREG ABBOTT
Governor

Enclosure: OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
Preliminary Damage Assessment Table
IHP Cost Projection Worksheet South TX

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Federal Emergency Management Agency
REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY

OMB Control Number 1660-0009

Expires 09/30/2019

1. Request Date Jul 8, 2019

Burden Disclosure Notice

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.**

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration.

Texas

2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). 25,145,561

3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name

Greg Abbott

4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number

W. Nim Kidd (512) 424-2436

5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number

W. Nim Kidd (512) 424-2436

6. Declaration Request For: ☒ Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401)

☐ Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501 (a))

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date Jun 24, 2019 End Date _____

or ☒ Continuing

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).

7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)

☐ Drought ☐ Earthquake ☐ Explosion ☐ Fire ☒ Flood ☐ Hurricane ☐ Landslide ☐ Mudslide

Severe Storm

☒ (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning)

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) _____

8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.

The period of inclement weather started on June 24, 2019, resulting in heavy rain and flooding across portions of south Texas. Eight to twelve inches of rain fell with some areas receiving more than 12 inches within a 6 hour period, causing widespread flooding in Willacy, Cameron, and Hidalgo counties. Several hundred drivers trapped in their vehicles were rescued and hundreds of people were rescued from their homes when the water started to rise. Many of the streets in Sebastian in Willacy County were flooded due to rainfall. Damaging winds were also associated with the heavy rain fall which caused several residences to sustain major wind damage. Peak wind speed was estimated to be between 56 and 75 MPH. Between Willacy, Cameron, and Hidalgo counties we estimate 1,188 homes which either sustained major damage or were destroyed.

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.

Texas Parks and Wildlife responded with two search and rescues teams for water rescues. Texas Department of Transportation responded with high profile vehicles to support rescue operations and road closures. Texas Military Department responded with high profile vehicles and 12 personnel to assist in water evacuations and rescues. Texas Department of Public Safety responded with teams of troopers to assist with road closures and aviation support. Texas Task Force One supported the operation with a boat squad to support the locals and TXDOT operations. Over a 1,000 rescues between all three counties were conducted during the flooding event.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment*

☒ Individual Assistance Dates Performed Requested Jun 28, 2019 Start Jul 1, 2019 End Jul 3, 2019

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)
Preliminary Damage Assessments are in coordination with the state, local jurisdictions, and FEMA. The PDA numbers from Willacy, Hidalgo, and Cameron counties resulted in 182 homes which were affected or had minor damage, 980 homes which had major damage, and 136 homes which were destroyed for a total of 1,298 homes of which only 8 percent were insured.

☐ 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 Program ☒ Crisis Counseling Program ☒ Disaster Unemployment Assistance
☒ All ☒ Disaster Case Management ☒ Disaster Legal Services ☒ Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

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).
Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy 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	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Debris Removal (Category A)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Protective Measures (Category B)	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.		
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		
<input type="checkbox"/> I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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		
<input type="checkbox"/> I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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: Sheltering, flood fighting, and de-watering.		
b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.		
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		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 October 2023 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 Agencies

Please 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 Jun 27, 2019 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 _____


 Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

7-10-2019
 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