



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

July 25, 2020

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

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

RE: Request for Presidential Disaster Declaration—Emergency Disaster Declaration

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.35, I request an emergency declaration for the State of Texas as a result of Hurricane Hanna, which began to strengthen and threaten Texas on July 20, 2020.

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 July 25, 2020, for 32 Texas counties.

I submit this request in anticipation of the impacts of Hurricane Hanna, currently forecast to make landfall as a hurricane along the southern coast of Texas with continuing impacts to counties along the entire Texas coast and further inland. The rains accompanying this hurricane threaten catastrophic flooding which will overwhelm counties along the Gulf Coast which are experiencing severe weather prior to Hurricane Hanna's landfall.

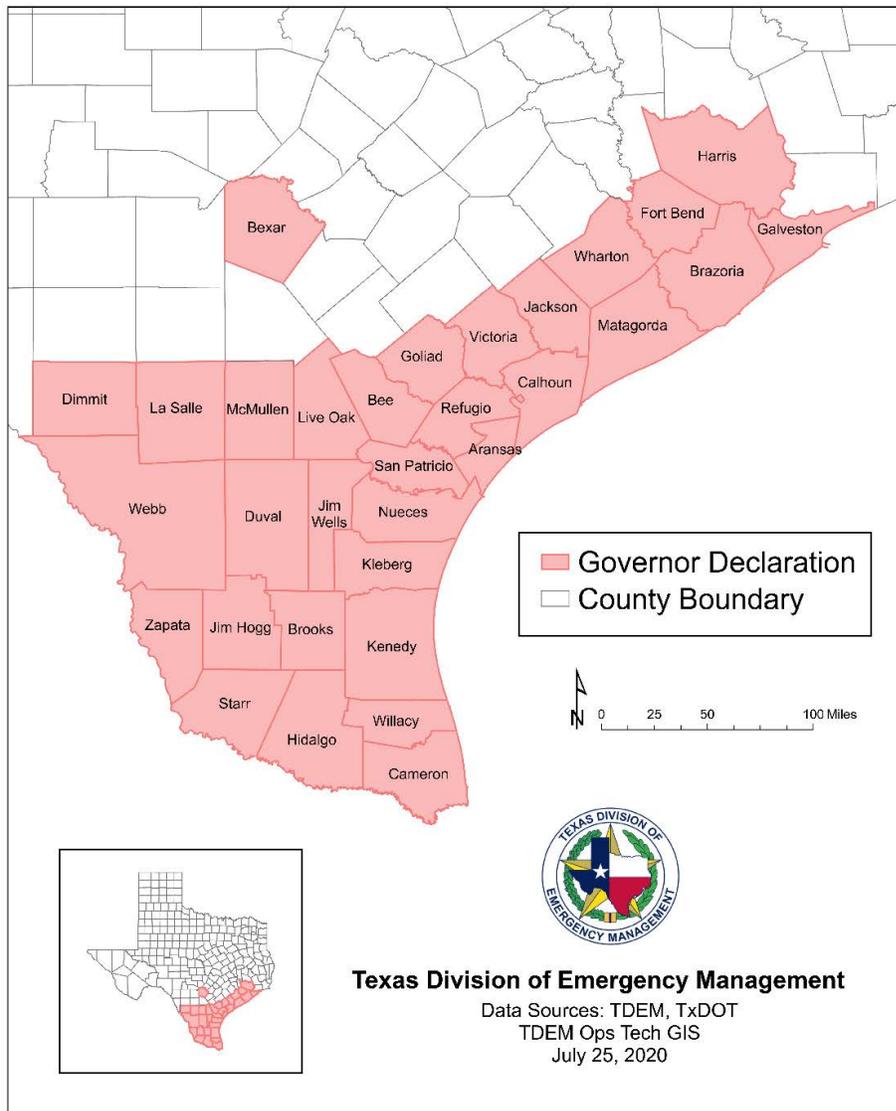
Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.35, I have determined the threat from Hurricane Hanna is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary to lessen the threat of disaster, save lives, and protect property, public health and safety. I request Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) in order to meet critical emergency protection requirements that are beyond the capability of the state and its local governments. Given the severity of the threat, I am also requesting Public Assistance Category B (Emergency Protective Measures) for the following counties:

Aransas, Bee, Bexar, Brazoria, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, Dimmit, Duval, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Harris, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Matagorda, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Victoria, Webb, Wharton, Willacy, and Zapata.

In addition, I request the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide. I reserve the right to request additional federal assistance programs and include additional counties as we assess damages.



### Counties Under Governor's Declaration 20-0012 Hurricane Hanna July 25, 2020



Hurricane Hanna is forecast to make landfall as a Category 1 Hurricane with winds approximated at 80 miles per hour. Hanna is expected to bring heavy rain, forecast at 6-12 inches and up to 18 inches in isolated areas of the Rio Grande Valley and the Coastal Bend. These areas will face potentially catastrophic flash flooding, riverine flooding, and damages from hurricane-force winds. In addition, a storm surge warning is in effect which could bring 3 to 5 feet of inundation along the coast. The threats posed by Hurricane Hanna will place many Texans in danger, as flash flooding and riverine flooding often necessitate water rescues and property protection in addition to injury, loss of life, infrastructure damage, property damage, and economic loss.

### **Response**

Ahead of Hurricane Hanna, the State of Texas pre-positioned numerous resources in preparation. The following state resources have been mobilized in preparation to support requests from local officials:

- **Texas A&M Forest Service:** Saw Crews and Incident Management Teams
- **Texas A&M Engineering and Extension Service:** Texas A&M Task Force One and Two Search and Rescue Teams including swift water rescue teams
- **Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM):** Coordinating the State Operations Center in Austin with TDEM field staff providing support as needed across impacted areas.
- **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department:** Rescue boats and aviation assets to support water rescue operations
- **Texas Military Department:** Ground transportation and high-profile vehicle packages
- **Department of State Health Services:** Emergency Medical Task Force, Ambulance Strike Teams and alternate care sites
- **Texas Department of Transportation:** High profile vehicles
- **Texas Department of Public Safety – Texas Highway Patrol:** Search and rescue aircraft with hoist capability and the Tactical Marine Unit

### **Background**

The state of Texas has had more federal disaster declarations than any other state, which does not account for the numerous state disasters that did not meet federal thresholds and requirements. The state of Texas is currently engaged in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exhausted much of the state's resources. The state also continues recovery efforts from six major disasters over the last three years.

Providing the needed protections required by the pandemic response during Hurricane Hanna poses a significant challenge. Additionally, Texas is experiencing a high number of COVID-19 cases, specifically in the area that will be impacted by Hanna. These challenges enhance the pressures placed on local jurisdictions and the state. Considering the ability of COVID-19 to rapidly spread, the state and local jurisdictions are taking measures to make non-congregate sheltering possible for those who need refuge. This presents a unique challenge given the space requirements necessary for large populations needing shelter. Significant resources will be required to ensure those who do evacuate and/or need assistance are able to get needed assistance and protect themselves from COVID-19.

### **Closing**

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.35, 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.

The Honorable Donald Trump

July 25, 2020

Page 4

As a result of this disaster, the State of Texas is specifically requesting an emergency declaration for Public Assistance Category B (Emergency Protective Measures), DFA, and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Abbott  
Governor

GA:mhk

Enclosure: OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

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 25, 2020

**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). <u>25,145,561</u>
---	--

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 7/25/2020 End Date Jul 25, 2020 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     Snowstorm  
 (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning)     (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.

I submit this request in anticipation of the impacts of Hurricane Hanna, currently forecast to make landfall as a hurricane along the coast of Texas with continuing impacts to counties along the entire Texas coast and further inland. The rains accompanying this hurricane threaten catastrophic flooding which will overwhelm counties along the Gulf Coast which are already experiencing severe weather prior to Hurricane Hanna's landfall.

This request includes 32 counties for which the recent population estimate is 10.7 million Texans (U.S. Census Bureau 2019 population estimates).

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.

Ahead of Hurricane Hanna, the state of Texas prepositioned numerous resources to prepare for Hurricane Hanna. The following state resources have been mobilized in preparation to support requests from local officials: Texas A&M Forest Service (IMTs, chainsaw crews), Texas A&M Engineering and Extension Service (SAR teams with swift water capability), Texas Division of Emergency Management (coordination and statewide support staff), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (SAR resources), Department of State Health Services (sheltering), Texas Department of Transportation (roads and bridges) and Texas Department of Public Safety – Texas Highway Patrol (SAR resources and public safety).

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\*

Individual Assistance    Dates Performed    Requested \_\_\_\_\_    Start \_\_\_\_\_    End \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

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).

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  N/A  Debris Removal (Category A)  Emergency Protective Measures (Category B)  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.

Aransas, Bee, Bexar, Brazoria, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, Dimmit, Duval, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Harris, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Matagorda, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Victoria, Webb, Wharton, Willacy and Zapata counties

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**

I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

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**

I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

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:  
To meet critical emergency protection requirements as needed to include but not limited to SAR assistance, sheltering, removal of water/debris and other support as requested.

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services. Disaster recovery resources in Texas are thin and first responders, volunteers and citizens are fatigued by continual disaster impacts. We are confident the cost for this disaster will surpass the established state disaster threshold. We are requesting that we expedite this process to enable Texans to begin their recovery process from this catastrophic event.

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**

N/A  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.  
All counties statewide.

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 Jul 25, 2020 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

July 25, 2020  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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