



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

February 21, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C.

Through: Regional Administrator George A. Robinson  
FEMA Region 6  
Denton, Texas

RE: Request for Presidential Disaster Declaration – Major Disaster

Dear Mr. President:

Under Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5170, as implemented by 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Texas as a result of Winter Storm Mara that began impacting Texas on Sunday, January 30, 2023.

Beginning January 29, 2023, I directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to prepare state emergency response resources ahead of a winter storm system expected to move across Texas. TDEM alerted all Texas Emergency Management Council members to be prepared to support response and recovery operations across the state.

On February 4, 2023, I took appropriate action under Texas law in response to Winter Storm Mara by directing the execution of the state's emergency management plan and declaring a state of disaster for Denton, Hays, Henderson, Milam, Smith, Travis, and Williamson counties. On February 17, 2023, I amended and renewed the aforementioned proclamation and declared a disaster for Bastrop, Blanco, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Delta, Denton, Falls, Hays, Henderson, Hopkins, Hunt, Kendall, Lamar, Lee, Leon, Milam, Red River, Robertson, Shelby, Smith, Travis, and Williamson counties.

The State of Texas now requests your decisive action to grant this federal Major Disaster Declaration quickly.

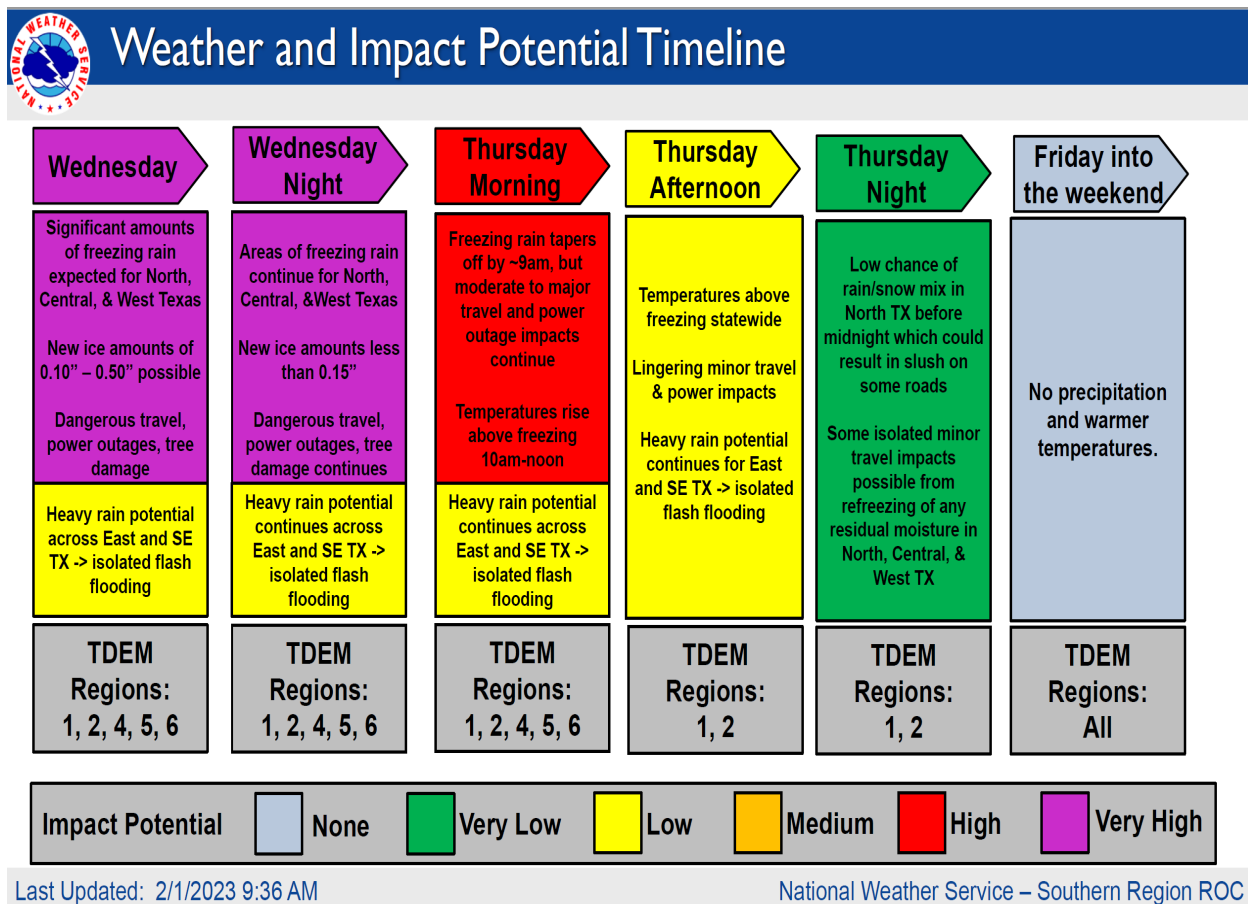
Under 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health, and safety. I am requesting all parts of the FEMA Public Assistance program, including categories A through G, and Direct Federal Assistance for the following counties:

Bastrop, Blanco, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Delta, Denton, Falls, Hays, Henderson, Hopkins, Hunt, Kendall, Lamar, Lee, Leon, Milam, Red River, Robertson, Shelby, Smith, Travis, and Williamson counties

I am also requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide.

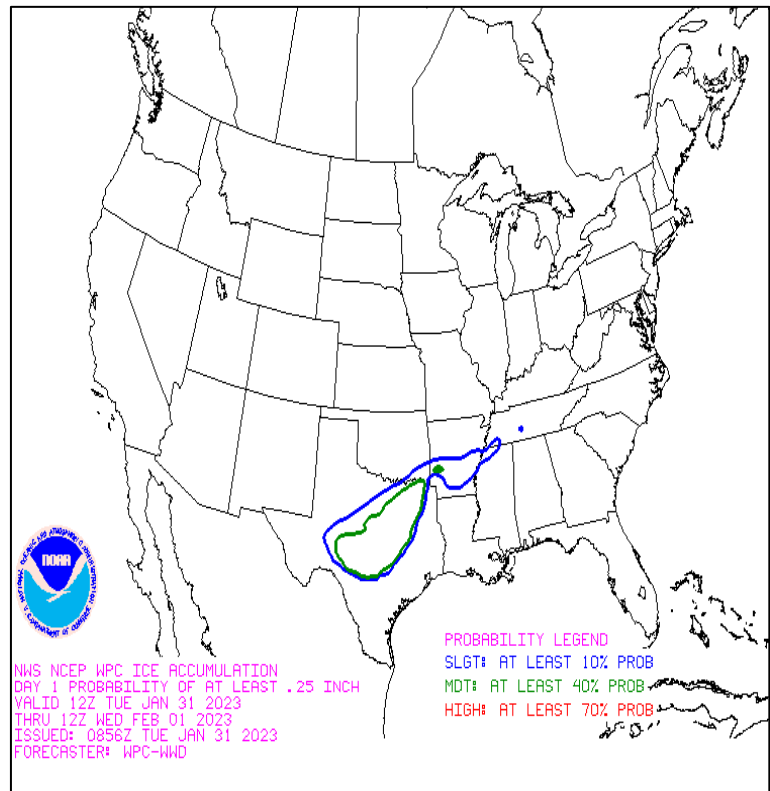
As we assess damages to the other affected counties, I reserve the right to request additional programs or assistance for additional counties in Texas.

### INCIDENT OVERVIEW



Winter Storm Mara began impacting Texas on January 30, 2023. A cold air mass that settled across the state was slated to interact with incoming moisture. Since the warm, moist air would be moving up and over the cold air, it was expected that freezing would result. Forecast models predicted ice accumulating greater than a quarter inch across central and northeastern Texas. Temperatures across much of the state were forecast to remain below freezing for several days.

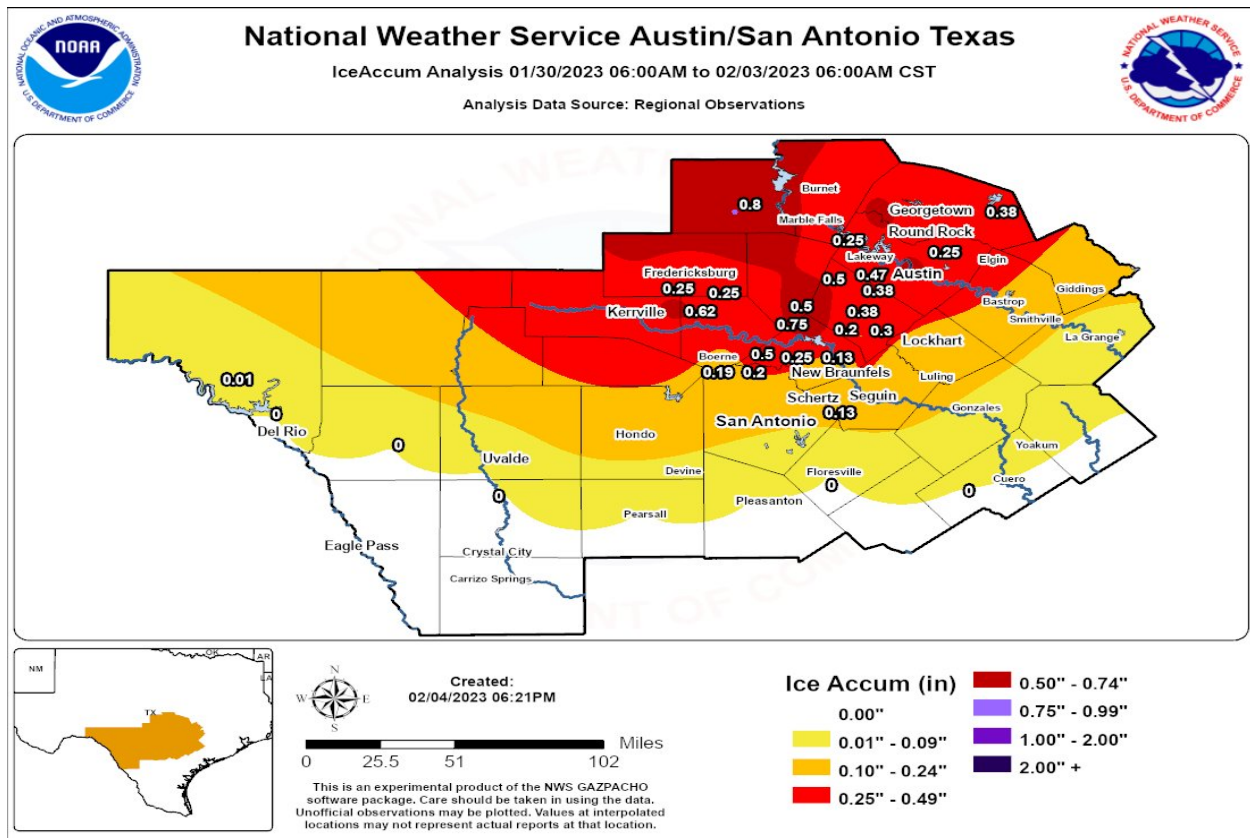
By the evening of Monday, January 30, some roadways and bridges in the state began to see travel impacts from ice accumulations. On the morning of Tuesday, January 31, travel issues were widespread across much of the state. Travel became nearly impossible along most of the I-35 corridor between Austin and DFW.



Ice began to accumulate on surfaces as temperatures didn't rise above freezing for multiple days. According to the National Weather Service, many areas along and west of I-35 saw ice accumulations as high as 0.8 inches. Numerous trees, tree limbs, and powerlines could not bear the weight of the ice and began to come down.

In addition to the ice, some locations in the DFW area saw sleet accumulations as high as 1.3 inches and snowfall amounts as high as 2 inches. Snowfall up to 11 inches was reported by the National Weather Service in Lubbock.

Most of the state stayed below freezing until Thursday, February 2 with some isolated areas remaining below freezing into Friday, February 3.



## Response Overview

Due to this severe weather event, I declared a state of disaster for seven counties. To support Texas jurisdictions impacted by Winter Storm Mara, the State of Texas still has resources committed to Winter Storm Mara recovery. Below is a summary of the resources used in Texas so far to respond to and recover from Winter Storm Mara. As of February 14, 2023, the total reported cost for state agency response exceeds \$800,000.

Agency Reporting	Personnel (Head Count)	Straight Time	Overtime	Travel	Equipment	Materials	Rentals	Fuel	Water/ Ice	Contracts	Leases	Repairs	Other	Reporting Agency Total
Finance DSHS	9	\$2,782.00	\$1,936.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,718.00
Finance TDEM	148	\$32,505.02	\$13,648.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,781.48	\$74,935.34
Finance TEEEX	47	\$1,340.00	\$3,073.00	\$6,390.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,525.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$51,328.00
Finance TFS TAMU	619	\$334,080.00	\$0.00	\$91,808.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$425,888.00
Finance TXDOT	11351	\$145,939.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$145,939.00
Finance TxMF	391	\$137,556.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,281.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$179,637.40
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12565</b>	<b>\$654,202.30</b>	<b>\$18,657.84</b>	<b>\$98,198.00</b>	<b>\$41,281.12</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$20,800.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$40,525.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$8,781.48</b>	<b>\$882,445.74</b>

## State Agency Summaries

**TDEM:** On Monday, January 30, 2023, TDEM increased the readiness level of the State Operations Center (SOC) to Level II (Escalated Response) as winter weather began impacting large portions of Texas Monday through Thursday. The following Texas Emergency Management Council agencies were requested to report to the SOC in preparation for and response to Winter Storm Mara affecting the state:

- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service
- Texas A&M Forest Service
- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Animal Health Commission
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- Public Utility Commission of Texas
- Railroad Commission of Texas
- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Texas Military Department
- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Department of Information Resources

TDEM staff coordinated statewide situational awareness, response, and recovery efforts in support of state agencies and local partners. TDEM District Coordinators and regional staff continue to work with local emergency management partners to assist with any unmet needs and resources. TDEM Mass Care supported seasonal relief centers throughout the state and tracked 83 warming centers for impacted Texans at the peak of the disaster. As of the date of this letter, SOC personnel continue to support recovery efforts for this disaster.

**Texas A&M Forest Service:** Multiple resources were deployed and prepositioned throughout the state to assist cooperators with local/state missions in clearing roadways and public areas. The missions assigned were operating motor graders to remove ice and preposition resources and saw crews to clear ice-damaged vegetation and debris. Two incident management teams were also rostered and available for this response. 39 Texas A&M Forest Service personnel were supporting Winter Storm Mara response and have cleared 503 miles of road and two rest stops with motor graders, patrolled 1,146 miles of road, applied brine on 115 miles of road, assisted several motorists, and cleared multiple traffic jams because of disaster-related accidents.

**Texas Department of Public Safety:** The Texas Department of Public Safety maintained increased readiness across the state to support the winter weather event. All available Texas Highway Patrol (THP) units in the affected areas were patrolling the roadways, responding to crashes, and providing motorists assistance. Applicable Disaster District Chairs worked closely with other state agencies and local government entities to ensure response readiness as needs arose. Texas State Troopers maintained high visibility on the highways to assist the motoring public and respond to any requests. Statewide, multiple Disaster District Chairs activated their emergency operations centers due to extreme winter weather conditions. THP personnel provided staffing at the State Operations Center. Austin-area THP Troopers assisted the Travis County Sheriff's Office with traffic control due to downed power lines. Kendall County THP Troopers assisted Boerne Police Department when one of their officer's patrol units was stuck.

**Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):** Crews in the affected districts conducted the pretreatment of roads based on forecasted moisture. At the peak of the disaster, there were over 2,700 roadways affected by snow and ice conditions. As of February 8, 2023, TxDOT continued with road clearing and winter weather operations. All 25 TxDOT District emergency operations center crews and equipment were responding as needed. Additional courtesy patrols were conducted to assist stranded motorists.

**Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):** DSHS had multiple staff assigned to the SOC to cover 24/7 operations. Emergency Medical Task Force units were on an awareness level in preparation for the severe weather to assist with any medical requests.

**Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC):** HHSC began staffing the SOC in support of emergency weather response operations on January 30, 2023. The Texas Information and Referral Network (TIRN) 2-1-1 is distributing information about warming centers in collaboration with TDEM Mass Care. HHSC also supported citizens by disseminating information on warming centers and wrap-around services as requested. 2-1-1 requests include asks for housing or shelter (31.5%), food (10.8%), and utility assistance (24.6%).

**Texas Military Department (TMD):** TMD activated six Winter Weather Mission Ready Packages (MRP) and one Battalion Mission Command (BNMC) RP for five days starting January 30, 2023, through February 3, 2023, to assist stranded motorists and conduct welfare checks on selected motorways. The winter weather MRPs were located in Lubbock, Abilene, Ft. Wolters, DFW, Waco, and Fredericksburg. The BNMC MRP was located in Waco. The SOC Support Team was supporting the disaster in Austin. TMD has activated 135 personnel and 54 vehicles in total.

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department:** Texas Parks and Wildlife Department prepared department resources consisting of Texas Game Wardens and State Parks Police Officers equipped with four-wheel drive vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, and unmanned aerial systems to support operations in areas affected by this severe weather event.

**Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC):** At the peak of this disaster, PUC tracked approximately 422,000 outages across the state. Travis County held the largest number of outages in the state, with approximately 173,000 outages. Williamson (67,000), Smith (32,000), and Bell (24,000) counties made up the next largest totals of outages while the remaining stretch primarily from Bexar to Hopkins and Franklin in the northeast. Overall, the pace of restorations was largely offset by new or reappearing outages during the middle of the week, with full power restoration across the state not occurring until February 11, 2023. PUC had 3 staff assigned (2 staff members for the day shift and 1 staff member for the night shift) to support SOC operations for this disaster.

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):** TCEQ placed staff on heightened readiness to respond to any air/water/waste-related issues, including drinking water/wastewater issues and/or emergency response activities, as needed. At the peak of the disaster, TCEQ tracked 36 drinking water systems that were on a Boil Water Notice (BWN) serving a population of 101,882 Texans.





### **Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) Summaries**

Local, state and national mission-driven organizations, including Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) member agencies and established Long Term Recovery Groups have identified shortfalls in volunteer capacities. Given the nonprofit reliance on volunteers to manage programs, this shortfall is creating a strain on quality service delivery for those in need. Multi-Resource Agencies Centers (MARC) provided debris and damage assistance, financial information, mental health support, and limited hot meal services.

With limited capabilities, VOADs helped in the form of saw crews, feeding, and shower and laundry units for survivors in the affected areas. The anticipated individual and household need for supplemental food assistance has been assessed to replace cold storage stock losses due to the extended power outages.

**Austin Disaster Relief Network (ADRN)** provided support to survivors by connecting them to nonprofits assisting with debris cleanup in Austin and Central Texas Area. Efforts are coordinated with TDEM Disaster Recovery Task Force to ensure efforts are not duplicated. ADRN provided quality assistance and ensured safety standards for debris removal are followed according to local standards. The organization tracked a steady increase in clean-up requests totaling more than 1,490 while contending with a high need for reinforcement and or volunteer assistance.

**American Red Cross (ARC)** has provided cots and blankets for shelters in the cities of San Angelo and San Antonio. Additionally, the organization supported two shelters with minimal volunteer capacity and remained on standby for county assistance with MARCs and any related services.

**The Salvation Army** supported the cities of Midland and Odessa with sheltering.

**Southern Baptist Convention (SBTC)** supported debris cleanup with chainsaw crews in Pflugerville and planning for surge capacity, given the extent of clean-up requests and volume of debris. SBTC prioritized debris blocking the right of entry to driveways or homes, in addition to trees over the living spaces of homes. The organization has assessed the need for debris clean-up will be more than their capacity to assist. Additionally, two new sites were opened in Pflugerville and Round Rock. SBTC provided laundry and shower units in the City of Round Rock to support those who remain without electricity, and a temporary service to provide hot meals in Round Rock for a week. An Incident Management Team was deployed to Dallas as a surge capacity to support local teams.

**Texas Baptist Men (TBM)** responded with volunteer teams in Austin, Canyon Lake, Manchaca, and Temple. Support includes 5 chainsaw crews, heavy equipment, and man-lifts in various locations. Teams were also deployed to support feeding and shower/laundry units to support those without electricity.

<b>Texas Baptist Men</b> <b>Monday, February 6, 2023</b> <b>Texas Ice Storms - DR# 2023-002</b>	<b>Temple</b> <b>Athens</b> <b>Local</b>	<b>Child</b> <b>Home</b>	<b>TBM</b> <b>HQ</b>	<b>Austin</b> <b>Manchaca</b>	<b>Can</b> <b>Lake</b> <b>FBC</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Vol Days-SBDR	22	10	4	22	6	<b>64</b>
Vol Days-Non SBDR	0	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Vol Days-Total	22	11	4	22	6	<b>65</b>
Volunteer Hours	154	99	40	145.5	48	<b>487</b>
Total Meals Prepared	0	0	0	20	0	<b>20</b>
Water Purified (Gals)	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Boxes Distributed	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Showers Furnished	0	0	0	9	0	<b>9</b>
Laundry Loads Complete	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Bottles of Water Distributed	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Heavy Equipment Hours	6	18	0	0	0	<b>24</b>
TBM Assessments Completed	12	0	0	9	2	<b>23</b>
TBM Temporary Roof Jobs Completed	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
TBM Chainsaw Jobs Completed	17	0	0	5	1	<b>23</b>

#### **Other Community Organization Response**

Calls for assistance from the public were managed through 2-1-1, connecting individuals with basic services. Vulnerable populations have suffered due to power and water outages, struggling to stay healthy and safe without access to necessities like heat, water, and other basic needs.

**Austin Parks and Recreation Department** provided shower facilities to individuals and families who may not have had access to hot water at eight recreation centers throughout the city.



## **Behavioral Health Impacts**

Research indicates that children who have survived a disaster are particularly vulnerable after a disaster, and their reactions and emotional recovery can be influenced by their age, developmental level, prior experiences, and personal circumstances. The length of recovery depends on how frightening the storm experience was to the individual and the extent of damage and loss.

Senior citizens are also a particularly vulnerable population due to physical or emotional disability or frailty, loss of or property damage that is often sentimentally or economically valuable, lack of reliable transportation, economic disadvantage, and isolation from families. These factors intensify existing vulnerabilities during disasters and the often-lengthy recovery process.

Both the children and adults may need behavioral health support, as many may face housing and/or 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. Physiological and emotional changes are common reactions in both children and adults.

Emergency responders provide critical services to communities during and in the aftermath of disasters. Their routine exposure to traumatic incidents and chronic trauma-inducing situations puts them at high risk of experiencing a range of physical and behavioral health consequences. These situations can contribute to traumatic stress-related symptoms such as intrusive thoughts or memories of the incident, difficulty sleeping, fear, irritability, anger, anxiety, depression, withdrawal and isolation, Acute Stress Disorder (ASD), and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Responders also may be at risk for burnout, compassion fatigue, and increased alcohol and substance use.

Prior events have taught us there will be an increased need for behavioral health services as recovery efforts begin after this type of disaster, especially because of the number of disasters over the past year that allowed little reprieve for disaster survivors and emergency responders.

## **LOCALIZED IMPACT**

### **Central Texas Impacts**



At the peak of the incident, PUC tracked approximately 422,000 power outages across the state. Most of these outages occurred in Travis (173,000) and Williamson (67,000) counties. Over 2,000 mutual assistance crews aided in restoration efforts. While many outages were addressed by Sunday, February 5, approximately 3,000 Travis County citizens faced extended power outage issues that lasted beyond that Sunday; these outages were not fully resolved until Sunday, February 12. There were 7 fatalities as a result of Winter Storm Mara due to hazardous and icy road conditions. Additionally, countless Central Texas ISD schools remained closed for several days due to damages, hazardous road conditions, and widespread power outages.

### **Recent Multiple Disasters**

North and Central Texas have seen more than their share of disasters in recent years. Since 2020, several of the counties impacted by Winter Storm Mara have suffered damages from two other federally declared disasters, COVID-19 and Winter Storm Uri.

These areas in Texas affected by Winter Storm Mara have also been impacted by multiple incidents that have exceeded their local capabilities but did not meet federal thresholds and requirements. The State of Texas is still recovering from severe storms and tornadoes that began on January 24, 2023. Damage reports associated with these severe storms and tornadoes indicate 646 residences were affected; 715 had minor damage; 514 had major damage; and 159 homes were destroyed. In total, FEMA believes the

estimated cost of the FEMA Individual and Households program could be more than \$4.23 million for severe storms and tornadoes.

Considering the scope of these disasters and the recent issues caused by the severe storms and tornadoes in late January, along with the continued economic impacts of COVID-19, Texans affected by Winter Storm Mara are in dire need of federal assistance. The constant barrage of disaster-caused damages on the community infrastructure and individual homes far exceeds the financial resources available to these communities to recover from another catastrophic event. Federal assistance is needed to supplement the exhausted Texas residents and communities that have been subjected to a steady cadence of major disasters over the last ten years.

### **State Fiscal Capacity and Resource Availability**

Since 2020, the State of Texas has likely spent more on disaster response efforts than any other state in the Union. State agencies have spent tens of billions of dollars in response to COVID-19 and have held responsibilities for a variety of response, recovery, and mitigation actions related to COVID-19, responsibilities that continue today. Federal funding has helped to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, but the State of Texas is still relying heavily on our own resources and people to continue response efforts.

Throughout much of 2021 and 2022, the State of Texas has worked continuously to respond to a growing surge in illegal border crossings and escalating humanitarian crises at the Texas–Mexico border. Texas state agencies have spent over \$1.2 billion to combat the ongoing crisis at our southern border. Additionally, the state’s total investment in border security efforts during the 2020–2021 state fiscal year was \$1.1 billion, and in September 2021, I signed House Bill 9, which appropriated \$1.8 billion to Texas border security efforts including the construction of a border wall, strategic fencing, and other barriers for the 2022–2023 biennium.

Even though assistance has been requested, the Federal government has not provided support in responding to the disaster at our Southern Border. Additionally, the State of Texas is currently responding to and recovering from severe weather and tornadoes that occurred the previous week, on January 24, 2023. These disasters are depleting state funds and severely impacting the state’s ability to serve Texas citizens in response to recent disasters like Winter Storm Mara. Federal assistance for Texans impacted by this disaster would allow individuals to quickly recover from this major disaster.

### **Damage Assessments**

Immediately following Winter Storm Mara, TDEM’s Disaster Recovery Task Force (DRTF) began coordinating damage assessments with local jurisdictions in the affected areas. This involved surveying damage to public infrastructure as well as residences in the area. The DRTF also provided training and assistance for the damage self-reporting tools, known as the Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) and the Public State of Texas Assessment Tool (pSTAT). These tools allow residents, businesses, and local governments to virtually submit damages sustained during an incident.



## Damages to Public Property

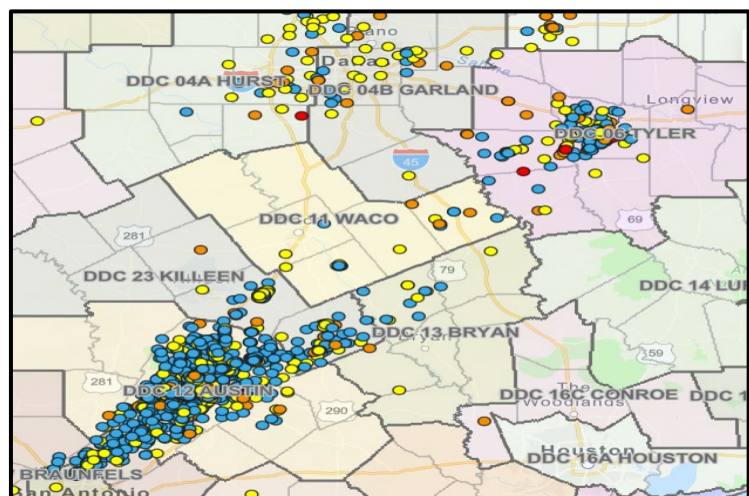
As Winter Storm Mara formed, emergency protective measures were taken to ensure the safety of Texans. As mentioned in the summary above, several state resources, including a significant number of personnel, were mobilized. In addition to state resources, local jurisdictions have incurred numerous expenses. To date, the requested counties and jurisdictions within have expended approximately \$20.4 million on Category B measures. The widespread debris caused by Winter Storm Mara now will likely cost over \$37.3 million to address, and damage in other categories for those jurisdictions is now estimated to be near \$5.7 million. This brings the total reported damages to public infrastructure in the disaster-affected area to \$63.5 million. This is shown in the table below and TDEM anticipates these totals will rapidly grow.

COUNTY	CAT A: DEBRIS REMOVAL	CAT B: EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES	CAT C: ROADS AND BRIDGES	CAT D: WATER FACILITIES	CAT E: BUILDINGS	CAT F: PUBLIC UTILITIES	CAT G: PARKS, REC, AND OTHER	COUNTY TOTALS
Bastrop County	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 113,858.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 830,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,180,358.00
Blanco County	\$ 4,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,400.00
Burleson County	\$ -	\$ 353,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000.00	\$ -	\$ 703,000.00
Hays County	\$ 1,478,142.00	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 522,408.00	\$ -	\$ 2,875.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,011,675.00
Hopkins County	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 210,000.00
Lamar County	\$ 5,267.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 105,267.00
Lee County	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,831.00	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 1,997.53	\$ 375,828.53
Leon County	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 151,000.00	\$ -	\$ 231,000.00
Red River County	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ 250,000.00
Rockwall County	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Travis County	\$24,488,590.00	\$18,475,023.00	\$ 3,182.00	\$ -	\$ 1,005,862.00	\$ 660,000.00	\$ 57,450.00	\$ 44,690,107.00
Williamson County	\$10,862,080.00	\$ 1,459,599.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 141,000.00	\$ 260,000.00	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 12,800,679.00
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$37,338,479.00</b>	<b>\$20,429,730.00</b>	<b>\$ 560,590.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,190,568.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,931,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 112,447.53</b>	<b>\$ 63,564,314.53</b>

## Damages to Homes

With the dangerous storm surge, high winds, and excessive rainfall, many homes in North and Central Texas were damaged. The damage ranges from homes with considerable structural damage due to fallen trees and vegetative debris in yards to homes that were destroyed.

Of the damage surveys received by TDEM, over 1,990 residences were affected; 831 had minor damage; 252 sustained major damage; and 6 were destroyed.



### **Disaster Impacted Population Profile**

Those living in the affected areas contribute to the quickly recovering economies of Texas and the United States, which are home to bustling metroplex areas, large-scale universities, the second-largest airport in the United States, and much more. Unfortunately, for many, work slowed or came to halt as companies and businesses took precautionary measures before and following Winter Storm Mara. As noted previously, Texans living in the affected areas are no strangers to disasters, but many citizens have reached their breaking point.

This part of the state is also home to many vulnerable population groups. In some of the affected counties, over 20 percent of households speak a language other than English at home, with the highest percentage at over 40. These language barriers can hinder Texans from accessing the emergency assistance they desperately need. In several counties, the percentage of the population over 65 years of age is over 20 percent, and the percentage with a disability for several counties is higher than the state and national average. Also, persons under the age of 18 and persons aged 65 and older make up a significant portion of the disaster area, as outlined in the sections below.

### **Population Statistics**

North and Central Texas is one of the denser populated areas in the state. Among the 23 counties for which federal assistance is being requested, the population exceeds 2.5 million Texans and is home to Texans of varying demographics. Many of the requested counties have a median household income well under the state and national average.



	Median household income in dollars	Percent pre-disaster unemployment (Jan 2023)	Percent of persons below poverty level	Percent of persons 18 yrs and younger	Percent of elderly (age 65 and older)	Percent of Disabled (under the age of 65)	Percent without health insurance (under age 65)	Speak a language other than English
<b>National</b>	<b>\$69,021.00</b>	<b>4.00%</b>	<b>11.60%</b>	<b>22.20%</b>	<b>16.80%</b>	<b>8.70%</b>	<b>9.80%</b>	<b>21.70%</b>
<b>Texas</b>	<b>\$67,321.00</b>	<b>3.90%</b>	<b>14.20%</b>	<b>25.30%</b>	<b>13.10%</b>	<b>8.00%</b>	<b>20.40%</b>	<b>35.10%</b>
<b>Bastrop</b>	\$71,820.00	3.60%	10.80%	25.40%	15.60%	9.10%	22.70%	29.40%
<b>Blanco</b>	\$70,397.00	2.80%	9.80%	17.80%	25.20%	10.00%	21.70%	9.60%
<b>Burleson</b>	\$60,058.00	4.10%	13.10%	21.80%	21.00%	10.10%	20.30%	15.80%
<b>Burnet</b>	\$59,919.00	3.10%	9.50%	21.10%	22.80%	12.20%	20.90%	15.00%
<b>Caldwell</b>	\$63,380.00	3.80%	12.80%	22.70%	15.00%	10.50%	23.70%	36.30%
<b>Delta</b>	\$58,705.00	4.20%	15.80%	23.60%	21.70%	12.10%	18.30%	3.00%
<b>Denton</b>	\$96,265.00	3.40%	7.40%	23.70%	11.10%	6.20%	12.90%	23.40%
<b>Falls</b>	\$35,317.00	4.50%	20.30%	21.20%	18.60%	14.70%	19.30%	19.50%
<b>Hays</b>	\$71,061.00	2.70%	12.40%	22.80%	11.70%	7.60%	16.10%	26.20%
<b>Henderson</b>	\$51,963.00	7.70%	15.80%	21.50%	22.30%	13.40%	21.00%	11.00%
<b>Hopkins</b>	\$54,600.00	3.70%	12.70%	24.30%	18.50%	9.70%	21.10%	13.50%
<b>Hunt</b>	\$57,467.00	4.10%	12.60%	24.00%	16.00%	10.80%	19.00%	14.20%
<b>Kendall</b>	\$98,692.00	3.10%	6.70%	23.10%	19.30%	7.40%	16.70%	12.70%
<b>Lamar</b>	\$48,036.00	4.90%	19.60%	24.10%	18.90%	13.80%	21.10%	8.60%
<b>Lee</b>	\$56,696.00	3.90%	10.60%	21.70%	18.70%	7.80%	22.10%	18.30%
<b>Leon</b>	\$43,392.00	6.00%	13.80%	22.40%	24.90%	11.30%	26.30%	12.90%
<b>Milam</b>	\$52,810.00	4.70%	14.60%	23.20%	21.20%	9.60%	21.20%	16.40%
<b>Red River</b>	\$37,135.00	5.40%	15.70%	19.90%	25.30%	11.70%	19.50%	3.20%
<b>Robertson</b>	\$55,709.00	4.20%	16.90%	23.80%	20.40%	13.70%	19.10%	15.00%
<b>Shelby</b>	\$44,504.00	4.40%	19.60%	26.10%	17.90%	11.90%	26.60%	15.20%
<b>Smith</b>	\$62,518.00	4.10%	13.00%	24.30%	17.10%	8.40%	21.20%	18.30%
<b>Travis</b>	\$85,043.00	2.60%	11.20%	20.70%	10.60%	6.30%	13.80%	30.00%
<b>Williamson</b>	\$94,705.00	3.20%	6.00%	24.50%	12.60%	7.10%	12.40%	22.80%

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

*Numbers in red identify outliers from the national averages*

**CLOSING**

We will rebuild and recover, but we are fatigued. The constant onslaught of record-breaking storms has affected our first responders, depleted our resources, and caused undue mental and financial stress to Texans.

Pursuant to 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I believe 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 to protect property, public health, and safety.

As a result of this disaster, the State of Texas is specifically requesting a major disaster declaration requesting all parts of the FEMA Public Assistance program, categories A through G, and Direct Federal Assistance for the following counties:

Bastrop, Blanco, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Delta, Denton, Falls, Hays, Henderson, Hopkins, Hunt, Kendall, Lamar, Lee, Leon, Milam, Red River, Robertson, Shelby, Smith, Travis, and Williamson counties.

Additionally, I am requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide.

I have designated Chief Nim Kidd as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) and Suzannah Jones and Warren Weidler as Alternate GARs. Chief 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 FEMA and will provide further information and justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Abbott", with a stylized, cursive script.

Greg Abbott  
Governor

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 06/30/2023

1. Request Date Feb 16, 2023

**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). 29,145,505
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: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401) <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501 (a))		
7. Incident Period: Beginning Date End Date Jan 29, 2023		or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuing <i>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).</i>
7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)  <input type="checkbox"/> Drought <input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake <input type="checkbox"/> Explosion <input type="checkbox"/> Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Flood <input type="checkbox"/> Hurricane <input type="checkbox"/> Landslide <input type="checkbox"/> Mudslide Severe Storm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning) <input type="checkbox"/> Snowstorm (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data) <input type="checkbox"/> Straight-Line Winds <input type="checkbox"/> Tidal Wave <input type="checkbox"/> Tornado <input type="checkbox"/> Tropical Depression <input type="checkbox"/> Tropical Storm <input type="checkbox"/> Tsunami <input type="checkbox"/> Volcanic Eruption <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Winter Storm <input type="checkbox"/> 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. Beginning January 30, 2023, Winter Storm Mara began impacting the state of Texas causing widespread property damage, hazardous travel disruptions, and localized power outages. I have determined that this incident 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 save lives and to protect property, public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster. Additional details are included in the cover letter for this request.		
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. Beginning January 29, 2023, I directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to prepare state emergency response resources ahead of a winter storm system expected to move across Texas. TDEM alerted all Texas Emergency Management Council members to be prepared to support response and recovery operations across the state. Responding agencies include: Texas Department of Transportation; Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service; Texas A&M Forest Service; Texas Department of State Health Services; Texas Health and Human Services Commission; Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Texas Animal Health Commission; Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; Public Utility Commission of Texas; Texas Military Department and many others. Additional details are included in the cover letter for this request.		

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 Feb 15, 2023      Start      End

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)  
Public Assistance joint Damage assessments are ongoing.

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.

Bastrop, Blanco, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Delta, Denton, Falls, Hays, Henderson, Hopkins, Hunt, Kendall, Lamar, Lee, Leon, Milam, Red River, Robertson, Shelby, Smith, Travis, and Williamson 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, law enforcement, food, and shelter.

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**

☒ 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.

## 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 AgenciesPlease 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 Feb 4, 2023 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

2/21/2023

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