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Office of the Governor

March 8, 2017

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

Through: Dr. Ahsha Tribble, Acting Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region IX
1111 Broadway Street, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Nevada as a result of severe and widespread flooding that occurred in the counties of Washoe, Elko (including the South Fork Band of Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone), Humboldt, Douglas (including the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California), and the independent city of Carson City. The State of Nevada seeks direct federal assistance as well as federal assistance through the public assistance program, the individual assistance program, and the hazard mitigation program. This request is being made pursuant to the provisions of Section 410 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207, as implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36.

BACKGROUND

February 2017 continued the trend of sustained above normal precipitation, especially for western and northern Nevada. Beginning on February 5, 2017, above normal precipitation continued across western Nevada, including the Carson City, Reno, and Tahoe areas, and stretching across the northern quarter of the state. The northwestern portion of the state had precipitation totals of 150 percent of normal, with many areas exceeding 200-300 percent of normal precipitation, or more. Across the northern quarter of the state, most areas received up to 150 percent of normal precipitation, with a few areas exceeding 200 percent. Across much of western and northern Nevada, February has been one of the top 10 percent wettest periods for the same month on record since

1895. Since the beginning of January, much of the state has seen above normal precipitation. Except for the southeastern portion of the state, much of Nevada has experienced precipitation amounts in excess of 150 percent of normal for the two month period. Areas near and around the Carson City, Reno, and Tahoe region have seen precipitation totals of 200-400 percent of normal for the two month period. Across much of western and northern Nevada, this two-month period is the wettest January/February on record (since 1895). The continued very heavy rain and rapid succession of atmospheric river events came quickly after significant precipitation occurred throughout much of January. As a result, rivers, creeks, and streams swelled, and saturated soils that did not have time to recover. Response efforts associated with these declared events are ongoing.

Heavy snowfall also impacted higher elevations near Lake Tahoe, causing multiple avalanches that blocked roads and buried homes. Flooding affected residents in the counties of Washoe, Elko (including the South Fork Band of Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone), Humboldt, Douglas (including the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California), and the independent city of Carson City. It caused damage to homes, property, and businesses, including areas within tribal jurisdictions. Water and debris damaged dozens of homes and businesses. At least 98 county transportation routes and 18 state transportation routes were flooded or washed out, engaging first response emergency agencies at all levels of government.

Many residents were impacted for multiple days due to closed transportation routes from the effects of flooding as well as the effects of unmanageable quantities of snow, including avalanche danger. Across northern Nevada, over 22 thousand homes were affected by 411 power outages of varying durations. Use of heavy equipment was necessary for debris removal, snow management, rock slides, and the delivery of water, food, and various survival supplies to families who lost access to roads.

The counties of Washoe, Douglas, Elko, and Humboldt, and the independent city of Carson City declared local emergencies, and in turn, requested assistance from the State of Nevada. A State Declaration of Emergency was issued on February 10, 2017, pursuant to state law, and was amended on March 2, 2017, for the above listed city and counties. This Declaration activated state resources to assist local and tribal governments through the State Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), in accordance with Section 501(a) of the Stafford Act.

DIRECT FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

The State of Nevada is continuously responding to the effects of the record breaking moisture using all resources available including use of the Nevada National Guard, Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada Highway Patrol, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Civil Air Patrol, American Red Cross, and other state and volunteer agencies. These resources have been, and are currently being, used to respond to major incidents across the state such as the rising flood waters surrounding

Swan Lake in Lemmon Valley, a currently flooded dry lake bed, is impacting homes and infrastructure, and the community of Montello was isolated due to flooding. Response activities continue for these events to repair access routes and provide services. The State of Nevada is also engaged in developing emergency protective measures for expected flooding during the spring runoff in areas such as Churchill County near the city of Fallon. The combination of continued response activities and preventative measures for anticipated flooding has created a situation where state resources are increasingly in demand, and the State is not able to fulfill all requests. Additionally, the State Emergency Assistance Account has been completely depleted due to the prolonged and severe nature of the flooding this year and the required response activities.

Direct Federal Assistance is requested in the form of technical assistance, de-watering/unwatering of inundated areas, and protective action measures to address identified areas of concern throughout the affected area; mass care support for the survivors and impacted communities that may need to be evacuated and/or sheltered as direct result of the continued and forecasted impacts; the environmental impacts of the contaminated waters, vector and health issues of the actively rising flood waters in Lemmon Valley; and support for the various animals, including livestock and pets.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The United States Department of Homeland Security (FEMA Region IX) deployed a team to provide technical support and assist Nevada in responding to ongoing flooding in the Lemmon Valley area of Washoe County. An additional team was deployed to assist in conducting local, state, tribal, and federal technical assistance and preliminary damage assessments (PDA). A joint team was assembled to conduct damage assessment on the affected areas, which met from February 27, 2017, through March 3, 2017, to survey the damaged areas and to estimate the costs to return the communities back to pre-disaster conditions.

The PDA analysis revealed that severe damage occurred to public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, culverts, buildings, equipment, utilities, and parks. At least 38 homes were seriously damaged throughout all of the counties assessed, and portions of 185 roads were damaged and needed to be repaired or cleared to allow for emergency responder access. The transportation damages include the following major roadways: in Douglas County, US-395, Muller Lane (SR-757), US-50, and Genoa Lane (SR-206); in Elko County, US 93, SR 233, IR-80, and SR 225; and in Washoe County, SR-431, I-80, and SR-341.

There have been debris removal efforts and emergency protective measures on county roads as well as permanent work. Permanent work sites captured in the joint PDA are included in Enclosure B: Preliminary Estimate of Damages by Categories Needed under the Stafford Act. Additional information of the response efforts of each county included in this State declaration is provided below:

1. Washoe County has been impacted by extensive county-wide flooding and has experienced severe damage due to this ongoing event. About 30 roads around the county were closed due to flooding, avalanches, and mudslides. All Washoe County schools have experienced delayed starts and closures due to dangerous conditions, and approximately 800 residents experienced power outages. Between February 5, 2017, and February 21, 2017, three flood warnings, three winter storm warnings, and one high wind warning were issued. Many septic tanks and residential wells have been affected by floodwater in Lemmon Valley and Washoe Valley.
 - a. Voluntary evacuations are still in effect for the Lemmon Valley area. Currently 48 homes are affected, but due to continually rising water, an additional 300 homes are threatened. The Lemmon Valley Waste Water Treatment Facility has reported berm damage which is threatening operations and could affect 900 residences. Many septic tanks and wells in Lemmon Valley have also been affected by floodwater.
2. Douglas County experienced many road closures, including US 395 (the major connection between Carson City and the Carson Valley), Muller Lane, US 50 (the major connection between Carson City and Lake Tahoe), and Genoa Lane. The Douglas County School District cancelled classes on February 10, 2017, due to flooding. Voluntary evacuations of the Aspen Mobile Home and Kings Lane Mobile Home Park were implemented on February 9, 2017, in addition to evacuation of homes along Highway 50 in Lake Tahoe due to rockslides. Repairs of Highway 50 were completed and the road reopened on February 14, 2017. Power lines were reported down on February 9 and 10, 2017, during which time an estimated 2,800 customers were without power. During the course of the event, 3 flood warnings were issued for Douglas County, which was in addition to 3 winter storm warnings, and 1 high wind warning.
3. Elko County was severely impacted by this series of storms. The Twentyone Mile Dam failed and caused significant flooding in the Montello area. Voluntary evacuation were put in place for the south side of Elko, the Montello area and the Thousand Springs Creek area. The Elko Elementary school was temporarily closed due to electrical problems from floodwaters and the Montello Elementary remains closed due to flooding. Three ranches experienced flooding during the event. One ranch became isolated and supplies had to be brought in across a washout via a pulley and cable system to the residents. Other ranches experienced damage and minimal livestock loss due to flooding. In Elko approximately 24 homes experienced flooding. In Montello approximately 30 homes experienced flooding. The Union Pacific Railway is experiencing a disruption due to a track washout from the failure of the Twentyone Mile Dam. The Elko Train Station also flooded to a level of 2-3 feet. During the course of the event, and continuing, Elko County has experienced road closures, including: US 93, SR 233, and FR405. State route 233 is still closed and sustained damage from the Twentyone Mile Dam failure. Roughly 63 other roads experienced

damage. On February 7, 2017, 8,700 residents lost power due to a power pole breaking. During the course of the event, 3 flood warnings were issued for the county, with the longest being for the Humboldt River and lasting from February 8 through 24, 2017. The dam break warning was issued on February 8, 2017, and a winter storm warning was issued for February 6 and February 7, 2017.

4. Humboldt County experienced damage to 68 county-controlled roads, and had closures on Shelton Lane, Martin Creek, Chimney Dam Road, and SR 140. Paradise Valley Elementary School was evacuated on February 7, 2017, due to flooding and was closed on February 8, 2017. Kings River Elementary School was also closed on February 8, 2017, due to flooding. Some county residents experienced contaminated wells due to floodwater. A total of 3 flood warnings were issued during the course of the event.
5. Carson City experienced many road closures, including Curry Street, Combs Canyon Road, Musser Street, and Center Drive. The Carson City School District cancelled class on February 10, 2017, and delayed school start by 2 hours on February 12, 2017, due to widespread flooding and unsafe roadways. Carson Tahoe Urgent Care, located in the Carson Mall, had to close on February 10, 2017, due to flooding. The city storm drainage system reached capacity on February 9, 2017, which resulted in more localized flooding. Also on February 9, over 300 customers lost power. Many city parks and trails had to be closed due to flooding, including: the Mexican Ditch Trail, the Moffit Open Space Trail, the Long Ranch Park, Morgan Mill, Riverview Park, and 3 different sports complexes. During the course of the event, 5 flood warnings, 2 Winter Storm Warnings, and 2 High Wind Warnings were issued for Carson City.

The repairs, along with debris removal, emergency response, and other protective measures are ongoing, and resulted in substantial costs, as shown in the attached PDA report. Based on these findings, I have determined that the damages created by the severe winter storm, and resulting flooding, are of such severity and magnitude that effective response and recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State of Nevada and the affected communities. Federal assistance is necessary.

RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

The response by public and private partners to the February 2017 winter storm event, and resulting flooding, emphasized the protection of lives, property, critical infrastructure, and the welfare of responders and reflected a well-coordinated, whole community approach to assisting disaster-impacted areas in Nevada. Local, state, and tribal officials issued emergency declarations and activated emergency operations plans. Public information announcements were coordinated utilizing television, radio, newspaper, and social media. Public safety organizations transmitted emergency and other data to ambulance crews, fire departments, law enforcement, public works, and other response units. State and local health departments provided technical assistance to ensure safe drinking water. Law enforcement, in conjunction with transportation

officials, determined traffic movement restriction and coordinated safety support. Public works crews closed and flagged roads, and also determined the extent of damages. Fire crews and engineers assisted with impact assessments. Emergency managers coordinated resource requests and damage assessments in their respective communities.

Nevada agencies provided the following support, some of which is ongoing:

1. Governor's Office – Staff members have conducted site visits, monitored conditions, and coordinated with federal, state, local, and tribal partners to identify recovery and mitigation measures.
2. Nevada Division of Emergency Management (DEM) – DEM participated in National Weather Service, federal, state, local, and tribal briefings, and posted information on WebEOC, which is Nevada's online incident management system. State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) staff coordinated 56 resource requests by local jurisdictions, tribal reservations, and state agencies to save lives, protect property, and to initiate short-term recovery measures.

Additionally:

- State Technical Assistance and Response Teams conducted damage assessments, organized the PDA in coordination with FEMA, and provided recovery program guidance.
- DEM provided a communications network for receiving and transmitting emergency and warning information among all levels of government and also provided support to emergency operations staff.

3. Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) - NDOT collaborated with the Nevada Highway Patrol to issue travel alerts and advisories as storm conditions intensified. NDOT used staff and emergency contracts to repair roads across northern Nevada to regain access to communities cut off by washed out transportation routes. NDOT road maintenance crews were out in force prior to and during the heavy rains and flooding, clearing state freeway drainages. NDOT assisted with redirecting traffic closed roads and initiated immediate repair of the roads listed above, which was necessary to provide access for emergency responders and ensure public safety.

4. Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP) – NHP coordinated with NDOT to assess conditions, close roads, re-route traffic, escort essential personnel through restricted areas, and issue advisories to the Nevada Trucking Association and the traveling public. NHP Troopers also responded to traffic accidents that resulted from hazardous driving conditions.

5. Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) – The Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) activated 5 supervised crews consisting of 24 inmates and 2 supervisors to be redeployed as needed around the effected region to assist with life/safety protection, critical infrastructure preservation and protection, home/property protection, evacuation, and cleanup efforts in impacted areas for the duration of the event. So far, these crews have filled 50 requests to aid in sandbagging efforts and drainage ditch clearing. NDF also deployed a helicopter in assistance of residents from the Montello community in Elko County, delivering food and water and for joint damage assessments. NDF also provided technical assistance and support through their Geospatial Information Systems capability, to track deployment of resources and damages resulting from the weather event.

6. Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) – NDHHS provided technical assistance to emergency managers, who helped assist residents, and to responders addressing safe drinking water issues. NDHHS also applied for and received emergency waivers for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to assist Elko and Lemmon Valley communities in recovering from the weather related emergencies.

7. Nevada National Guard (NVNG) – NVNG provided personnel and high water trucks for transportation of responders and evacuees in the flood damaged areas. NVNG also provided potable water to vulnerable areas.

Federal agencies provided the following support, much of which is ongoing:

1. National Weather Service (NWS) – NWS provided emergency personnel with analysis of severe storm watches and warnings.
2. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – FEMA dispatched an IMAT team to provide technical assistance and support to continuing flood fighting efforts in Washoe County and a survey team to support damage assessment efforts during the initial recovery phase.

Volunteer organizations provided the following support:

1. The American Red Cross (ARC) provided assistance during this disaster by opening two shelters in Elko County to house 14 evacuees on the night of February 12, 2017. These evacuees had to leave their residences due to rising flood waters. In addition to the shelters, the ARC set up 3 fixed feeding sites, 4 bulk distribution sites, and 1 emergency aid station. The ARC was also able to support 3 regional Emergency Operations Centers. During the course of the disaster the ARC served 664 meals and 1,626 light meals. The ARC distributed 191 clean-up kits, 127 comfort kits and 5,065 bulk items. At least 56 staff members, both regular staff and volunteers, from ARC were activated during this

disaster. An estimated 217 clients were served by the ARC during this disaster, including 7 that needed financial assistance, 3 that needed services and 2 that were ill or injured. The American Red Cross also performed Preliminary Damage Assessments of the affected areas on February 18, 2017. The ARC damage assessments found 20 inaccessible properties in Douglas County. In Elko County the ARC damage assessment found 27 properties with major damage, 43 properties with minor damage and 40 affected properties.

2. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) – As a part of additional volunteer efforts through Nevada VOAD, the Nevada Wing of the Civil Air Patrol provided flyover support to provide situational awareness and document damage.

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

The State of Nevada requests all Individual Assistance programs for all affected counties due to the continuing unprecedented series of weather events and impacts. The Individuals and Households Program is requested to assist residents that have been evacuated from their homes or are unable to access their homes due to standing flood waters that are not expected to recede for several months. Crisis Counseling Program is requested due to the ongoing stress of repeated and concurrent disasters. Disaster Unemployment Assistance is requested due to the challenges that damaged transportation routes continue to cause employees who work in areas where roads have been made impassable by snowfall or washouts. Disaster Case Management is requested as the State of Nevada does not have the staff available to manage the Individual Assistance program. Disaster Legal Services is requested for residents in flooded areas that have had difficulties with their insurance companies that are unwilling to pay claims in an expedient manner. Many of the individuals and homeowners affected by this disaster are rural, low income families that do not have the financial resources available to recover from these types of impacts, and the Small Business Administration’s Disaster Loan Program is also in conjunction with FEMA Individual Assistance requested here.

POPULATION OF AFFECTED AREAS

February 2017 - Affected Jurisdictions						
	Population*	Percent of People Below Poverty Level*	Median Household Income*	Percent Elderly (65 and over)*	Percent Disabled under the age of 65*	Percent Pre-Disaster Unemployment (as of November 2016)**
Nevada Totals	2,890,845	14.7%	\$51,847	14.6%	9.0%	5.1%
Carson City	54,521	16.8%	\$47,668	16.5%	17.2%	5.3%
Douglas County	47,710	9.4%	\$58,535	25.6%	10.5%	4.9%
Elko County	51,935	9.9%	\$71,799	9.7%	8.4%	3.9%
Humboldt County	17,019	9.4%	\$65,212	11.0%	8.3%	4.5%
Washoe County	446,903	13.8%	\$52,870	15.1%	8.2%	4.2%
Sources						
	* www.census.gov					
	** nevadaworkforce.com (Part of the Nevada Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation)					

The State of Nevada requested joint State/SBA/FEMA PDAs for the Individual Assistance Program, which were conducted on March 1, 2017, through March 3, 2015, in Washoe County in Lemmon Valley and Elko County in the Cities of Elko, Wells, Ryndon, and Montello.

Washoe County:

The Lemmon Valley population is approximately 5,229. There are 1,815 total households and 1,931 housing units, 76.6 percent of which are owner occupied, 17.3 percent are renter occupied, and 6 percent are vacant. The Median Household Income is \$55,227, where 9.8 percent are persons in poverty, and 10.8 percent are over 65 years old.

Damages within Washoe County, Lemmon Valley could not be fully validated in their entirety because the area remains flooded, and the water is stagnant. This will prolong and delay the verification and validation phase and ability to properly evaluate impact. In all, 7 homes were viewed, with 5 affected and 2 minor damages. And additional 34 homes were inaccessible due to standing flood waters.

The majority of homeowners and renters have flood insurance, however it may not cover damaged caused by sewage back-up. The ARC remains on stand-by, and the local government is not considering opening shelters at this time. The local Social Services agency has been consistently visiting and or calling residents within the affected area, serving as a liaison and referring those who have expressed a need to evacuate their homes to the local housing agency for hotel vouchers. One local church has been providing clothes and food to the affected population as well.

Elko County:

The population of the City of Elko is approximately 20,279. Approximately 10.6 percent are persons in poverty and 7.6 percent are over 65 years old. Demographically, the City is 79 percent White, 20 percent Hispanic, and 1 percent other. Multiple flood events affecting Elko in February caused local flooding including sewer back-up overflow into home area including crawl spaces and basements. The individuals affected by the flooding were for the most part low- and fixed-income residents with an average percentage of elderly population. Approximately 5 percent of those affected had flood insurance, primarily for structure coverage. Water depths in residences range from 1 inch to 8 feet in basements, and 1 inch to 3 feet on first floors. Flood waters reached the skirting on most homes with some having water reach bottom insulation. Of the 50 homes assessed for damages, 6 were deemed destroyed and nine 9 had major damages.

The population of the City of Wells is approximately 1,400. City Officials informed

the PDA teams of a high percent of over 65 years old, and demographically, the City is 90 percent White, was approximately 90%. Wells is also a low income community. Of the 7 homes assessed for damages, 4 were deemed major, 2 minor, and 1 affected.

Montello City has a population of 145, and has a high percentage of residents over 65 years old. Demographically, the predominant race is White for this low income community. Of the 7 homes assessed, 4 were deemed major and 3 minor.

In the Elko County City of Rynon, 1 home was assessed and deemed affected.

County	City	Destroyed	Major	Minor	Affected	Inaccessible	Total	Owner
Washoe	Lemmon Valley	0	0	2	5	34	7	6
Elko	Elko	6	9	14	21	0	50	38
Elko	Wells	0	4	2	1	0	7	7
Elko	Montello	0	4	3	0	0	7	7
Elko	Rynon	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
TOTAL		6	17	21	28	34	72	59

HAZARD MITIGATION

The weather events from January and February of 2017 represent an unprecedented series of emergencies and disasters for communities within Nevada, and there is a high likelihood for additional significant weather events in the near future due to floods resulting from snow runoff. While support through the public assistance program will be helpful in restoring infrastructure to pre-disaster conditions in Nevada, community and state partners are determined to ensure that work on public infrastructure is not destroyed by similar flooding or other emergency events in the future. Approval of hazard mitigation efforts is requested in conjunction with public assistance here in order to ensure that projects take into consideration mitigation measures that make Nevada's

infrastructure more resilient. Nevada also has an Enhanced Mitigation Plan, which not only means that the communities listed in this declaration request have plans prepared for mitigation projects, but also that through DEM, Nevada can coordinate a robust hazard mitigation effort during the recovery process if this program is approved.

TWELVE MONTH DISASTER HISTORY

FEMA-4303-DR Northern Nevada Winter Storm Event (January): Between the dates of January 5, 2017, and January 14, 2017, Nevada was impacted by a severe weather event caused by series of atmospheric rivers, resulting in record rainfall and record snowfall in northern Nevada. During this event, northern Nevada received half of its annual average rainfall, totaling 4.6 inches of 7.5 inches annually, and according to records, the eastern front of the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Lake Tahoe received 358 inches of snow when the average January snowfall is 74 inches. The combination of melting snow and unusually heavy rains resulted in widespread flooding along the rivers and urban flood prone areas in northern Nevada. The flooding affected residents in the counties of Washoe, Douglas, Lyon, Storey, the independent city of Carson City, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. The flooding caused damage to homes, property, and businesses, including areas within tribal jurisdictions. Water and debris damaged dozens of homes and businesses. It flooded or washed out 88 county transportation routes and 20 state transportation routes, engaging first response emergency agencies at all levels of government.

The counties of Washoe, Douglas, Lyon, Storey, the independent city of Carson City, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California declared local emergencies, and in turn, requested assistance from the State of Nevada. A State Declaration of Emergency was issued on January 7, 2017, and amended on February 2, 2017. A request for a presidential declaration of a major disaster was requested on February 10, 2017, and declared on February 17, 2017.

Lincoln County Bombing Incident, July 13, 2016: A bombing incident occurred in the Town of Panaca, in Lincoln County, Nevada, that posed a severe and immediate threat to the lives and safety of visitors and residents, and caused damage to homes and property within the community. The Governor of the State of Nevada, on July 13, 2016, authorized and directed the State of Nevada to mobilize and make available all State agencies and resources necessary and requested by Lincoln County to respond to this emergency.

On July 15, 2016, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners approved and issued a Declaration of Emergency due to the bombing incident. The State of Nevada provided a multi-agency response effort to assist Panaca and Lincoln County, which included the Division of Emergency Management, the Fire Marshal Division, the Nevada Highway Patrol Division, the Division of Investigations, the Nevada Threat Analysis Center, and the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, to coordinate and

work with other local, county, state, and federal agencies.

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT) Tule Wildfire, July 29, 2016: Beginning on July 28, 2016, fires began throughout Washoe County and on Saturday, July 30, the Tule fire burned in the Sutcliffe area and community, which is located on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's Reservation. The five fires were designated as the Virginia Mountains Complex fires, and included the Rock, Anderson, Sage, Seven Lakes, and Tule fires, all of which were determined to be caused by lightning strikes. The Tule Fire on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's Reservation was the biggest and caused the most damage.

Officials released the following fire statistics:

- Rock Fire – 2,293 acres
- Sage Fire – 4,238 acres
- Seven Lakes Fire – 3,063 acres
- Anderson Fire – 16,284 acres
- Tule Fire – 36,142 acres

Major firefighting operations forced the closure of Pyramid Lake for recreational use, and the Lake remained closed for several days. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe officials issued evacuation notices for Sutcliffe on the Saturday of the fire due to shifting wind patterns and the intensity of the fire, which endangered a total of approximately 350 homes and 600 residents. Tribal leadership reported that evacuations for beaches at Pyramid Lake numbered approximately 200 people.

Late Sunday afternoon, Tribal police also began conducting a mandatory evacuation of Big Canyon drainage area. The Reservation experienced several hours of power, water, and sewer service outages. State Routes 445 and 446 were shut down for several days while fire crews were suppressing the fires. Tribal officials reported on Saturday that three mobile homes, two vehicles, and one home were destroyed. The fire also destroyed six unoccupied historic structures at the Hardscrabble Ranch. Tribal members and residents were encouraged to seek shelter at the gymnasium in Nixon, Nevada, where approximately 40 families were sheltered. Additionally cellular telephone services were lost as an AT&T tower was destroyed. On July 30, 2016, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal leadership declared a State of Disaster for the Reservation due to the Tule Wildfire, and on August 8, the Governor signed a Declaration of Emergency for Virginia Mountains Complex Fire, to include Washoe County and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

Because this fire was on a Tribal Reservation and the Tribe has the option of going directly to FEMA, DEM requested assistance from FEMA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) to conduct a joint Federal, State, and Tribal damage assessment. It was determined that Nevada did not meet FEMA or SBA declaration criteria. SBA's criteria includes at least 25 homes (primary residences) and/or businesses if a county/reservation have uninsured losses of 40% or more of their estimated fair replacement value. A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team was also

requested immediately to assist the Tribe with restoration of the burned area.

On July 29, a Fire Management Assistance Grant was granted for this fire. Eligible firefighting costs include expenses for emergency protective measures and firefighting activities such as field camps; equipment use, repair and replacement; tools, materials and supplies; and mobilization and demobilization activities. This grant provided a 75 percent federal cost share.

Little Valley Wildfire, October 14, 2016: The Little Valley Fire started in the Franktown Road area of Washoe Valley at 2:00 AM on Friday, October 14, 2016. The fire was driven by strong winds out of the southwest, at 35 MPH and gusting to 70 in the hills. The Little Valley Fire spread quickly, burning a total of 2,291 acres. Embers were believed to be the cause of a secondary fire near Mt. Rose highway, which was called the Rolling Hills Fire. The secondary fire burned 10 acres and emergency response personnel contained it within three hours. Heavy rains helped with the firefighting effort, but also caused minor flash flooding in the fire area. The Little Valley Fire was 100% contained on October 19, 2016, but firefighters continued to monitor and patrol the fire perimeter through October 31, 2016.

A total of 23 homes and 17 outbuildings were destroyed in this fire, with one home sustaining major damages. Homeowners were insured, but according to insurance adjusters on the scene many homes were under-insured. Costs estimates based on replacement costs were developed using county assessor data, and were calculated to be nearly \$4,000,000. The State's cost to activate the SEOC, deploy Satellite Communications support, and the National Guard security detail were approximately \$35,000. The costs to fight the fire have not been reported by Washoe County or state agencies at this time.

Although the community was greatly impacted by this fire, it did not meet the threshold for a presidential declaration or a SBA administrative declaration. However, a request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant was granted on October 14, 2016. Eligible firefighting costs included expenses for emergency protective measures and firefighting activities such as field camps; equipment use, repair and replacement; tools, materials and supplies; and mobilization and demobilization activities. This grant provides a 75 percent federal cost share.

The cumulative impact of these events has been devastating. Given the millions of dollars spent throughout the past 12 months to protect, repair, restore and rebuild communities, significant state, county, and city resources have been depleted. The State Emergency Assistance Fund has been completely exhausted due to the prolonged and severe nature of the flooding this year and the ongoing required response activities. Each entity is impaired in its ability to assist and respond to the dire needs within these urban, rural and tribal communities.

CONCLUSION

The State of Nevada is committed to response and recovery from the destruction

caused by the ongoing flooding in Washoe County and the February 2017 weather events in the counties of Elko (including the South Fork Band of Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone), Humboldt, Douglas (including the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California), and the independent city of Carson City. State, local, and tribal entities have expended substantial resources in their response and need the assistance of the federal government to recover effectively and efficiently. Therefore, I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Nevada.

Caleb Cage, the Chief of the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, has been designated as the Governor's Authorized Representative and the State Coordinating Officer for this request. Chief Cage will work with FEMA on damage assessments and will provide further information or justification if needed.

Thank you for your expedited consideration, and I look forward to your response and assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincere regards,



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor