

STEVE KNIGHT  
25TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

HOUSE ARMED  
SERVICES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0525**

1023 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-1956  
FAX: (202) 226-0683

1008 WEST AVENUE M-14, SUITE E  
PALMDALE, CA 93551  
(661) 441-0320

1445 E. LOS ANGELES AVENUE, #206  
SIMI VALLEY, CA 93065  
(805) 581-7130

26415 CARL BOYER DRIVE  
SUITE 220  
SANTA CLARITA, CA 91350  
(661) 255-5630

KNIGHT.HOUSE.GOV

February 27, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

I am writing to urge that you act rapidly to issue a Presidential Emergency Declaration to address the threats to public safety caused by severe rainstorms and flooding that have impacted the County of Los Angeles, California. Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, a declaration would immediately direct federal resources to help communities respond to and recover from the damage due to three consecutive months of extraordinary rainfall.

On January 23, California Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency for 50 of the state's counties due to severe winter storms that have caused flooding, rock and mudslides, erosion, debris flow, and the destruction of roads and highways.

As you know, California's historic drought conditions of 2016 led to a series of major wildfires that swept through tens of thousands of acres of forest. Mountain ranges throughout Southern California, including the ranges north of Los Angeles, were charred or denuded and left without any natural defense to heavy rains.

California is now in the midst of one of the wettest winters in years. Weeks of heavy rains have flooded rivers, swept mud, rocks, and trees from the mountains into our towns, and washed cars off roads. Dozens of major highways and hundreds of crossroads have been damaged and significant parts rendered unusable. The recovery efforts have placed a severe strain on local and state resources. Over the last three months Los Angeles County, including the local jurisdictions and special districts, has estimated costs close to \$100 million for protective measures, response and recovery activities related to the atmospheric rivers in Southern California.

A Presidential Emergency Declaration would immediately make federal aid available to support mud and debris removal and road repair to the residents of Los Angeles County, as well as increase the capacity of federal, state, and local agencies to address the crisis as it develops.

I respectfully ask that you act rapidly in order to ensure that appropriate federal agencies are able to provide Southern California the needed assistance to restore safety and minimize the impact of this challenging situation. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Knight", is written over a blue horizontal line.

Steve Knight  
Member of Congress