



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

June 15, 2011

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Through: Andrew Velasquez, III, Regional Administrator
FEMA Region V
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5208 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Ohio as a result of flooding, flash flooding and severe storms beginning April 1, 2011 through May 15, 2011. I am specifically requesting a declaration for Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Clermont, Gallia, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton and Washington counties.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on April 20, 2011 in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. A Governor's Proclamation of a state of emergency was made on June 6, 2011 for Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Clermont, Gallia, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton and Washington counties.

The updated State Hazard Mitigation Plan is a standard plan and was reapproved as of May 13, 2011.

On May 31, 2011, I requested a joint Federal, State, and local survey of the damaged areas. Preliminary assessments indicated the most severe impacts were to the public sector and are described in detail below (see Impact).

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 governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting the Public Assistance Grant Program (Categories A-G) for Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Clermont, Gallia, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Meigs, Montoe, Morgan, Noble, Pike, Ross,

Scioto, Vinton and Washington counties. I am also requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant program for all counties within the State.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in Enclosure A. Estimated requirements for assistance from certain Federal agencies under other statutory authorities are tabulated in Enclosure B.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 14 – ESF 14 began monitoring the effects of the spring rain in mid-April and began gathering local damage assessment in early-May. The monitoring and damage assessment resulted in my request for the FEMA/State/Local Joint Public Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for the twenty-one (21) counties included in this request and also for a Small Business Administration (SBA) only declaration for Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton counties.

State Individual Assistance Program - In conjunction with the SBA only declaration, the State is implementing the State Individual Assistance (State IA) Program in Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton counties and it is estimated that this Program will cost \$750,000. Funding for this Program has been requested and approved by the State Controlling Board. The State IA Program is designed to provide grants to those homeowners and renters not eligible for or denied SBA loans who have incurred real and/or personal property losses.

Federal Highway Administration Emergency Program - On the 16th of May, I issued a Governor's Proclamation of emergency for Ashtabula, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Carroll, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Erie, Fairfield, Gallia, Geauga, Guernsey, Hamilton, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jefferson, Lake, Lawrence, Mahoning, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pike, Portage, Scioto, Seneca, Stark, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Vinton and Washington counties directing the State Department of Transportation to enter into contracts in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This Proclamation was in response to heavy rains beginning in March that resulted in road slips/landslides and other infrastructure damages to Federal Aid System routes in Ohio. The FHWA Emergency Program has been established with an event date of May 16. Damage estimates are ongoing and additional counties are likely to be added to the Proclamation.

Renew Ohio and Rebuild Ohio - On June 13, 2011, Treasurer of State Josh Mandel initiated a \$25 million emergency financing program to assist Ohioans whose small businesses, farms and homes were damaged by flooding and severe weather in 2011 in all 88 counties. Through the Ohio Treasury's "Renew Ohio & Rebuild Ohio" linked deposit programs, small business owners, farmers and homeowners affected by the floods and severe weather are now eligible to receive emergency financial assistance through interest rate reductions on loans.

IMPACT

The impact of this event has been widespread and costly due to the prolonged and record setting spring rainfall. Per a public information statement issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) Wilmington, a persistent upper level weather channel over the eastern United States led to an active storm track over the Ohio Valley this spring and record amounts of rainfall. All

three months (March/April/May) of meteorological spring recorded above normal rainfall at the three area climate stations of Columbus, Cincinnati and Dayton. In addition, during the month of April and continuing through mid-May, the local NWS offices serving Ohio issued flood warnings, flood watches, flash flood warnings, flash flood watches, flood advisories and/or special weather statements, for the Ohio River Watershed and Drainage Basin for 31 of the 44 days in question. Eighty-one percent of those warning/watches/advisories were issued directly for the impacted counties included in this request but 100 percent had a direct impact on the watershed of the counties. Also during this time period, there were almost daily road closures due to flooding and/or high water in the impacted counties.

All but one (1) of the twenty-one (21) counties included in this request are Appalachian counties. Seven (7) are considered distressed which means that economically, they rank in the worst ten percent of the nation's counties and six (6) are considered at-risk which means they rank between the worst ten percent and twenty-five percent of the nation's counties. The majority of counties' population have per capita income between \$15,408 and \$28,697 which indicates a low tax base for regular infrastructure projects much less these high dollar disaster related projects, and severely impacts the likelihood that they could fully cover the estimated repair costs. Finally, the unemployment rates vary from nine percent to nineteen point seven percent in all but one (1) of the counties. This demographic information is provided to show that without Federal assistance, the affected jurisdictions cannot effectively recover from this event.

In seventeen (17) of the counties, the concentration of damages is limited to under ten (10) jurisdictions or private non-profit organizations. Most of the jurisdictions are county highway departments and small, rural townships and villages. This concentration denotes a greater impact to already limited local budgets that are nearly half way through the fiscal year and following a demanding winter season.

In the past twelve (12) months, the State and its local governments have experienced several events for which there was no federal assistance from FEMA. In June 2010, the State implemented our disaster recovery assistance programs to assist individuals and local governments in Fulton, Lucas, Ottawa and Wood counties in recovery from tornadoes. These program expenditures, including the local shares, totaled \$735,838. In September 2010, the state program for individuals was implemented again, this time for Athens, Meigs and Perry counties following tornadoes for a total cost of \$336,132. Finally, flooding due to heavy rains and snow melt in late February/early March resulted in an estimated \$6 million in damages to counties in northern Ohio that was fully absorbed by local governments.

In addition, the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) is providing assistance through the State Capital Improvement Program for approximately thirty-four (34) projects in Adams, Belmont, Clermont, Gallia, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Meigs, Morgan, Pike, Scioto and Washington. The estimated cost for these projects is \$6,690,034 of which OPWC is funding approximately sixty-one percent. Projects include road slips/landslides, bridge repairs and road washouts that have occurred since July 2010 but that include damages incurred within this incident. The thirty-nine percent local share of these projects places an additional burden on these local governments in their financial recovery from this recent event.

CATEGORY A - DEBRIS REMOVAL

Nearly every county surveyed during the Joint PDA identified some level of debris removal, the majority of which is tied to the removal of materials that had fallen from uphill slips onto the

roadways. This debris required removal in order to open the roads for emergency vehicles, school buses and the traveling public. A second cause of significant debris relates to Lawrence County and the May 10-11 flash flood. The County Engineer inspected all bridges throughout the County and found approximately 209 sites with event related woody debris requiring removal in order to eliminate the immediate threat to improved property. The estimated cost of this removal is \$418,000.

CATEGORY B – EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Due to the significant road slips/landslides and road washouts caused by this event, counties and local jurisdictions have incurred considerable expense for temporary road repairs to open roads where they could, to place barricades and detour signs where roads had to be closed and in some instances overtime costs associated with activating flood control works. The City of Cincinnati in Hamilton County incurred approximately \$70,000 in overtime to staff the Barrier Dam and to install and remove flood gates at the Carr Street and Mehring Way locations. The Barrier Dam was staffed 24 hours a day (normally staffed 8 hours a day) from April 19 through May 2. The flood gates at Carr Street and Mehring Way were installed on April 21 and 22 respectively and removed on April 29 and 30 respectively. The 55.33 feet crest on the Ohio River at Cincinnati on April 26, 2011 is listed as 60th of 181 historical crests for this location.

CATEGORY C – ROADS AND BRIDGES

All counties surveyed reported extensive damage to their road systems, including numerous road slips/landslides that were identified beginning in early April. Of the estimated \$43,394,029 damages assessed during the Joint PDA, \$39,591,508 falls within this Category. Identified damages include approximately 519 road slips/landslides, 97 culverts damaged, 17 bridges damaged and 84 roads washed out. This impact to local infrastructure is not only overwhelming to local budgets but will result in a lengthy recovery period due to the amount of sites and concentration of damages. Record rainfall this spring coupled with the hilly and steep topography of the affected area has proven to be a disastrous combination of circumstances. Hardest hit are the Appalachian counties of Adams, Brown, Gallia, Lawrence and Pike whose county per capita losses are \$121.72, \$77.27, \$140.81, \$88.50 and \$80.36 respectively. In addition to the high per capita losses, Adams, Gallia, Lawrence and Pike have been classified as distressed or at risk per the Appalachian Regional Commission.

CATEGORY E – BUILDINGS AND CONTENTS

Flooding and flash flooding from this event has also impacted several publically owned facilities, including township buildings and volunteer fire departments. Existing insurance coverage for these facilities will fall short of that required for recovery. Clean up of the facilities is complete but permanent repairs are ongoing.

CATEGORY F – PUBLIC UTILITIES

The City of Portsmouth in Scioto County also experienced flooding along the Ohio River to the extent that the City's floodwall was closed. This closure coupled with heavy rainfall on April 23 overwhelmed the pumps that send water from the waste water treatment plant to the Ohio River and caused damage at the City's treatment plant and the pumps. Estimated cost for these repairs is \$224,433 (categories D and F). In addition, Ohio River flooding caused a failure of 60 feet of 36" intercepter sewer and a cave in at Kellogg Park in the City of Cincinnati. Repairs are estimated at \$500,000. Also impacted from this event is 190 linear feet of 24 inch sandstone

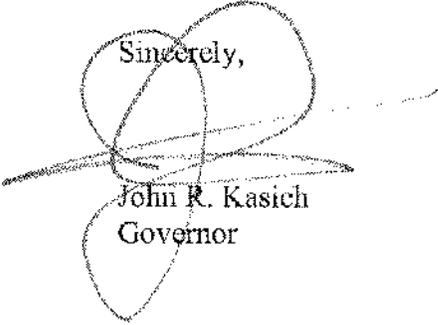
storm sewer in the Village of Pomeroy, Meigs County. This sewer system is in excess of 100 years old and may have historic significance to the area. Repair costs are currently estimated at \$350,000.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. Total expenditures are expected to exceed \$10,848,508, in accordance with the table in Enclosure C.

In addition, 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 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 agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated Nancy J. Dragani as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. She will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



John R. Kasich
Governor

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance
Stafford Act

CATEGORY

County	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Adams	12,000	1,660	3,313,084	0	0	0	0	3,326,744
Athens	3,500	4,000	2,565,000	0	0	0	5,000	2,577,500
Belmont	6,950	10,210	1,784,774	0	0	0	0	1,801,934
Brown	11,000	0	3,223,641	32,750	0	0	0	3,267,391
Clermont	0	17,996	1,375,000	0	5,114	0	0	1,398,110
Gallia	41,700	42,000	4,203,830	0	0	87,300	0	4,374,830
Guernsey	15,000	1,521	2,735,330	0	0	0	0	2,751,851
Hamilton	295,028	110,977	5,936,053	0	0	956,987	55,000	7,354,045
Hocking	41,811	10,500	542,552	0	0	0	0	594,863
Jackson	39,600	76,000	937,067	0	71,000	0	0	1,123,667
Jefferson	45,632	3,500	367,032	0	0	0	0	416,164
Lawrence	423,905	7,800	4,906,000	0	0	177,500	0	5,515,205
Meigs	13,500	1,200	708,045	0	0	561,000	0	1,283,745
Monroe	0	1,500	1,136,859	0	0	0	0	1,138,359
Morgan	3,500	0	404,391	0	0	0	0	407,891
Noble	34,622	0	463,810	0	0	0	0	498,432
Pike	50,000	0	2,175,500	0	0	0	0	2,225,500
Ross	28,325	19,750	323,250	0	0	0	0	371,325
Scioto	134,523	6,070	1,686,745	23,433	2,180	201,000	26,400	2,080,351
Vinton	0	0	274,855	0	13,777	0	2,300	290,932
Washington	9,000	1,000	528,690	0	0	56,500	0	595,190
Totals:	1,209,596	315,684	39,591,508	56,183	92,071	2,040,287	88,700	43,394,029

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

County	SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	OTHER
Totals							

N/A

ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Governor's Certification

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. As stated in my basic letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE	AMOUNT OF NON FEDERAL SHARE
Public Assistance:	
Category A – Debris Removal	\$302,399.00
Category B – Emergency Protective Measures	\$78,921.00
Category C – Roads and Bridges	\$9,897,877.00
Category D – Water Control Facilities	\$14,046.00
Category E – Buildings and Equipment	\$23,018.00
Category F – Utilities	\$510,072.00
Category G – Parks and Recreation	\$22,175.00
Total:	\$10,848,508.00 *

*In addition to match for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program