



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR**

October 16, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Mr. Robert D. Samaan, Regional Administrator
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster declaration for the State of North Carolina due to the impacts of Potential Tropical Cyclone Eight ("PTC Eight"). The amount of damage and other impacts associated with PTC Eight exceed the local and state capacity to recover effectively and wholly. Accordingly, I am requesting all categories of Public Assistance (PA) for four (4) counties: Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, and Onslow, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMPG) assistance statewide.

According to the National Weather Service, PTC Eight developed as an area of low pressure off the Carolinas' Coast on September 13, 2024. Historic rainfall occurred across the Cape Fear Region of North Carolina on September 16, 2024, bringing heavy rainfall of 12-20 inches in coastal areas over two days, resulting in riverine and flash flooding. There were Coastal Flood Advisories issued in the impacted area, and the Brunswick Nuclear Plant issued an Unusual Event alert because of the flooding surrounding the plant. There were elevated power outages, and two television stations were knocked off air due to the damage associated with the storms at the transmitter site. Numerous roads were closed, schools closed, and healthcare facilities and impacted areas were evacuated or otherwise impacted by the flooding. PTC Eight resulted in widespread and substantial damage in North Carolina's southern coastal plain region. One death was confirmed in Brunswick County.

Actions Under State Law And Implementation Of The State Emergency Operations Plan

In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I took appropriate action under state law to respond to this situation. I declared a state of emergency, issuing Executive Order No. 313, for four (4) counties including Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, and New Hanover counties on September 17, 2024. I amended this state of emergency, with Executive Order No. 314, on September 18, 2024, to add four (4) additional counties, including Carteret, Dare, Onslow, and Pender counties. As part of the September 17, 2024, declaration, I directed the execution of the state emergency operations plan, in accordance with Section 401(a) of the Stafford Act.

Nature And Amount Of State And Local Resources That Have Been, Or Will Be Used To Alleviate The Impact Of This Incident.

The North Carolina State Emergency Response Team and the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management Eastern Regional Coordination Center were stood up in Enhanced Watch status to support local and state response and recovery efforts to PTC Eight from September 16, 2024, through September 20, 2024.

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

- Local emergency operations centers were activated or partially activated.
- Thirteen county and municipal states of emergency were put into effect.
- Brunswick County put a voluntary evacuation into place.
- The North Carolina Department of Transportation closed numerous roads and suspended operations of the Southport ferry due to riverine flooding and flash flooding in southeast North Carolina.
- An evacuation of 84 residents at a local skilled nursing facility was executed.
- One regional urban search and rescue team was deployed.
- The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management Human Services Branch assisted Brunswick County, NC Baptists on Mission, and the American Red Cross to meet the needs of residents.
- Several shelters were opened to house survivors.
- The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality committed resources for water testing during the event.

Joint FEMA/State Public Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment

Preliminary Damage Assessments of the impacted area were conducted on October 1 and 2, 2024. All the requested counties have met their minimum indicator for declaration. The survey evidenced significant and catastrophic damage to roads, bridges, state property, beaches, and other recreational facilities. The attached preliminary

damage estimates total \$36,743,111.00, which exceeds the minimum state indicator of \$19,730,443.32.

Disaster History

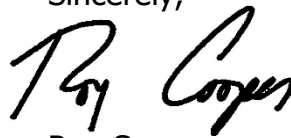
In the last 60 months, state and local emergency management agencies have responded to Tropical Storm Debby, the unprecedented COVID-19 global pandemic, with ten federally declared major disaster declarations to wit: Hurricane Helene in September 2024, Tropical Storm Fred in August 2021, Tropical Storm Eta in November 2020, Hurricane Isaias in July 2020-August 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020; severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding in February 2020; and Hurricane Dorian in September 2019. I have declared eleven state disaster declarations in the last two years, the most recent in July 2024. The state has responded to weather events in the City of Marion (McDowell-2024), City of Newton (Catawba-2023), City of Rocky Mount (Nash-2023), Catawba County (2024), Gaston County (2024), Town of Cherryville (Gaston-2023), Town of Dortches (Nash-2023), Town of Elkin (Surry-2023), Town of Landis (Rowan- 2023), Town of West Jefferson (Ashe- 2024), Village of Cedar Rock (Caldwell-2023).

Pursuant to 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary to supplement the efforts and available resources of the state, local governments, disaster relief organizations, and compensation by insurance for disaster-related losses.

I have designated William C. Ray as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

I appreciate your support and recognition of the State's need for Federal support in response to this event.

Sincerely,

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

Roy Cooper

RAC/wmp/swh

Enclosures: FEMA Form 010-0-13
Preliminary Damage Assessment