TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

July 18, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Regional Administrator Beth Freeman
FEMA Region VII
9221 Ward Parkway, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64114

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), as implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Iowa as a result of severe weather that produced damaging winds, tornados, heavy rains and thunderstorms resulting in severe flooding beginning June 21, 2013, through June 28, 2013, causing significant damages to public infrastructure and private property.

GENERAL FACTS OF THIS DISASTER.

Torrential rains starting on June 21 triggered National Weather Service (NWS) offices to issue flash flood warnings for over half of Iowa's 99 counties. Parts of Allamakee County in northeast Iowa received 4 inches of rain within an hour, causing extreme flash flooding throughout the county. As the weather system continued into June 22, additional parts of northeast Iowa reported severe storms, flash flooding, hail, and further damages. The unincorporated town of Dorchester in Allamakee County recorded 2.61 inches of rain on June 21. Heavy rains continued on June 22, with the city of Strawberry Point, Clayton County, receiving 4.12 inches of rain. Between June 21 and June 23, a total of 8.99 inches of rain was recorded in Dorchester, Allamakee County.

Severe storms continued to move across Iowa on June 24, bringing strong winds, hail, torrential rains and tornados. Tornado warnings were issued for several areas in eastern Iowa, including a tornado reported by law enforcement near the city of Stanwood in Cedar County. Rainfall on June 24 was also significant, with 6.8 inches of precipitation falling in the city of Lowden, Cedar County.

Several rivers in the affected area again left their banks as a result of the heavy rains. These rivers had previously been above flood stage from flooding that occurred as part of Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-4126-DR. On June 25, the Wapsipinicon River rose above flood stage, after a short period below flood stage that started June 12. The Turkey River also exceeded flood stage, having previously been above flood stage until May 31. The Cedar and the Iowa rivers rose above flood stage again after only two days of being below that level. The Mississippi River went below flood stage in Iowa on June 24, only to again rise above flood stage the following day as swollen Iowa rivers drained into it.

The weather system that brought the precipitation to Iowa starting on June 21 was part of a large regional pattern, one with systems setting up in roughly the same areas and following nearly the same paths from west to east across the state, causing repeated rainfall and flooding. Normally, the jet stream affecting Iowa oscillates across the central U.S., bringing associated heavier precipitation one week to the northern states, then shifting further south to push precipitation to southern states. During the spring and early summer of this year, this oscillating pattern stalled with Iowa and parts of the upper Midwest seeing frequent periods of wet weather associated with a more northerly and stationary position of the jet stream.

Using statewide average statistics, this year Iowa has recorded its wettest April, wettest May, wettest spring and the wettest year-to-date of the 141 years of weather records. Iowa also had the coolest spring of the past 120 years, second only to 1960.

According to the Iowa state climatologist, the delayed planting in 2013 due to persistent cold and wet weather has resulted in Iowa's crops being about three weeks behind their usual stage of development. With about 75 percent of Iowa's normal summer vegetation being crops, this delayed crop development has resulted in evaporation losses of about one-tenth of an inch less per day than what would typically be the case for mid to late June. The result is this: soils are remaining wetter than usual, not only because of the greater than normal rainfall, but also because of less than normal evaporation. This abnormal moisture content caused by significant precipitation in the early spring, coupled with the lack of normal moisture utilization by crops, has made flooding conditions ideal.

In response to these severe conditions, I issued two State of Iowa Proclamations of Disaster Emergency for two of the ten counties for which I am requesting federal assistance. The remaining eight counties had already been declared disaster counties as part of previous disaster proclamations I had issued beginning May 28, 2013.

I determined that the severity of the damage in 12 counties was so great that a joint federal and state Preliminary Damage Assessment should be completed. On July 2, 2013, the State of Iowa first requested a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment for 11 counties. On July 10, I requested that Benton County be added to this joint damage assessment. This assessment process commenced on July 9, 2013, and was concluded on July 13, 2013.

As a result of this joint assessment, I have determined that the severity of damages in ten counties is such that federal assistance is needed and is warranted under the Stafford Act.

DEATHS, INJURIES, ADDITIONAL DAMAGES.

The following is a continuation of the additional damages, impacts, and accessibility problems in the affected area and population in sections eight and ten of the Request for Presidential Disaster (FEMA Form 010-0-13).

Fatalities, Injuries, and Evacuations.

- On June 22, campers, including approximately 50 Boy Scouts, were rescued by emergency personnel from camp grounds along the Yellow River between the cities of Lansing and Harpers Ferry in Allamakee County.
- The city of Waukon, Allamakee County, received five inches of rain on June 22. The flooding caused downtown and residential areas to flood, with several homes receiving flood waters above the basement level, several major businesses were flooded and the fire station sustained extensive damage. The city's park lost all five of its pedestrian bridges, and also sustained heavy damage throughout the park. Black Hills Energy discontinued natural gas service to the city until flood waters finally receded. Shelters were opened at the Allamakee Community School District's junior high school and at Veterans Memorial Hospital for evacuees from Waukon. Initial reports indicated that 15-20 residents utilized the shelters, leaving only to stay with friends and family after flood waters started to recede.
- Heavy rains made visibility along already saturated roads difficult, and made flood waters nearly invisible at night. The Decorah Fire Department and the Winneshiek County Sheriff's Office rescued a motorist who was unable to see water across the road in rural Winneshiek County before dawn on June 24.
- Residents on Wall Street in the city of Lansing, Allamakee County, were evacuated on June 24 as the hillsides both above and below their homes started to give way due to saturated soils and continued precipitation.
- Five people were rescued by boat in the city of Lowden, Cedar County, after the area received over six inches of rain within six hours on June 24.
- After receiving nearly eight inches of rain on June 24, Beaver Creek in Butler County rose about ten feet in 24 hours, a full three feet above flood stage. At about 3 a.m. on June 25, officials from the city of New Hartford, Butler County, issued a Code Red notice to the city's 520 residents to evacuate as waters from Beaver Creek overtopped the levee protecting the city from the east. New Hartford Fire Department and Butler County Sherriff's Deputies went door-to-door throughout the city, notifying residents of the mandatory evacuation. Residents were advised to evacuate to the Boyd Community Building in the nearby city of Shell Rock, Butler County, where the American Red Cross, in conjunction with Bremer County Emergency Management and the Butler County Community Emergency Response Team, set up a shelter.

Agriculture.

- Iowa is the national leader in corn, soybean, pork and egg production, and second nationally in red meat, net farm income, and overall agriculture exports. In 2011, Iowa agriculture contributed $9.875 billion to Iowa's economy, or about 6.6% of

Iowa's gross domestic product. However, the combination of drought conditions in 2012, longer than normal winter conditions in 2013, and flood waters inundating prime farmland in 2013 has severely delayed planting or caused already planted crops to be lost to flood waters, thus putting the success of this year's crop in question. Floodwaters have damaged soils by eroding topsoil thereby reducing the productivity of remaining topsoil.

- The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service reported that four percent of Iowa's corn crop remained to be planted as of June 23, the first time that any corn remained to be planted this late in the year since 1993.
- USDA statistics also show that soybean planting was also behind by the end of June, with approximately four percent of the crop being unplanted.
- Sediments remaining after the flood waters recede may have further reduced yield potential (fallow syndrome) within the affected area. The full extent of economic damages cannot be realized until this year's crop yields are projected.

Commercial and Transportation.

- Damage to roads is extensive throughout the affected area. Flooding has washed many roadbeds away, scoured road surfaces through overtopping, collapsed culverts and damaged bridges. These damages have rendered much of the affected area roads impassable until repairs can be made. These damages have severely impacted the ability of emergency response in the area and agricultural operations including: remaining planting in fields, farm to market deliveries, and other commercial cargo from reaching its destination.

  - Severe flash flooding isolated the city of Lowden on June 24 in Cedar County, leaving emergency personnel no way to access the city. Flood waters later dropped near Highway 30, allowing limited access to the city. FEMA and state personnel travelling to conduct a kick-off meeting for DR-4119 in Lowden on June 24 were forced to turn around after encountering impassible roads.
  - The Winneshiek County Secondary Roads Department reported that a 13 by 40-foot multi-plate culvert washed out after heavy rains starting on June 21 caused Iowa River levels to rise.
  - Branch Road in rural Howard County was washed out. This dead-end road serves two farm families. This would have caused extreme difficulty for emergency responders in reaching the families should emergency services been needed.
  - In Benton County alone, some 11 bridges were closed due to flood waters. The bridge closures and other road closures throughout the county resulted in detours of up to 45 miles, considerably delaying response times for emergency responders throughout the county.

- Flooding in the city of Waukon, Allamakee County, caused a number of businesses in the downtown district to flood.

- As a result of flooding and fast-moving waters, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries and Wildlife Management sustained an estimated $104,000 in damage to trout cages in Allamakee County, resulting in what may be a strain on trout populations throughout the state. This will have a detrimental impact on sport fishing and associated economic impacts throughout Iowa.
- The campgrounds and large areas of Yellow River State Forest sustained damage estimated at $270,000. The DNR also reported that 28 creek crossings at state conservation areas in Winneshiek County were lost due to flooding.

Residential.

- Allamakee County reported receiving four inches of rain within an hour on June 21, causing extreme flash flooding throughout the county. It is estimated that the flooding affected over 400 homes in Allamakee County.
- Five homes were severely impacted by flood waters in the city of Lowden, Cedar County, on June 24. Some of those homes received water over the first-floor elevation of the homes.

RESOURCES PROVIDED.

The following describes the nature and amount of state and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate conditions of this disaster as outlined in section nine of the Request for Presidential Disaster (FEMA Form 010-0-13).

Local Resources.

- Shelters for evacuees from the city of Waukon were opened by volunteers from the Allamakee Community School District and Veterans Memorial Hospital on June 22.
- City of New Hartford firefighters and Butler County Sheriff deputies went door-to-door on June 24 in the city of New Harford to inform residents of the mandatory evacuation.
- Buchanan County Emergency Management opened two sandbag centers in the city of Independence on June 26 as the National Weather Service predicted that the Wapsipinicon River at Independence would crest at record levels.
- Several fire departments, county sheriff offices, and local police departments provided water rescues in the affected area.
- County sheriff offices, local police, and county road crews provided traffic control around closed roads and bridges.
- County secondary road crews repaired roads and bridges as needed and possible in the affected area.

Non-Governmental Organizations.

- American Red Cross (ARC).

- Provided cleanup kits in Buchanan County.
- Opened a shelter in the city of Shell Rock for residents evacuated from the city of New Hartford on June 24.

- Black Hills Energy shut off natural gas service to the city of Waukon, Allamakee County, as a precautionary measure as flood waters inundated the city.
- Alliant Energy suspended nnatural gas service to customers in the city of Lowden, Cedar County, on June 24 as a precautionary measure.
- MidAmerican Energy suspended gas service to customers in the city of New Hartford, Butler County, on June 24 as a precautionary measure as flood waters threatened the city.

State Resources.

- In conjunction with the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD), my office has continued to utilize www.IowaFloodCentral.tumblr.com to give Iowans a single-point resource for up-to-date flood information, including where to get assistance, press releases, and other pertinent flood information.
- HSEMD provided pumps to the cities of New Hartford and Parkersburg, Butler County.
- The Iowa Department of Public Safety provided State Fire Marshal building inspectors to provide assessment assistance in the city of Waukon, Allamakee County.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SUMMARY.

Flood waters and storms left much of the affected area with significant debris, such as vegetation, dirt and sand, and other debris (Category A). Many communities in the affected area took emergency protective measures to protect critical facilities (Category B). Flood waters caused significant damage to roads and bridges, including scouring road surfaces, undercutting road beds, collapsing culverts and washing out bridges (Category C).

Dams and levees in the affected area were damaged, and several pumping stations throughout the affected area were also damaged. (Category D). Some of the affected area also suffered damages to other public facilities (Category E). Water treatment facilities and associated infrastructure were severely impacted by floodwaters inundating treatment facilities and washing out water pipes (Category F). State, county and municipal parks were severely impacted, especially during the busy summer camping season (Category G).

Below is a summary of estimated Public Assistance eligible damages in the 10 counties for which I am requesting federal assistance:

Category	Estimated Dollars
A (Debris Removal)	$341,068.00
B (Emergency Protective Measures)	$404,257.61
C (Roads & Bridges)	$3,324,160.21
D (Water Control Facilities)	$10,000.00
E (Buildings & Equipment)	$107,500.00
F (Utilities)	$396,594.00
G (Parks, Rec Facilities, Other)	$692,744.10
TOTAL	**$5,276,323.92**

ROLE OF PRIOR HAZARD MITIGATION EFFORTS.

The State of Iowa has been proactive in hazard mitigation planning activities for many years. The state's planning process is driven by Section 322 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and is synchronized through the coordination and integration of local hazard mitigation planning with interagency planning of the State Hazard Mitigation Team. Iowa has an approved State Mitigation Plan through September 18, 2013.

Since 2007, the State of Iowa has been proactive in mitigating the effects flooding poses to private and public property in the affected area. The most significant mitigation effort includes the acquisition of flood-prone properties which were converted into permanent open space in the floodplain, preventing an estimated 200 properties in the affected counties from being damaged as a result of this most recent flooding. It is estimated that this resulted in approximately $6.6 million in avoided damages in this most recent event.

A specific example of the effectiveness of acquisition and demolition of flood-prone properties was shown in the city of Elkport, Clayton County. Flood gates within the city sustained heavy damage in this most recent event, and were compromised. The extent of the damage to the flood gates was unknown at the time of joint preliminary damage assessments, as the flood gates were still underwater. The flood gates protected an area where 38 homes once stood, prior to being acquired and demolished after flooding in 2004 (Disaster 1518). The result is an estimated $1.2 million in avoided damage directly attributable to prior hazard mitigation efforts.

PREVIOUS DISASTER EVENTS.

Currently, the State of Iowa has 13 open presidentially-declared disasters for Public Assistance. All ten of the counties for which I am requesting a declaration are included in at least one of these previously-declared Presidential disasters. The latest disaster only serves to cause additional damage to these counties.

In the year prior to this event, I issued a total of 11 State of Iowa Disaster Emergency Proclamations. The first proclamation was issued July 26, 2012, for severe drought conditions throughout Iowa. This proclamation was to temporarily remove Iowa Department of Transportation road restrictions on hauling of hay, straw, and stover for livestock.

The second proclamation was issued April 9, 2013, for severe weather causing damaging winds, heavy rains, thunderstorms, freezing rain, along with ice and snow that caused significant damage to utilities and vegetation in ten counties in northwest Iowa. This proclamation resulted in Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-4114-DR in the State of Iowa for the five most affected counties.

Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-4119-DR was declared on May 31, 2013, and was the result of severe storms and subsequent flooding for 19 counties in southern and southeastern Iowa on April 17 - 30, 2013. This event caused considerable damage to roads, bridges, water treatment, and other infrastructure; resulting in the third State of Iowa Proclamation of Disaster Emergency in the 12 months prior to this most recent event.

Unusual spring snowfall occurred in Iowa on May 1, 2013, causing major electrical utility damage in four counties that were just starting their recovery efforts from severe storms and flooding in the event that began on April 17, 2013. This event caused me to issue the fourth State of Iowa Proclamation of Disaster Emergency.

Most recently, I issued seven State of Iowa Proclamations of Disaster Emergency as a result of severe storms, tornados and flooding that impacted 47 counties, including six of the counties that are included in this request. This event caused considerable damage to roads, bridges, water treatment, and other infrastructure, resulting in Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-4126-DR.

ASSISTANCE REQUESTED AND CERTIFICATIONS GIVEN.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in Enclosure B1. The Governor's Certification is included in Enclosure B2.

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. The total non-federal expenditures for the period starting June 21- 28, 2013, are expected to exceed $5.2 million.

I request direct federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property to include debris removal, emergency protective measures and long-term housing and sheltering. Because of the continuing nature of the flooding, it is still too early to determine the exact needs. Further, I request hazard mitigation statewide.

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the State of Iowa agrees that with respect to direct federal assistance, it will do the following:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-way 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 Agreement; and
4. Assist the performing federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

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 hereby designate Patrick J. Hall 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.

Sincerely,

Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa

Enclosures

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
B: Public Assistance

ENCLOSURE B1 TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance
Under the Stafford Act

CATEGORY

County (10)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Allamakee	$142,000.00	$218,000.00	$821,850.00	$10,000.00	$85,000.00	$394,094.00	$510,800.00	$2,181,744.00
Benton	$0.00	$0.00	$127,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$127,500.00
Buchanan	$30,500.00	$19,300.00	$89,300.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$15,000.00	$154,100.00
Butler	$15,000.00	$46,840.00	$310,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$72,700.00	$444,540.00
Cedar	$55,000.00	$16,000.00	$350,000.00	$0.00	$22,500.00	$2,500.00	$2,000.00	$448,000.00
Clayton	$55,285.00	$13,305.00	$225,581.50	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$2,715.00	$296,886.50
Delaware	$0.00	$2,000.00	$640,616.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$642,616.00
Howard	$0.00	$0.00	$54,100.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$54,100.00
Jones	$42,783.00	$76,411.00	$165,850.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$285,044.00
Winneshiek	$500.00	$12,401.61	$539,362.71	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$89,529.10	$641,793.42
TOTALS	$341,068.00	$404,257.61	$3,324,160.21	$10,000.00	$107,500.00	$396,594.00	$692,744.10	$5,276,323.92

Note: Estimates reflect total eligible costs before any cost sharing.

ENCLOSURE B2 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 and costs required by the Stafford Act. As stated in my letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE	AMOUNT	
Individual Assistance:	**STATE**	**LOCAL**
"Other Assistance" under the Individual and Households Program	$0	$0
Other (specify)		
Total:	**$0**	**$0**
Public Assistance:		
Category A – Debris Removal	$ 34,106.80	$ 51,160.20
Category B – Emergency Protective Measures	$ 40,425.76	$ 60,638.64
Category C – Roads and Bridges	$332,416.02	$498,624.03
Category D – Water Control Facilities	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,500.00
Category E – Buildings and Equipment	$ 10,750.00	$ 16,125.00
Category F – Utilities	$ 39,659.40	$ 59,489.10
Category G – Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	$ 69,274.41	$103,911.62
Total:	**$527,632.39**	**$791,448.59**
Grand Total:	**$527,632.39**	**$791,448.59**