# COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Eloy S. Inos**
Governor

**Ralph DLG. Torres**
Lieutenant Governor

The President
The White House
Washington, DC

Through: Ms. Karen Armes
Acting Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of 42 U.S.C. Section 401, §§5121-5206 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I humbly request an expedited major disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) as a result of severe high winds in excess of 110 mph, heavy rainfall and flooding, excessive storm surges and high surf in low lying areas due to Typhoon Soudelor (13W). Typhoon Soudelor (13W) began on August 1, 2015 and continues to cause suffering in the islands of Saipan and Tinian.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under Commonwealth law and directed the execution of the Commonwealth Emergency Plan on August 1, 2015, for Rota, Tinian and Saipan, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act.

We have undergone local efforts to conduct a Rapid Needs Assessment and a Preliminary Damage Assessment to document the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor (13W). Reports have indicated 484 residents have evacuated to designated shelters due to damages to their homes and/or the lack of power and water. Public shelters were underutilized due to families resorting to neighboring homes as an immediate form of alternative shelter. Severe winds have damaged roofs to homes and water damage has occurred to many residential homes, public facilities and business establishments. There have been reported injuries to residents caused by the storm. Emergency responders are using alternative response vehicles to replace ambulances that were damaged during the storm.

Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950 Telephone: (670) 237-2200 /2227 Facsimile: (670) 664-2211/2311

The movement of Typhoon Soudelor (13W) remained on its projected course and thus the public was warned to remain indoors until clear conditions have been issued. The utility corporation has reported downed power lines by the severe wind velocity and flooded power generation plant, which affects the island's water supply and sewage system. Potable water supply to the island will be offline and will remain so until power is restored. There is an urgent need for generators to bring critical infrastructure back on-line throughout the island. The corporation is focused on power restoration to critical public facilities, such as the hospital. Once critical public facilities are restored and the power generation plant is repared, the utility company will then energize the primary distribution and will continue to work in replacing downed power poles and lines in secondary distributions until full restoration is accomplished. Communications in some areas have been interrupted, while some areas remain intermittent.

Typhoon Soudelor (13W) is the seventh storm that has impacted the Commonwealth between October 2014 and July 2015. State and local resources have been impacted by these storm events compromising the Commonwealth's ability to respond to and recover. Therefore, I have determined that Typhoon Soudelor (13W) has devastated our islands' infrastructure, power, water, roadways and public facilities, and that effective response and recovery is beyond the capabilities of the Commonwealth and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal Assistance is necessary protect property and save lives.

We estimate the extent of the damages will exceed $20 million in Saipan and Tinian, an amount beyond the capability of the Commonwealth to provide.

I am specifically requesting the types of assistance as follows:

| Type of Assistance | Saipan | Tinian | Rota |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Direct Federal Assistance** | X | X | |
| **Individual Assistance (IA) and Other Needs Assistance (ONA)** | X | X | |
| **Public Assistance-Category A &B** | X | X | X |
| **Public Assistance-Category A-G** | X | X | |
| **Hazard Mitigation** | X | X | |
| **Assistance to Farmers** | X | X | X |
| **Small Business Administration Disaster Loans** | X | X | |

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

•All of the emergency measures taken to ensure public safety have exhausted our government's resources in transporting evacuees and personnel to assist in operating temporary shelters.

•Emergency personnel from the Commonwealth's homeland office have been pre-deployed to the Municipality of Tinian to support public safety and medical services. This was necessary

based on prior declared events which prevented emergency personnel to respond immediately after a storm because of unsafe weather conditions.

•Commonwealth Utilities Corporation personnel have been dispatched to begin restoration of power, water and wastewater services throughout the islands, but without the resources of the federal government, it would take years to accomplish this monumental task.

•The Department of Public Works together with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Office of the Mayor's personnel will work extensively on debris clearance and repair of secondary roads to restore public access and to prioritize repair and restoration of damages to critical infrastructure facilities.

•The Mayors of Saipan, Tinian and Rota have initiated response and recovery activities to clear public access and to prevent any epidemics from occurring.

I certify that for this major disaster, the Commonwealth and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

I request Direct Federal Assistance as well as all categories of Public Assistance (A-G) and Individual Assistance to address our immediate and critical needs to protect the public health and safety and dispose of the debris created by Typhoon Soudelor (13W). The CNMI's unique composition of many inhabited islands presents many challenges in coordinating disaster response operations since it requires the Commonwealth government to incur enormous costs in chartering air travel between islands either by aircraft or helicopter or by marine vessels depending on the weather conditions, and the urgency and most effective means to deliver emergency personnel and supplies following a major disaster. This disaster has overwhelmed our resources. I would like to request that the requirement for Joint PDA's be waived since this incident is of such severity and magnitude that formal field damage assessments are not required to establish the need for supplemental federal assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (The Stafford Act).

In accordance with 44 CFR 206.208, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands agrees that it will with respect to direct Federal Assistance:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-ways 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-CNMI agreement; and
4. Assist and support all Federal Agencies on local jurisdictional matters.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety for the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota that are affected. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b and 5173, the Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth 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 Mr. Marvin K. Seman as the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) and Ms. Virginia Villagomez, as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) for this event. These individuals will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in properly documenting the damages and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Acting Governor

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

*OMB No. 1660-0009 Expires March 31,2016*

# REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY

1. Request Date Aug 4, 2015

***Burden Disclosure Notice***

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R.. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration.
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). 53,883

3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name
Ralph DLG. Torres, Acting Governor

4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number
Marvin K. Seman, Special Assistant for Homeland & Emergency Mgmt, 670-287-7154

5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number
Virginia C. Villagomez, (670) 285-6778

6. Declaration Request For: ☒ Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401) ☐ Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501(a))

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date 8/1/2015 End Date 8/1/2015 or ☒ Continuing

*If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).*

7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)

☐ Drought ☐ Earthquake ☐ Explosion ☐ Fire ☒ Flood ☒ Hurricane ☐ Landslide ☐ Mudslide
☒ Severe Storm (rain, high water, wind-driven rain, hail, lightning) ☐ Snowstorm (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data) ☐ Straight-Line Winds
☐ Tidal Wave ☐ Tornado ☒ Tropical Depression ☒ Tropical Storm ☐ Tsunami ☐ Volcanic Eruption ☐ Winter Storm
☐ Other (please specify)

8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.

Utilities-extensive damage to our power generation. The entire Island is without power, impacting water distribution, waste water processing systems and hundreds of downed power poles, lines and transformers. The power generation plant is expeced to be off-line for more than a month.

Hospital-the sole hospital is impacted by the lack of power and is dependent on generator power and potable water delivery,

Roads-primary & secondary roads are affected by major debris and downed power poles throughout the island of Saipan; public facilities have sustained extensive damage from wind and water inundation.

9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.

•All emergency personnel were activated to provide emergency protective measures in transporting evacuees, personnel to assist in operating temporary shelters and emergency medical services;

•Commonwealth Utilities Corporation personnel have been dispatched to begin restoration of power, water and wastewater services throughout the islands;

The Department of Public Safety will continue to provide public safety and protection of property due to the islandwide power outage throughout the island of Saipan; and

The Department of Public Works together with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Office of the Mayors of the affected Municipalities personnel will work extensively on debris clearance and repair of secondary roads to restore public access and to prioritize repair and restoration of damages to critical infrastructure facilities.

## 10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment*

☐ Individual Assistance Dates Performed **Requested** _____ **Start** _____ **End** _____

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

☐ Public Assistance Dates Performed **Requested** _____ **Start** _____ **End** _____

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

## 11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance ☐ N/A ☐ Individuals and Households Program ☐ Crisis Counseling Program ☐ Disaster Unemployment Assistance

☒ All ☐ Disaster Case Management ☐ Disaster Legal Services

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation).

| Types of Assistance | Saipan | Tinian | Rota |
|---|---|---|---|
| Individual Assistance | X | X | |
| Other Needs Assistance (ONA) | X | X | |
| Assistance to Farmers | X | X | X |
| Small Business Administration Disaster Loans | X | X | |
| Other Federal Assistance | X | X | |

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).
N/A

Please see **Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.

**Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request*

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance ☐ N/A ☒ Debris Removal (Category A) ☒ Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) ☒ Permanent Work (Categories C-G)* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

| Types of Assistance | Saipan | Tinian | Rota |
|---|---|---|---|
| Direct Federal Assistance | X | | |
| Public Assistance - Category A & B | X | X | X |
| Public Assistance - Category A - G | X | X | |
| Hazard Mitigation | X | X | |
| Assistance to Farmers | X | X | X |

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).

n/a

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.

**Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity**

☐ I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

☒ 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 or Indian tribal government 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 or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

**Request for Direct Federal Assistance**

☐ I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

☒ I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (provide engineering expertise in structural, mechanical, electrical, debris)
Department of Energy (to conduct an assessment of our power generation system)
Department of Labor, OSHA (to ensure safety is not compromised)
Health and Human Services (to provide guidance in ensuring no outbreaks or epidemics due to lack of water)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (to assist the Commonwealth in the response and recovery phase of Typhoon Soudelor)

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

-the State has limited capability with the types of expertise and resources and it is beyond our capacity to respond to the magnitude of this incident.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways 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 or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

**Request for Snow Assistance**

☒ N/A ☐ I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request*.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation* ☒ Statewide **OR**

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

12. Mitigation Plan Information*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date 11/2014 b. Type of Plan ☐ Enhanced ☒ Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

☐ I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies ☒ I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

Please see **Enclosure C:** Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs for additional information in support of this request*.

14. Findings and Certifications

☒ I certify the following:

a. 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 government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on Aug 1, 2015 in accordance with the Stafford Act.

c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

☒ Cover Letter ☐ Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)* ☐ Enclosure B (Public Assistance)*

☐ Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs) ☐ Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)

☐ Additional Supporting Documentation _____

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

8/4/15
Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request*