



FEMA

Disaster News

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\$2.6 MILLION OBLIGATED FOR LOS ANGELES HIGHWAY REPAIRS

PASADENA, Calif. — The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today announced a \$2.6 million Public Assistance grant awarded to the Los Angeles Department of Public Works for necessary repairs to Via de las Olas Highway for damages incurred following the storms of December 27, 2004 – January 11, 2005.

“In our commitment to keeping communities safe from mud flows, floods and landslides, we awarded the City’s Public Works a Public Assistance grant to repair Via de las Olas Highway,” said Federal Coordinating Officer David Fukutomi.

On February 4, at the request of Governor Schwarzenegger, President Bush declared Los Angeles County eligible for public and individual assistance for damages that occurred during the late December and early January storms.

The total amount of the project is \$3.4 million, with the state paying 18.75 percent and city contributing the remaining 6.25 percent.

The storms caused roadway subsoil to become super-saturated, resulting in a loss of lateral support for 500 feet of the highway. According to Fukutomi, in order to protect against similar damages, a soldier pile wall will be constructed down slope and guard rails will be installed along the damaged portion of the roadway.

“Estimated damages to roads and bridges during January’s storms totaled more than \$30.8 million in Los Angeles County and more than \$68.7 million in the eight declared counties,” said Henry Renteria, director of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) and state coordinating officer for the disaster. “The more than \$637,000 in state funding approved for repairs to Via de las Olas Highway, combined with the federal reimbursements announced today, will help ease some of the burden the storms have placed on the city’s budget by reducing its share of eligible costs to 6.25 percent.”

Under the President's major disaster declaration, requested by Governor Schwarzenegger, government agencies in Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties may qualify for federal and state reimbursement of eligible response, repair and restoration costs incurred during the Dec. 27, 2004, through Jan. 11, 2005 storms.

Public Assistance categories for eligibility can include debris removal; immediate protective measures, including overtime pay for emergency workers; repair of roads and bridges; repair of water control facilities; repair of public buildings and equipment; repair of public utilities; and repair of recreational facilities such as parks.

OES coordinates overall state agency response to major disasters in support of local government. The office is responsible for ensuring California's readiness to respond to and recover from natural, manmade and war-caused emergencies and for assisting local governments in their emergency preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery efforts.