

Burn Area Recovery Task Force (BARTF) Report

Appendix C - Descriptions of State and Federal Program Funding

The information below provides a brief description of potential sources of state or federal funding that may be utilized for tasks described in the BARTF reports. Some of these programs may require a special funding allocation from Congress before they can be distributed.

California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA)

The State's California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) authorizes the reimbursement of three types of costs associated with the 2007 Southern California Wildfires:

- Emergency work performed as a result of the event in order to protect lives, public safety, infrastructure, or public facilities;
- The repair or replacement of public real property that was damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster; and
- Matching funds for the non-federal portion of public assistance programs.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) oversees the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. The main objective of the NRCS EWP Program is to support efforts that reduce hazards that create an imminent threat to life and property. This includes private and agricultural property, as well as federal Forest Service lands (which also falls under the USDA). All projects submitted to the NRCS for funding must be approved in advance, before work begins. This is an important distinction, as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) programs do not have this requirement, and it influences the timeliness of protective measures performed in advance of the winter rainy season. NRCS allows public and private landowners to apply for assistance, but they must go through an approved applicant; which, the NRCS calls a 'sponsor', such as a local government. Types of work that can be funded by the NRCS EWP include:

- Removing silt and debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridge abutments;
- Reshaping and protecting (e.g., rip rap) eroded stream banks;
- Reseeding of damaged areas;
- Deflection of potential flood or mudslide material away from private or public structures (e.g., sand bags, k-rails);
- Erosion control of burned slopes (e.g., hydro-mulching, jute netting);
- Erosion control to prevent sedimentation of stream channels (e.g., straw bales, silt fences); and
- Installing new sediment catch basins.

For sponsors receiving NRCS funds, there is no desilting of debris and/or sediment basins; no increasing the capacity of existing debris basins, no projects that arise due to deferred maintenance; no repair of transportation facilities or utilities. NRCS funds may not be used to

duplicate the benefits of any other source (e.g., US Army Corps of Engineers desilting operations).

FEMA Public Assistance Program

The Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program to award grants to state, local and tribal governments, and certain non-profit entities in the wake of a Presidentially-declared disaster. The PA program is a reimbursement program, and may fund the following activities:

- Emergency work performed as a result of the event in order to protect lives, public safety, infrastructure, or public facilities; and
- The repair or replacement of damaged or destroyed facilities or equipment belonging to an eligible PA program applicant.

For the Southern California Wildfires, DR-1731, the president's disaster declaration only authorized three counties for FEMA PA funding for the permanent repair or replacement of damaged or destroyed public facilities or equipment such as fire equipment destroyed during firefighting efforts. Emergency protective measures that FEMA PA may reimburse; include firefighting, as well as, erosion control measures on public lands and public right-of-way.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

The USACE conducts its emergency response activities under two basic authorities:

- The Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act, and
- The Stafford Act.

Under the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act, the USACE provides disaster preparedness services and advanced planning measures designed to reduce the amount of damage caused by an impending disaster. Under the Stafford Act, the USACE may provide the following services:

- Temporary construction of emergency access routes which include damaged streets, roads, bridges, ports, waterways, airfields, and any other facilities necessary for passage of rescue personnel;
- Emergency debris removal activities;
- Emergency restoration of critical public services and facilities including supply of adequate amounts of potable water, temporary restoration of water supply systems, and the provision of water for fire fighting;
- Emergency provision of ice;
- Installation of temporary roofing materials on disaster victims' homes (the "Blue Tarp" Roofs); and
- Technical assistance and damaged assessment, including structural inspection of structures.

While the USACE is coordinating public works and engineering activities under the Federal Response Plan, it may also be simultaneously providing direct assistance under its own Flood Control and Coastal Emergency authorities.

Federal Highway Works Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief Program

The FHWA administers the Emergency Relief Program, which funds debris removal from, or the repair or reconstruction of federal-aid roads (e.g., major arterial roads within a community), and roads on federal lands (e.g., tribal lands) that have been seriously impacted by a disaster. These would include: debris removal from catch basin or culverts that support federal-aid roadways, and protection, repair, or reconstruction of federal-aid bridges.

Department of Interior (DOI) and the Forest Service

There are several agencies under the DOI and the Forest Service that may provide funding for recovery and emergency protective measures on their respective federal lands. Examples of such agencies are the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

PROGRAMS PROVIDING DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES, FARMERS AND RANCHERS

FEMA's Individuals and Household Program (IHP)

If included in a Presidential-declared disaster, FEMA's IHP provides two types of assistance; Housing Assistance (HA) and Other Needs Assistance (ONA). The IHP HA provides grants for temporary housing and/or repair or replacement of housing. The IHP ONA provides assistance for necessary expenses and serious needs caused by the disaster, such as, personal property, medical, dental, funeral, moving and storage. The IHP does not duplicate assistance from other sources, such as insurance or loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance Loans

The SBA, if included in a Presidential-declared disaster can make federally subsidized low-interest loans to homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes to replace homes, personal property or businesses that sustained damages not covered by insurance. In addition, SBA can provide economic injury disaster loans, which provide capital to small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives to assist them through the disaster recovery period.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The USDA Farm Service Agency provides multiple programs in support of farmers and ranchers whose operations were affected by a disaster. One such program is the FSA Emergency Farm Loan program which provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses. These funds may be used to restore or replace essential property; production costs associated with the disaster year; essential living expenses; reorganize the farming operations; and refinance certain debts.

USDA Rural Development

USDA Rural Development Section 502 Housing Direct Loans are available for low and very low-income households to obtain homeownership. Applicants may obtain 100 percent financing to purchase an existing dwelling, purchase a site and construct a dwelling, or purchase a newly constructed dwelling in rural communities.

USDA Rural Development Section 504 loans and/or grants are available to assist eligible, very low income, homeowners with repair of their home located in rural areas. Repairs may be made to improve or modernize the home, to make it safe, sanitary, or to remove health and safety hazards. Grants are only available for repairs that remove health or safety hazards.