

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2023

Deanne Criswell  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Criswell:

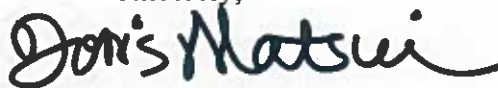
On January 9<sup>th</sup> President Biden declared a state of emergency to address the continuing severe winter storms, flooding, and mudslides in the State of California. Under this emergency declaration the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) is able to provide Category B emergency protective measures to the affected area including disaster housing assistance to individuals and households. As a representative of the affected area, including Sacramento and Yolo Counties, I urge you to stand up emergency housing assistance for individuals in the affected areas as soon as possible.

As storms continue to bring heavy rain and high winds to the Sacramento region, we have suffered property damage, power outages and sadly, loss of life from flooding and falling trees. Tree roots have been loosened by saturated ground and are being toppled by high winds severely damaging and destroying homes. Unlike traditional emergency housing assistance that effects a more predictable population, the need for housing assistance in this circumstance arises quickly and in devastating fashion. As such, I respectfully ask that you instruct agency staff to expedite support for individual assistance and increase staff resources to the affected areas.

The Sacramento region has long prepared for the effects of flooding and is working with the California Office of Emergency Management and FEMA to provide shelter for evacuated areas such as the town of Wilton. While the greater Sacramento area flood control network is working as designed, we have seen levee breaches, overtopping, and erosion along the Cosumnes River in Sacramento County. As we begin to recover from these storms, it is imperative that we take a strategic and systems-wide approach to our infrastructure improvements.

As a representative of the capital region, I applaud the quick action of Governor Newsom and President Biden to get the emergency declaration in place and mobilize federal resources to address this ongoing crisis. I look forward to working with FEMA, state, and local agencies to find the best repair and hazard mitigation options for our region.

Sincerely,



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress