

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 11, 2021

Dear Mr. President:

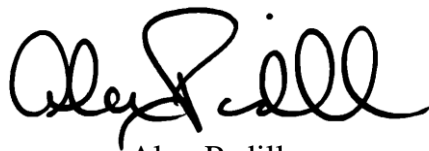
I write to request you grant the State of California's request for a major disaster declaration in response to the Caldor Fire.

The Caldor Fire, ignited on August 14th. Due to extremely dry conditions on the ground, the Caldor Fire has rapidly expanded and has burned more than 218,459 acres, damaged or destroyed at least 1,100 structures, and is threatening an additional 24,647 structures. This fire continues to grow and threaten critical infrastructure in El Dorado County.

This large fire comes during a time of dangerous fire conditions, including extreme drought, dry fuels, low humidity, and high winds. The explosion of fire activity this season has resulting in an immense strain on California's resources and El Dorado County's firefighting capability. While California is instituting all possible actions at its disposal to combat these fires, it is increasingly difficult for the State and local governments to obtain the necessary resources to respond to this fire.

The size and scope of the Caldor Fire requires additional assistance, coordination, and federal action. Therefore, I urge you to grant Governor Gavin Newsom's request for a major disaster declaration in El Dorado County for the Caldor Fire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Padilla', written in a cursive style.

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

United States Senate

October 4, 2021

The Honorable Deanne Criswell
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC, 20472

Dear Administrator Criswell:

We respectfully request that you provide an update on and expedite the active review of California Governor Newsom's request for Individual Assistance in response to the Caldor Fire. As you know, the Caldor Fire near Lake Tahoe has ravaged El Dorado County and its residents are in desperate need of additional assistance.


The Caldor fire—now the 15th largest ever in state history—has burned 221,775 acres, forced the evacuation of more than 50,000 Californians, and destroyed over 1,000 structures, most of which were homes. This devastation is particularly tragic as El Dorado County has a higher-than-average percentage of seniors, and many of those who lost their homes live on limited incomes.


We want to thank you and the President for declaring a Major Disaster and providing Public Assistance in response to this incident. In particular, we want to commend Region 9 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for their close communication with the California Office of Emergency Services throughout the declaration review process.

It is our understanding that the California Office of Emergency Services is working with FEMA to provide data relevant to the Individual Assistance process, including homeowner's insurance coverage figures. As your important work continues, we respectfully request that you provide an update on and expedite the review process for Individual Assistance in response to the Caldor Fire.

Thank you again for all your agency is doing during this difficult fire season. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Alex Padilla
United States Senator


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

CC: Robert J. Fenton, FEMA Region IX Administrator
David Passey, Acting FEMA Deputy Region IX Administrator

United States Senate

October 27, 2021

The Honorable Deanne Criswell
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC, 20472

Dear Administrator Criswell:

We write to request you grant the State of California's appeal for Individual Assistance for El Dorado County to be included in the major disaster declaration granted on September 12, 2021 in response to the Caldor Fire.

The Caldor Fire—now the 15th largest wildfire ever in state history—has burned 221,775 acres, forced the evacuation of more than 50,000 Californians, and destroyed over 1,000 structures, most of which were homes. According to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), the Caldor Fire alone destroyed more homes than nine other major disaster declarations approved for Individual Assistance in 2021 combined.

While the damage to property and households is immense, we encourage you to evaluate the state's proposal on the basis of the totality of impacts of the Caldor Fire. For instance, the Grizzly Flats community was completely destroyed and lost its only school, post office, water system, and hundreds of homes. Compounding these losses, Grizzly Flats has a higher-than-average percentage of seniors and a pre-disaster unemployment rate more than four times higher than the national rate. In addition, many of those who lost their homes live on limited incomes and face the prospect of relocating or rebuilding without federal assistance or adequate insurance coverage.

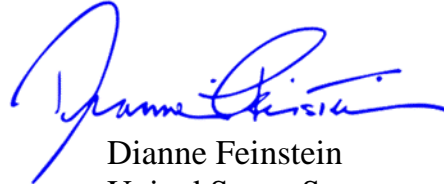
We want to thank you and the President for declaring a Major Disaster and providing Public Assistance in response to this incident. In particular, we want to commend Region 9 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for their close communication with the California Office of Emergency Services throughout the declaration review process.

We firmly believe that the size and scope of destruction unleashed by the Caldor fire necessitate additional assistance, particularly individual assistance, to help the many survivors who are just now beginning to recover and rebuild their lives. For these reasons, we urge you to grant Governor Gavin Newsom's appeal for Individual Assistance, for El Dorado County, to be included in the major disaster declaration granted in response to the Caldor fire on September 12, 2021.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator