

# ALEX PADILLA

U.S. SENATOR  CALIFORNIA

## Post Fire Flooding and Debris Flow Act

Wildfires create severe vegetation loss and soil exposure in the form of burn scars, which can cause destructive and largescale flooding and debris flows when exposed to rainfall. These events are one of the most dangerous post-fire hazards and pose a serious threat to life and property, and have the possibility to block drainage ways and damage public infrastructure.

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments so they can develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in a way that reduces, or mitigates, future disaster losses in their communities. When requested by an authorized representative, this grant funding is available after a presidentially declared disaster.

### What the *Post Fire Flooding and Debris Flow Act* would do:

- **Post Fire Flooding and Debris Flow Mitigation Eligibility:** This bill would explicitly include mitigating and preventing post-wildfire flooding and debris flows as eligible under FEMA's HMGP. This inclusion would allow for state and local governments to act quickly when storms are imminent to protect property, public infrastructure, and lives.
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Cost Share:** This bill would make HMGP consistent with other FEMA disaster assistance by stating that the federal cost share of HMGP shall be not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost of such assistance. This bill does not mandate any increase but simply allows for flexibility and increased federal assistance where necessary. As states and locals continue to respond and work to recover from more frequent and more dangerous fires, it is imperative that the federal government has the flexibility to meet the current crisis.