



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 21, 2011

Contact: Donna Boston  
714.628.7054 office or  
Howard Sutter  
714.834.6203

## County of Orange seeks Presidential Disaster Declaration for Winter Storm Damage

(Santa Ana, CA) — Orange County Board of Supervisors Chair Bill Campbell and Fifth District Supervisor Patricia C. Bates today sent President Obama and Federal officials a letter urging the issuance of a disaster declaration for Orange County and other California counties as a result of damage from the devastating December 2010 winter storms.

The letter details the cities and communities hardest hit by flooding, mudslides and debris flows, with damage in Orange County alone estimated at \$36 million. With the full impact of the storms still being assessed and damage recovery costs climbing higher each day, the Supervisors urge the President to provide the supplementary federal assistance required to protect property and the public's health and safety.

"Many Orange County residents are struggling to recover from this disaster, with recovery work expected to continue until at least March," said Chairman Campbell. "A number of people are still out of their homes due to storm damage, some rural roads have been closed for three weeks and our flood control systems need extensive repair before more storms arrive. It is critical that federal assistance be made available as soon as possible."

The County of Orange issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency on December 20 with the Governor proclaiming a State of Emergency for Orange and five other counties on December 21. A Federal disaster declaration is necessary to authorize available federal assistance for public and private property damage.



## **BILL CAMPBELL**

CHAIRMAN  
ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

ORANGE COUNTY HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
333 W. SANTA ANA BLVD.  
10 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92701  
PHONE (714) 834-3330 FAX (714) 834-2786  
bill.campbell@ocgov.com

January 20, 2011

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Ms. Nancy Ward  
Regional Administrator, Region IX  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
1111 Broadway  
Suite 1200  
Oakland, California 94607-4052

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 United States Code Sections (U.S.C.) 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR) Section 206.36, I am respectfully requesting you declare a major disaster for the State of California, specifically in the County of Orange, as a result of devastating winter storms and their resounding impact on community members including home loss, massive mudslides, slope failure, debris flow, washed out bridges, and undermined roads. The significantly impacted communities, to date, are Silverado Canyon, Santiago Canyon, Trabuco Canyon, Modjeska Canyon, Williams Canyon, Dove Canyon, Blackstar Canyon, Dana Point, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Rancho Santa Margarita, and San Clemente.

The storms have brought high winds and extreme precipitation statewide and have caused injuries, flooding, and severe mud and debris flows in Orange County. These events have destroyed and damaged public and private property throughout the Orange County and continue to threaten the lives and safety of many Californians.

The full impacts of the storms are continuing to materialize with costs climbing higher each day. Pursuant to 44 CFR Section 206.35, it has been determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is required to protect property and public health and safety.

Confirmed costs for the damage as a result of these winter storms now exceeds \$36 million for Orange County and is well beyond \$75 million for the State of California. The County of Orange assisted with California Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) tours to demonstrate the severity of disaster impacts.

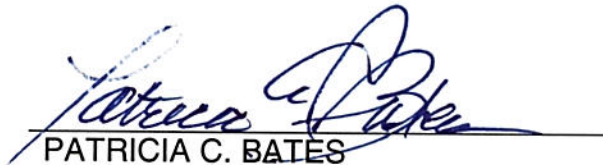
Orange County community members have borne the brunt of the storms devastation. Among the 2,200 affected homes are rural communities of Americans working to make ends meet as well as uninsured families. All are struggling to recover from this disaster in an uncertain economy. Volunteers are still cleaning and removing mud with the expectation that their work will go on until March. Two homes in our canyon areas had floor to ceiling mud intrusion. Four homes in San Clemente are red tagged. Homeowners are unable to occupy the residences for which they are paying. Roads have remained closed for three weeks, and will continue to be closed until permanent repairs can be made. Levees and flood control systems are critically compromised and require extensive repair.

The Orange County community eagerly awaits disaster assistance. Thank you for your help in serving these severely damaged communities. If we may provide further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our Board Office.

Sincerely,



BILL CAMPBELL  
Chairman of the Board  
Supervisor, Third District



PATRICIA C. BATES  
Supervisor, Fifth District

cc: Members, Orange County Congressional Delegation  
Members, Orange County Board of Supervisors  
Thomas G. Mauk, County Executive Officer  
James McConnell, Washington, D.C.