



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

December 3, 2021

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

Dear Administrator Criswell:

Thank you for making time last month for our phone call regarding the significant damage and hardship that severe flood events have recently caused in Washington and throughout the Pacific Northwest. I am writing as a follow up to our conversation and to respectfully request swift consideration by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) once Washington completes a formal damage assessment and submits our request for federal assistance under the Stafford Act. I anticipate doing so in the coming days.

Since these severe rainstorms first began on November 12, I have met with flood victims in Whatcom County and have had ongoing conversations with local elected officials, tribal government leaders, emergency response personnel, and community stakeholders from around Northwestern Washington. Through these engagements, one thing I have heard consistently is collective shock in the magnitude of these atmospheric events, causing historic water levels and damage in impacted communities.

The record-breaking storms have included flooding, landslides, mudslides, and straight-line winds, causing evacuations, displacement, road and highway closures, and significant power outages. These have had a tremendous impact on people, businesses, agriculture, transportation systems, and the economy of Washington. Here are examples of how these meteorological events are unique and historic, according to the National Weather Service:

- Seattle, SeaTac,ⁱ Bellingham, and Quillayute all recorded their wettest meteorological fall season (September 30-November 1) on record.ⁱⁱ
- Bellingham experienced its wettest November on record, eclipsing its previous record by nearly 3 inches.ⁱⁱⁱ

The storms have damaged public and private property, including residences. I visited with one family in Everson, Washington whose house was flooded with so much debris and silt from the

The Honorable Deanne Criswell

December 3, 2021

Page 2

Nooksack River that it was damaged beyond repair. This had been the place they called home for the past 18 years. This is just one of countless stories of loss from around the state.

Washingtonians are resilient, strong people, and we will bounce back from recent storms. Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA) as provided by the Stafford Act will help ensure that we do so as quickly as possible.

I very much appreciate the ongoing collaboration between my office and the Biden Administration, including FEMA. Thank you for considering this letter in advance of the state's report. If you have any questions, please direct them to Jim Baumgart, Senior Policy Advisor for Emergency Management (Jim.Baumgart@gov.wa.gov, 360-902-0559) and Geoff Potter, Deputy Director of Federal and Interstate Affairs (Geoff.Potter@gov.wa.gov, 360-867-8690).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "I".

Jay Inslee
Governor

ⁱ National Weather Service, November 28, 2021

ⁱⁱ National Weather Service, December 2, 2021

ⁱⁱⁱ National Weather Service, December 1, 2021