



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Supervisor Cortese Requesting Federal Aid for Resident in SCU Fire

Urgent Letter Sent to Governor: Add County to Presidential Disaster Declaration

Supervisor Dave Cortese sent an urgent request to Governor Gavin Newsom today asking for his help in adding Santa Clara County's to the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration because of the damage caused by the SCU Fire burning in Santa Clara County. The SCU Fire is the second largest fire in the state's history and is not yet eligible for FEMA aid.

On August 22, the state announced that the White House had approved California's request for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration to support residents in Lake, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo counties. Monterey County was added to the list two days later.

"Santa Clara County must be added to the list," said Supervisor Cortese.

"Although the SCU area is not as populated as other fire areas, there are residents and cattle ranchers and others who were burned out of their homes and livelihoods and deserve access to federal assistance."

A Presidential Major Disaster Declaration helps people in the impacted counties through eligibility for support, including individual financial support and reimbursements, crisis counseling, housing and unemployment assistance and legal services. It also provides federal assistance to help state, tribal and local governments fund emergency response, recovery and protective measures.

Santa Clara County is included in the governor's statewide emergency that qualifies residents for some FEMA support, along with Stanislaus, Santa Cruz, San Mateo Napa, Nevada, Lake, Solano, Yolo and Monterey counties. However, Santa Clara County has not yet been made part of the Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Supervisor Cortese toured SCU Fire areas in the Diablo Range of the County on Sunday from San Jose to beyond Lick Observatory to the San Antonio Valley to survey the widespread damage. The SCU Lightning Complex fire has consumed 391,578 acres and is 72% contained.

For more information, contact the Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese at 408-299-5030.