

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING  
AJR 27 (Harabedian and Irwin)  
As Introduced February 13, 2026  
Majority vote

## SUMMARY

A joint resolution of the Assembly and the Senate urging the President of the United States to immediately submit a supplemental disaster declaration to Congress to unlock supplemental funding for the 2025 Los Angeles firestorm recovery and for Congress to approve supplemental aid to support the County of Los Angeles.

### Major Provisions

- 1) States on January 7, 2025, the Eaton Fire and the Palisades Fire in the County of Los Angeles, began forcing evacuations and devastating communities in the County of Los Angeles, as specified.
- 2) States in the immediate aftermath of the fires, the County of Los Angeles received federal support following a major disaster declaration by President Joseph R. Biden, as specified.
- 3) States President Donald J. Trump demanded unrelated and unprecedented policy changes as a condition for receiving further federal aid, as specified.
- 4) States Governor Newsom sent formal request letters to Congress and the Trump administration requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$39,680,737,878 for disaster funding to aid the County of Los Angeles in recovery, as specified, which was later revised to a total of \$33,943,967,878, a decrease of over \$5.7 billion based on work already paid out.
- 5) States federal assistance is critical to ensure the County of Los Angeles has all the necessary resources to fund the rebuilding of homes, schools, and community facilities, support the local economy, repair infrastructure damage, and other recovery needs, as specified.
- 6) States the full bipartisan California congressional delegation has supported federal aid for recovery in the County of Los Angeles, including in a letter signed by all sitting California members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate.
- 7) States meeting the recovery needs of the County of Los Angeles will require supplemental aid, and that cannot be provided without Congress and President Trump.
- 8) States President Trump has refused to respond to California's request and has failed to submit a funding proposal to Congress.
- 9) States Congress and Presidents of both parties have historically approved supplemental aid after natural disasters with bipartisan support and no conditions, including aiding Florida after Hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024.
- 10) Resolves that the Legislature calls on the President of the United States to immediately submit a supplemental disaster declaration to the United States Congress to unlock funding.

11) Resolves that the Legislature calls upon the United States Congress to approve supplemental aid to support the County of Los Angeles, regardless of whether it receives a request from the President of the United States.

## COMMENTS

Palisades and Eaton Fires: The Palisades and Eaton fires began on January 7, 2025 and, exacerbated by extreme fire and windstorm conditions, caused catastrophic damage and loss of life throughout Los Angeles County. At its height, the fires placed an estimated 331,335 people on an evacuation advisory, with nearly 192,000 residents facing mandatory evacuation and roughly 140,000 residents subject to warnings. The blazes burned a combined 37,728 acres, caused a combined 31 deaths, and leveled entire communities in the Pacific Palisades, Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre, and Malibu neighborhoods of LA County.

The Eaton Fire became the second most destructive fire in California history after destroying 9,413 buildings. The Palisades Fire is the third most destructive fire in state history with 6,833 structures destroyed. As firefighters were battling the largest conflagrations, additional fires broke out in the Los Angeles area. Crews were able to stop the forward spread and contain the blazes. These fires included the Lidia, Archer, Woodley, Sunset, Kenneth, Hurst and Auto fires, which burned close to 2,400 acres between them.

After the wildfires were fully contained, LA City inspectors assessed more than 15,000 structures in the Palisades. Once these inspections were completed, the focus shifted to ensuring hazardous debris is safely removed. Over 9,000 properties were cleared of hazardous material within 30 days and over 2.5 million tons of ash, metal, concrete, and contaminated soil were removed within nine months. This process was completed with the help of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Major Presidential Disaster Declaration: President Biden approved a Major Disaster Declaration for California on January 8, 2025, following Governor Newsom's proclaimed State of Emergency for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties due to fire and windstorm conditions on January 7, 2025. The Major Disaster Declaration provided disaster assistance to supplement recovery efforts in the areas affected by wildfires and straight-line winds from January 7, 2025, through January 31, 2025.

The President's action made federal funding available to affected individuals in Los Angeles County. Eligible assistance included grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster. Federal funding was also made available to state, tribal and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for debris removal and emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance.

State Funding: On January 23, 2025, the Legislature passed AB4 and SB3 of the 2025–26 First Extraordinary Session, with zero no votes. These bills provided over \$2.5 billion in immediate disaster relief funding, including emergency response activities, evacuation and sheltering resources, debris removal and cleanup, hazard assessments, school rebuilding and recovery, planning review and inspections, and other actions to protect health, protect the safety of persons or property, and expedite recovery. Governor Newsom promptly signed these bills the same day.

Supplemental Request Letters: Governor Newsom sent multiple letters to Congress and the Trump administration to request a disaster funding supplemental appropriation to assist Los Angeles County's recovery. The original letter, sent in February 2025, requested \$39.68 billion. In the latest revised fiscal request letter, sent in December 2025, the request decreased by nearly \$5.74 billion to reflect the funding already paid out for work related to the cleanup process, public assistance, and small business disbursements. The current request amount is roughly \$33.94 billion and specifically requests the following:

1) *Business Recovery:*

a) Business Loans: \$4.3B

b) Business Grants: \$4.3B

2) *Tax Incentivized Recovery:*

a) Low-Income Housing Tax Credit: \$2B

b) Tax Relief (no specific monetary request, but rather a request to allow non-itemized deductions for casualty losses, as specified; penalty-free access to retirement funds; disaster-related employment relief; earned income tax credit reporting-year flexibility; and enhancement of charitable giving incentives.)

3) *Community and Private Property Recovery:*

a) Public Assistance: \$11.77B

b) Housing and Business: \$9.9B

c) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): \$36.25M

d) Community Services Block Grant (CSBG): \$12.89M

e) Child welfare grant programs: \$1M

f) Social Services Block Grant (SSBG): \$1.5M

g) Water Infrastructure: \$432.3M

h) Brownfields: \$5M

i) Air Quality: \$2M

j) Transport Infrastructure: \$112.8M

4) *Workforce Recovery:*

a) Displaced Workers: \$51M

b) Workforce Childcare and Health: \$375.8M

5) *Wildfire Resilience:*

- a) Federal Lands: \$350M
- b) Mapping and Modeling: \$2M

Federal Response to Requests: President Trump threatened unrelated and unprecedented policy changes that California must implement as a condition for receiving further recovery aid, including:

Requiring a change to California water policy, including diverting more water from Northern California to Southern California, which was based on his false claim that

**According to the Author**

“One long year after the Eaton and Palisades fires devastated Los Angeles, Americans in Los Angeles are still in desperate need of federal aid to assist rebuilding. AJR 27 calls upon the President and Congress to unlock funding for Los Angeles so our communities can recover from the fires.”

**Arguments in Support**

None on file.

**Arguments in Opposition**

None on file.

**FISCAL COMMENTS**

Although a fiscal committee has not analyzed this bill, Governor Newsom’s revised Fiscal Request letter to Congress, regarding the Los Angeles recovery to the January 2025 firestorms, identifies \$33,943,967,878 in requested federal aid.

**VOTES**

**UPDATED**

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