

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
AJR 27 (Harabedian and Irwin)
As Amended June 11, 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.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Adds coauthors
- 2) Other nonsubstantive change

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 AB 4 X1 (Gabriel) Chapter 1 Statutes of 2025 First Extraordinary Session and SB 3 X1 (Wiener) Chapter 2, Statutes of 2025 First Extraordinary Session 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.¹ 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.² The latest request amount is roughly \$33.94 billion.

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:

- 1) 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 California's fish conservation actions in Northern California caused fire hydrants to run out of water during the fires.
- 2) Requiring California to enact Voter Identification (ID) laws.

On the one-year anniversary of these fires, the entire California Congressional delegation signed a bipartisan letter to President Trump, requesting additional federal support to ensure Los Angeles County receives the resources necessary for recovery.³ This letter does not make a specific monetary request, instead requesting that "the communities of Southern California receive their fair share of federal disaster assistance." The California delegation argues the federal government should support the affected families, businesses, and communities in Los Angeles County just as the federal government recently aided communities impacted by "wildfires across the western United States, tornadoes in the Midwest, ice storms in Texas, [and] hurricanes in the Southeast."

¹ <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000195-2dbd-d7dd-a1b7-edbd50ec0000>

² <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/California-Fed-Supp-Approps-Letter-Dec-3-Update.pdf>

³ <https://www.padilla.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/CA-Delegation-Letter-to-POTUS-re-LA-Fires-Anniversary.pdf>

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

According to the California Professional Firefighters:

The devastation in Los Angeles cannot be understated, and while there is unspeakable sadness in the destruction the will and resilience of the people of California has been shown in full force. Significant recovery efforts are already underway following the heroic efforts of over 16,000 firefighters and other emergency personnel to extinguish the blazes and protect the communities across Los Angeles County affected by them. Thanks to their incredible work the losses of life, while tragic, were far smaller than they could have been, and many structures and neighborhoods were saved from ruin.

However, the scope of the work that remains is staggering, and additional disaster funding will provide much-needed support for this recovery. These recovery operations, which are critical for our members, include direct community relief, debris cleanup and recovery, fire-safe rebuilding, and resilient infrastructure repairs and updates. A supplemental disaster declaration and the funding that would become available from it would help working families, small and large businesses, local governments, and public safety agencies that have all been impacted by these firestorms.

There has been strong bipartisan interest in providing assistance to the citizens and communities of Los Angeles that our members have sworn to protect, and we strongly support all efforts to ensure that this funding reaches the people who need it most. For these reasons, we are proud to support this important measure. For these reasons, we are proud to support this important measure.

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:**ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 68-0-12**

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: DeMaio, Dixon, Gallagher, Hadwick, Johnson, McKinnor, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Sanchez, Sharp-Collins, Tangipa, Valencia

SENATE FLOOR: 36-0-4

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alvarado-Gil, Dahle, Jones, Reyes

UPDATED

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