


FHWA EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

FOR DISASTER DAMAGED ROADWAYS

Presented by:
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District 5 Local Assistance



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Disaster Communication

- ▶ Caltrans HQ notifies District Local Assistance about possible disasters.
- ▶ District Local Assistance reaches out to local agencies and requests the Initial Damage Estimate (IDE) within 14 days. The IDE helps determine if the minimum cost has been met to be eligible for ER funding. Must exceed \$700,000 for all State and local agencies affected by a disaster.
- ▶ After the disaster is eligible, Local Assistance requests Damage Assessment Forms (DAF) from the local agencies.
- ▶ Check Local Assistance's *Emergency Relief Program* website for current and potential disasters, deadlines, and forms.

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/fed-and-state-programs/emergency-relief-program>

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Emergency Relief Program

Accessibility Assistance: Caltrans makes every attempt to ensure our documents are accessible. Due to variances between assistive technologies, some large PDFs posted on the following websites are not ADA compliant. Should you need additional assistance, please contact ada.compliance.office@dot.ca.gov or (916) 324-8378.

DISASTER FIRST STEPS (for funding assistance to local agencies)

1. Immediately Contact your local CalOES representative to report damages ([CalOES Rep](#))
2. Report federal on-system roadway disaster damage to Caltrans ([IDE Form](#))

Hot Topics/New News

- ▶ New Potential ER Disasters
 - November 2025 Pack Fire
 - Governor's [State of Emergency Proclamation](#) for Mono County issued on 12/9/25
 - Please submit Initial Damage Estimates for any local damage to ER.IDE.Submittals@dot.ca.gov
 - CA25-8 July-August 2025 Wildfires
 - Governor's State of Emergency Proclamation has not yet been released, but is expected to include San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties due to the Madre and Gifford Fires
 - Letter of Acknowledgement from FHWA received on 12/15/25
 - Current Disaster Start Date: 7/2/25 (Madre Fire) and 8/1/25 (Gifford Fire)
 - Tentative DAF due Date: 3/13/26
 - DAFs can be submitted but cannot be signed by FHWA until the Finding of Eligibility is returned to Caltrans declaring the disaster as eligible for ER funds

Emergency Relief Program Websites

- [Disaster Declarations](#)
- [Disaster Information](#)
- [ER Appeals Procedure](#)
- [ER Time Extensions \(ET6 CON\)](#)
- [First Local Agency Steps](#)
- [Forms & Useful Lists](#)
- [Important Deadlines](#)
- [Manuals, Memos, etc.](#)
- [Report & Status](#)
- [Training Resources](#)

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Eligible Roadways

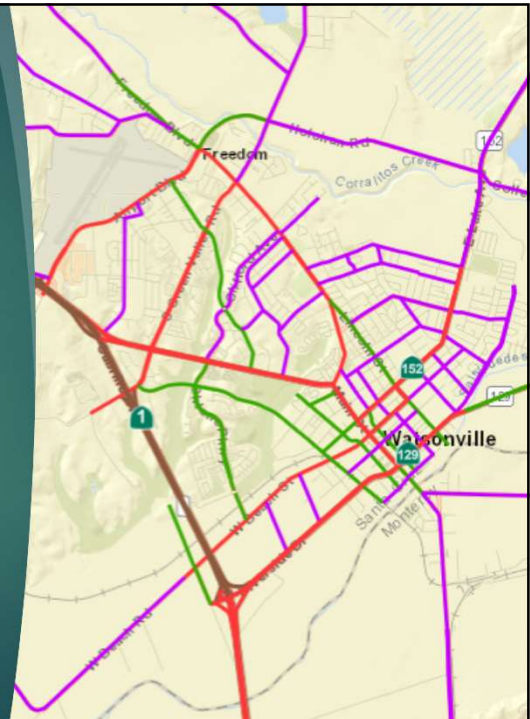
- ▶ Disaster damaged roadways with functional classification of urban minor collector and higher.
- ▶ Includes roadway drainage, safety, and structural elements.
- ▶ Pedestrian or bicycle facility along an eligible roadway and inside the local agency's right-of-way.
- ▶ Stream channel work that protects an eligible roadway.



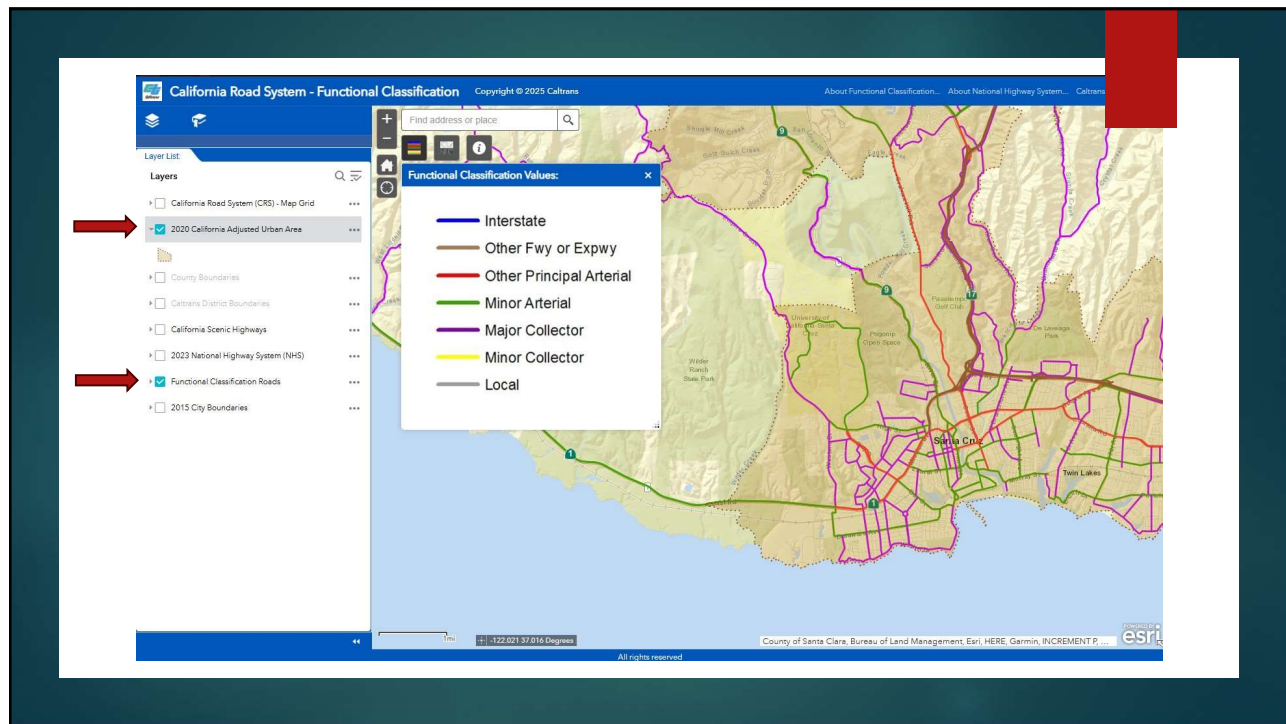
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Functional Classification

- ▶ Check roadway's functional classification on the CRS map, so the correct Federal agency is involved.
- ▶ FHWA for urban minor collector and higher
- ▶ FEMA for local and rural minor collector
- ▶ FEMA denials due to functional classification could take 2+ years.
- ▶ Reach out to Local Assistance when damage is *nearby* a FHWA eligible roadway.



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7 <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=026e830c914c495797c969a3e5668538>

Roadway Elements

From FHWA ER Manual:

Generally, all elements within the cross section of a highway that are damaged as a direct result of a disaster are eligible for repair under the ER program. This includes, but is not limited to, pavement, shoulders, slopes and embankments, guardrail, signs and traffic control devices, bridges, culverts, cribbing or other bank control features, bike and pedestrian path, fencing, and retaining walls.



Culvert Inlet



Inside of pipe showing corrugations from melted culvert

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

- ▶ Should parallel an eligible roadway and be within Public Works right of way.
- ▶ Right of Way Certification could be requested by FHWA.
- ▶ Roadway does not need to be damaged.
- ▶ Pedestrian railing is eligible.



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Stream Channels

- ▶ Eligible when the repair is directly related to protection of an eligible roadway.
- ▶ Roadway does not need to be damaged.
- ▶ Engineering memo or report stating the work is needed to protect the roadway is needed.



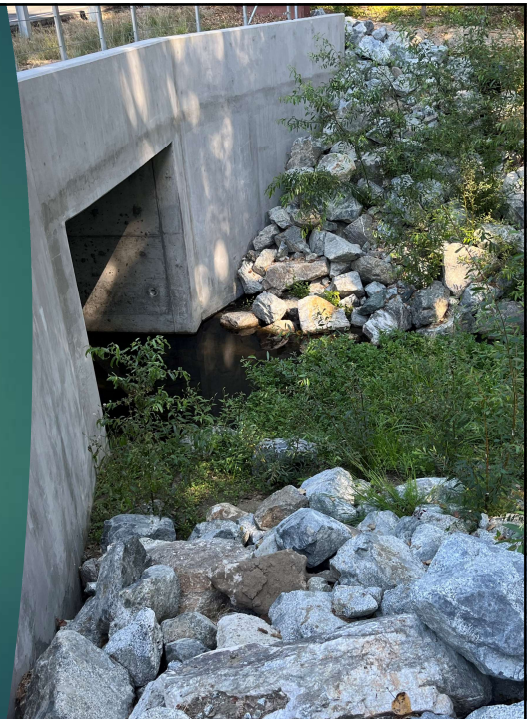
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Other Eligible Items

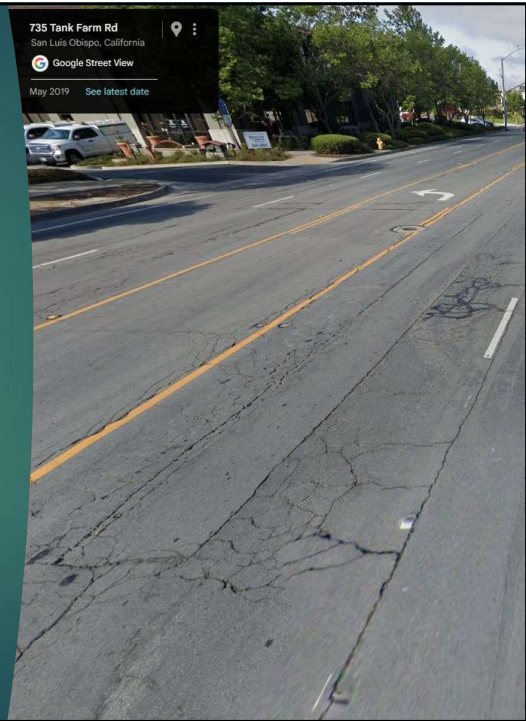
- ▶ Staff costs for all phases (includes indirect costs)
- ▶ Construction of a detour when an eligible roadway has been closed.
- ▶ Repairing roadway damage on a designated detour.
- ▶ Erosion control and replanting



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Ineligible Items

- ▶ Unmaintained roadway elements
- ▶ Pre-existing damage (check Google Street view)
- ▶ "Heavy Maintenance" or typical repairs by local agency crews during seasonal weather
- ▶ Damage under \$5,000



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What are the Repair Options?

Emergency Opening (EO)

- ▶ Temporary repairs that restore essential traffic, minimize extent of damage, or protect remaining facilities.
- ▶ Should be started within 270 days from the start of the disaster.
- ▶ 100% reimbursement for first 270 days after the start of the disaster then 88.53% reimbursement afterwards.

Permanent Restoration (PR)

- ▶ Restores roadway to pre-disaster condition.
- ▶ Follows the typical Federal project delivery process.
- ▶ Preliminary Engineering costs are eligible starting on the disaster date.
- ▶ Following phases need to be authorized prior to starting work.
- ▶ 88.53% reimbursement for all PR phases

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What are the Repair Options?

PR under EO

- ▶ Must show immediate completion of Permanent Repairs is the most economical option to restore essential traffic.

or

- ▶ Must show Permanent Repairs are the only practical alternative to restore essential traffic when a safe detour does not exist.

Requires benefit/cost analysis

Requires map showing detour to essential locations

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Applying for ER Program

- ▶ The Damage Assessment Form (DAF) is the application for the FHWA ER program.
- ▶ Local Assistance will notify local agencies about the DAF submittal period.
- ▶ Due within 3 months after FHWA determines a disaster is eligible unless FHWA provides an extension.
- ▶ Funds are requested after FHWA approves the DAF.

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration California Division- Title 23 Damage Assessment Form (DAF)		DAF No. LTP - CAPL - 0 0 2 0 Sheet # 1 of 10 Disaster No. CA 2 3 - 1 Federal Project # EO ER - 1517 (113) Inspection Date 12/27/2022 04:00:00 Inspected By Kenneth J. Rochowat
City of Capitola Location of Damage: Per Mile <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or Per Mile <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name of Road/Bridge: Adjacent to 4850 Cliff Drive PM Begin: NA PM Length: 0.00 (in feet) PM End: NA		Federal-Aid Highway? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y for yes, if no, ineligible for ER funds Map No. 06N21 E4 Functional Classification Type: Minor Arterial Route # Facet Hwy? Y/N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intersect? Y/N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing ADT: 15,000
Road/Bridge Data: Bridge: No Type: PCC AC Gravel Travelled Way: Width: Type: PCC AC Gravel Shoulder: Width: Type: PCC AC Gravel Description of Damage: Damage to rip-rap revetments and localized bluff erosion as a result of excessive precipitation and strong storm surges		
Type of Repair EO- AGENCY FORCES CT Work Order No. EO- CONTRACT EO- EAS		Substantial Emergency Opening PE: 0 CE: 0 Construction: 0 PE: 0 CE: 0 Construction: 0
NOTE: Environmental documentation for EO is required. It is generally started after work has begun.		
PR- CONSTRUCTION FA requires an approved PIF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract <input type="checkbox"/> FA PR EAS		Substantial Permanent Restoration PE: 839,408 CE: 1,259,112 Construction: 8,394,080 PE: 5,000 CE: 5,000 Construction: 5,000
NOTE: PRIOR AUTHORIZATION (APPROVED E-76) IS REQUIRED TO PROCEED WITH PERMANENT RESTORATION ROW & CONSTRUCTION NOTE: Environmental documentation for permanent restoration is conducted through normal Federal-aid procedures.		
Eligible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Signature Local Agency (if applicable) Caltrans: <i>Malinda Gallacher</i> FHWA: <i>Kenneth J. Rochowat</i>	Date 6/9/23 07/03/2023 8/1/23
TOTAL ESTIMATE		\$10,497,600

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DAF Components

- ▶ Cover page includes roadway details, damage description, and proposed repair.
- ▶ Cost estimate page with items and quantities
- ▶ **Photos of damaged site**
- ▶ Sketch of damage
- ▶ Location map
- ▶ If betterment is included, benefit/cost analysis is required.
- ▶ If PR under EO, supporting documentation and certification form.

-- Reach out to Local Assistance for help with above items. --

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Field Review

- ▶ A field review with Local Assistance will be scheduled after the DAF has been submitted.
- ▶ Caltrans Environmental and Right of Way will attend if needed.
- ▶ For PR projects, the Preliminary Environmental Studies (PES) will be reviewed to determine NEPA studies.



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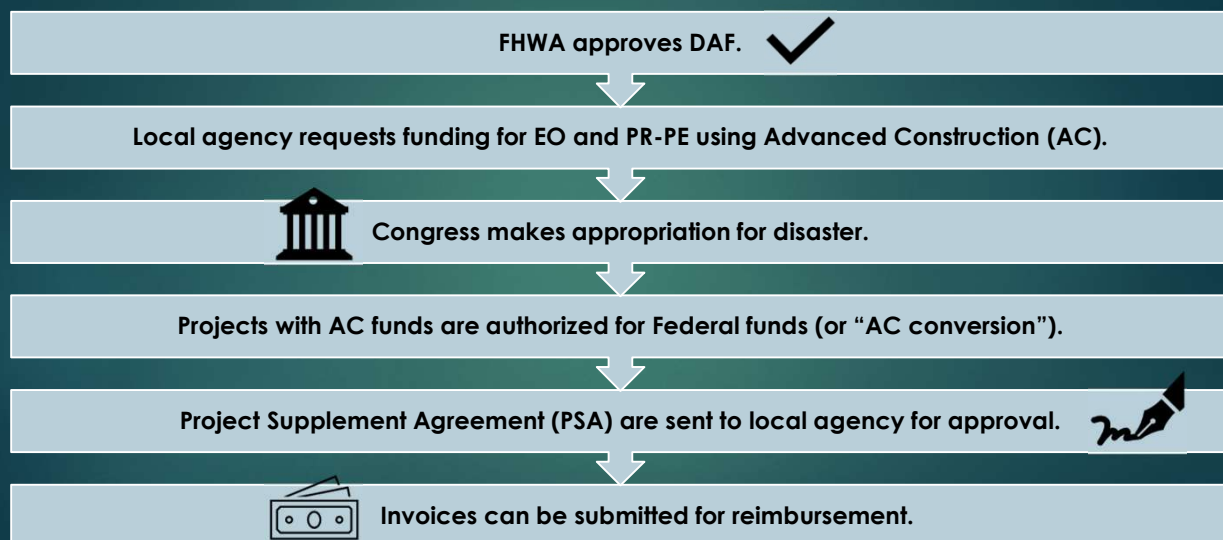
Betterments

- ▶ Added protective features or changes that modify the function or character of a facility from what existed prior to the disaster.
- ▶ Requires a cost/benefit analysis between the in-kind repair and betterment repair. Includes cost of future maintenance.
- ▶ Current design standards and environmental requirements (per regulatory agencies) do not require betterment justification.



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Applying for ER Funding



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Changes under Review..

Extending Delivery Timeframe

- ▶ The Construction authorization deadline is currently 2 Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) after the end of the FFY of the disaster.
- ▶ A disaster declared today (12/18/25) would have until 09/30/28 to authorize Construction.
 - ▶ 12/18/25 – 09/30/26 (current FFY)
 - ▶ 10/01/26 – 09/30/27 (first FFY)
 - ▶ 10/01/27 – 09/30/28 (second FFY)
- ▶ Bill was introduced in Congress in Summer 2025 to extend the 2 FFY to 6 FFY.
 - ▶ H.R. 4847 "Transportation Emergency Relief Extension Act"
 - ▶ S. 2635 "Transportation Emergency Relief Extension Act"

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Best Practices

- ▶ Aim for quick turnarounds for DAF's and funding requests, so projects are in the best position for Federal funds.
- ▶ Hiring consultants can take many months. Advertise ASAP for services, so the Construction authorization deadline can be met.
- ▶ Request Local Assistance to review consultant RFP's and construction bid documents before advertising. Federal requirements are constantly changing.
- ▶ Include the Local Assistance Construction Oversight Engineer (COE) during the Construction phase. Guidance will be provided, so Federal requirements are included.
- ▶ Invoice every 6 months to maintain "active" status. Inactive projects are questioned by FHWA and could require justification.
- ▶ Ask for help from Local Assistance. We're here to support your projects.

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Name	Position	Contact
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Example DAF

[illegible]

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