

- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- **Emergency Management Agency**
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio State Highway Patrol



July 3, 2019

DR-4447-OH

Steve Johnson, Federal Coordinating Officer
Federal Emergency Management Agency
200 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Mr. Johnson:

A Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (Joint PDA) was conducted on June 25 through July 1, 2019 in Columbiana, Greene, Mahoning, Mercer and Montgomery counties. Attached are the results of that Joint PDA. Based on the impacts outlined below, I request that the Public Assistance Grant Program be added to DR-4447-OH and the counties of Columbiana, Greene, Mahoning, Mercer and Montgomery be designated under the Program.

Public Assistance Impacts

Debris Removal	\$12,086,396	Percent of total 66.63%
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During the night of May 27, 2019, a total of eight tornadoes touched down in Greene, Mercer and Montgomery counties. There was one EF-0, two EF-1, two EF-2, two EF-3 and one EF-4. These tornadoes generated hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of woody and construction and demolition debris. The Ohio Department of Transportation completed mission assignments in all three counties to supplement local resources. Mutual aid is ongoing and debris operations are expected to last into the early fall. The Montgomery County Engineer's office opened four woody debris staging areas and is operating a large grinder to reduce the debris. There are also temporary staging areas with mixed debris that still require final disposition at landfills.

The City of Beavercreek is the largest city in Greene County and relies primarily on property tax for its revenue and does not have income tax. The Auditor's office estimates a loss in property taxes of \$3.3 million. Beavercreek's estimated debris costs related to this incident represents a third of that estimated loss, or \$1,113,377. In Montgomery County, the City of Dayton's and Harrison Township's estimated debris costs represent over half of the total costs in this Category. In addition, due to ongoing debris removal operations, Public Works crews in the City of Dayton are not completing necessary work, such as needed road repairs (potholes, preventative maintenance, street sweeping). Public Works crews are also deferring land maintenance activities, such as the mowing of parks, boulevards and vacant land. Finally, in order to expedite disaster related debris operations, Waste Collection crews are working overtime with operational changes required to maintain minimum Waste Collection services.

The debris costs associated with Columbiana County are removal of uphill slip materials that fell onto roadways and removal of woody debris generated by high winds.

Mission Statement

To coordinate activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters

Emergency Protective Measures \$1,410,856 Percent of total 7.78%

Costs associated with emergency protective measures include fire and police response, search and rescue operations, sheltering, generators that operated critical facilities during the power outages and operation of state and local emergency operations centers. Finalization of costs associated with mutual aid continues, therefore, these emergency protective measures costs are likely lower than what has actually been incurred to date.

Road and Bridges \$2,561,841 Percent of total 14.12%

In Columbiana and Mahoning counties, the damage to infrastructure is due to the flooding and flash flooding that occurred on May 28-29, 2019. In Columbiana County, St. Clair Township sustained damage to one township road, estimated to cost \$1,020,009 for repairs. This damage represents 90% of the Township's total annual budget. In Mahoning County, their \$653,906 in estimated damages is centered in a small area of the county, which reflects a substantial amount of concentrated damage. This same area of cities, neighborhoods and businesses was also impacted by flooding in August of 2018.

In addition to the infrastructure impacts in Mahoning County, the line of heavy rain that fell for approximately 3 hours over Canfield and Boardman Townships in Mahoning County, flooded neighborhoods in the cities of Canfield, Poland and Boardman. The impacts to homes and businesses will exasperate the recovery efforts in this County, necessitating supplemental financial assistance from the federal government. There are no other local or state sources of funding to assist the three local governments to make the necessary road repairs.

In the western Ohio counties, the road damages are likely underrepresented. The neighborhood roads impacted by the tornadoes are not built to sustain the continued operations for power restoration and debris removal. Therefore, these costs will likely increase once the response operations are complete and a full assessment made of the disaster related damages.

Water Control Facilities \$127,149 Percent of total 0.70%

The majority of these costs are associated with a retention area located in Harrison Township, Montgomery County. Approximately 31 trees damaged 1,053 linear feet of security fence surrounding the retention area. Also, the two pumps that are designed to push chamber water out of the wellfield are also damaged. These wellfields are the City of Dayton's fresh water source and the retention area disbursts contaminants away from this fresh water source.

Buildings and Equipment \$240,272 Percent of total 1.32%

Four jurisdictions in the impacted counties are currently reporting damages to public facilities: Beavercreek City Schools in Greene County and the City of Dayton, Montgomery County Commissioners and the Five Rivers Metro Parks, all in Montgomery County. Most of this damage is insured but in most cases, there is a deductible per each damage item. Additionally, with the short amount of time since the incident, there has not been a final determination of actual insurance proceeds. Local insurance carriers are working diligently to address the disaster related damage but are also overwhelmed due to the extent of damage.

Utilities \$947,951 Percent of total 5.23%

The storms on May 27, 2019, impacted the City of Dayton's water system, resulting in a partial depressurization or boil advisory for up to 410,000 customers in the greater Dayton area. The water system was re-pressurized on May 30, 2019, with the final boil advisory being lifted on May 31, 2019. Additionally, after the two pump stations lost power, county sewer workers had to divert 4.7 million gallons of wastewater directly into the Stillwater River. In response to the disruption in the water system, the City incurred costs to ensure proper safety of the drinking water. In addition, their Ottawa plant had physical damage due to high winds and the

power loss led to accumulation of 14' of water in the plant's basement. Repairs are ongoing at the Ottawa plant.

In the City of Celina, the city public works crews reestablished power to their municipally owned utility system. This cost is estimated at \$50,000.

Parks and Recreation \$765,484 Percent of total 4.22%

In Harrison Township, Montgomery County, Sinclair Park was heavily impacted by the tornadoes. There was heavy damage to the Park Club House, two picnic shelters, a storage building, a restroom, playground equipment, the park entrance signage and message board and a cast concrete split rail fence. In addition, they have over 380 trees that are lost and/or damaged. This accounts for approximately 90% of the trees in the park. This park was the focal point of tourism, family outings and celebrations in the greater Dayton area. Loss of revenue from this facility makes the Township's recovery more challenging. Additionally, the damage to homes and businesses in the area is tragic, and coupled with damage to this park, further exasperates the sense of community that may have been lost during this incident.

Disaster History

- DR-4360 – This federal disaster was declared on April 17, 2018. Costs for emergency work and permanent repair to damaged infrastructure is estimated at \$103,000,000. The State of Ohio is contributing all of the 25% non-federal share. At this time, only 243 of the estimated 992 projects are complete. Remaining work includes repairs to roadways due to landslides. There are still roads closed in the declared counties.
- DR-4424 – This federal disaster was declared on April 8, 2019. Costs for emergency work and permanent repair to damaged infrastructure is \$45 million. The State of Ohio is contributing all of the 25% non-federal share. Eighteen out of the 20 counties included in this disaster declaration were also declared under DR-4360.
- The Ohio EMA has a state funded infrastructure program called the State Disaster Relief Program. First implemented in 1985, this Program has provided \$44.3 million in grants to local governments for 77 incidents (average 2.2 incidents per year). This program is utilized when federal assistance is not available and is cost shared 75%/25% between the state and local governments. During the past 16 months, this program was authorized for the following incidents:
 - February 2018 flooding, severe storms and tornadoes - Clermont and Hocking counties totaling \$1,100,000.
 - April 2018 flooding and nor'easter - Ottawa County totaling \$1,900,000.
 - June 2018 flash floods - Hocking County totaling \$171,556.
 - June 2018 flash floods and floods - Athens County totaling \$1,644,000.
- Mercer County was impacted by flooding in May 2019. Their estimated infrastructure damage is \$400,000. Finally, in November 2017, Mercer County and the City of Celina were impacted by a tornado. There was significant impact to a business complex and some damage to homes. Ohio EMA implemented the State Disaster Relief Program for this incident, totaling \$418,936.10.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal

from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I also anticipate requirements from other federal agencies such as the Small Business Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact Laura Adcock, State Public Assistance Officer, at 614-799-3667.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sima S. Merick" with a stylized flourish at the end.

SIMA S. MERICK
State Coordinating Officer
Governor's Authorized Representative

SSM:lea

cc: Governor's Office
Department of Public of Safety
External Affairs, Ohio EMA
DPS Legislative