

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

May 28, 2023

The Honorable President Joseph R. Biden

President of the United States

The White House

Washington, DC

Through: Mr. Robert Fenton, Jr.
Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

Dear Mr. President:

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (“Stafford Act”), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you designate Guam for Individual Assistance under FEMA-4715-DR. This request is timely under 44 CFR § 206.36(a). This request is for all programs under Individual Assistance to include, but not limited to, the Individuals and Households Program and Other Needs Assistance, Disaster Case Management, Crisis Counseling and Assistance, Disaster Legal Services, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Critical Needs Assistance, and Clean and Removal Assistance which are currently not authorized under the Major Disaster Declaration that was issued for this event on May 25, 2023. I also request that you authorize Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance.

On May 19, 2023, Invest 97W, a broad tropical disturbance, formed in the central Pacific Ocean. On May 20, 2023, the system was upgraded to Tropical Depression 02W, and a typhoon watch was issued for Guam and the CNMI. On May 21, 2023, the system was upgraded to Tropical Storm Mawar, and on May 22, 2023, it was upgraded to a typhoon. On May 23, 2023, Mawar was upgraded to a Category 4 typhoon, and briefly upgraded to a Category 5 typhoon and a super typhoon with predicted sustained winds of 155 mph. Tropical Storm force winds arrived on Guam as of May 23, 2023 at approximately 8:00 p.m. As of 8:00 a.m. on May 24, 2023, the system was downgraded to a Category 4 typhoon with sustained winds of 140 mph and gusts up to 170 mph. The system made landfall on Guam on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, and moved north through Guam at 7 mph carrying widespread destructive winds of up to 140 mph. Mawar maintained its intensity as it passed through the Rota Channel between Guam and Rota. Destructive typhoon force winds continued through May 25, 2023.

In anticipation of Mawar's approach, I declared a state of emergency for Guam on May 21, 2023, instructing that affected government of Guam agencies mobilize resources immediately, as contemplated in the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense-FEMA 2018 Guam Catastrophic Typhoon Plan and in the 2016 Guam Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, and authorizing procurement of necessary equipment and services for health centers, shelter operations and displaced residents. On May 22, 2023, Emergency Declaration FEMA-3594-EM was declared. On May 23, 2023, in response to the intensification of Mawar, I issued Executive Order No. 2023-03, ordering the evacuation of residents in low lying, coastal and flood prone areas. On May 25, 2023, a Major Disaster Declaration was issued FEMA-4715-DR.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capabilities of the government of Guam, and in accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, supplementary federal assistance is necessary to augment efforts and available resources of the government of Guam, disaster relief organizations, and compensation by insurance for disaster-related losses. Due to the significant amount of debris caused by Mawar, cleanup and recovery efforts remain ongoing, and it is anticipated that local emergency protective measures and debris removal operations will result in diminished capacity to provide recovery assistance to Guam residents.

Given the nature of the disaster and the developing information, the government of Guam offers in support of this request damage surveys conducted by the mayors of each of Guam's villages. The government of Guam and FEMA are currently validating these initial damage assessments. The results of this evaluation of primary residences indicate the following numbers of majorly damaged or destroyed residences and the percentages of residences in the territory they represent:

Destroyed	Major	Minor	Affected
602 (1.2%)	1030 (2%)	1387 (2.7%)	4708 (9.2%)

Guam's community constitutes a disproportionately impacted community, whose population falls well below the median national income, is composed of diverse islander communities and an indigenous community. Our people experience adverse human health and environmental impacts, and our geographic distance from the continental U.S. has exacerbated our community's vulnerabilities, resulting in additional supply challenges and limited human resources. Additionally, our island is experiencing a net negative housing market, where demand exceeds existing supply and rental rates and home prices have priced many residents out of the market altogether. These factors were further aggravated by first the COVID-19 pandemic and, presently, Typhoon Mawar. Reconstruction will be hampered by the shortage of skilled construction laborers, who are primarily employed on Department of Defense projects. The Individual Assistance Program will provide desperately needed financial aid to our vulnerable community in the form of housing assistance and other needs assistance. All available IA programs will help address the unmet needs of our community during this crisis.

At the time of this request, power and water is still being restored to the island. Many businesses and residents are unable to get utilities reconnected due to damage to mains,

equipment, power lines, substations, and priority restorations, including to the hospital and other public safety facilities. Additionally, Mawar has left substantial debris, including green waste, white waste, construction debris, which have accumulated into hazards that pose additional risks to the safety of our community.

Tourism is a mainstay industry on Guam. Though the industry took a downturn due to COVID-19 and internal regulations in our tourist markets, over the past year, the market has experienced a resurgence, and tourist numbers began to climb. At present time, 3,000 Korean visitors are stranded on Guam due to the inoperability of our airport, which was seriously damaged by Mawar. We anticipate that the storm will have a negative impact on recovery of our tourism industry, which may lead to significant short-term unemployment during our recovery period.

As a result of the impacts sustained, Federal assistance, including Individual Assistance Programs and Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance, is necessary to ensure recovery from the damage to critical infrastructure, homes and businesses caused by Mawar. I certify that the government of Guam will assume all applicable non-federal shared costs as required by the Stafford Act for this emergency. I have designated Samantha Brennan, Guam Homeland Security Advisor and Acting Administrator of the Office of Civil Defense as the Guam Coordinating Officer for this emergency. She is authorized to provide any further information, assurances, requests or justification on my behalf. I have designated Mr. Jon Jr. Calvo as Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR).

Senseremente,



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO

Maga 'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

cc via email: *Honorable Joshua F. Tenorio, Sigundo Maga 'låhen Guåhan, Lt. Governor of Guam*
Jon Junior M. Calvo, Chief of Staff