



September 8, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

REQUEST TO AMEND THE MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION TO AUTHORIZE INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE FOR KERR COUNTY

Dear Mr. President:

I last wrote to you on July 30, 2026 making a personal appeal that you grant Governor Abbott's request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Kerr County. On September 3, 2026 you approved a Major Disaster Declaration for 19 counties in Texas, including Kerr County. As a result, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) resources will be available to assist in our emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities and infrastructure. I **thank you** for these much needed federal resources which will greatly help Kerr County to recover and rebuild our facilities and infrastructure.

However, FEMA Individual Assistance remains pending for Kerr County, along with the requested additional Hazard Mitigation Grant Program resources. Individual Assistance is urgently needed to help flood-affected residents with temporary housing, emergency home repairs and uninsured or underinsured losses.

The damage in Kerr County is overwhelming. You saw for yourself how bad it was in July 2025, when you came to Kerrville and toured the devastation. In the aftermath of the July 2026 flood, the damage is far worse and more extensive. Homes and businesses were filled with mud and debris and many now have serious mold problems. Without FEMA assistance, many flood-affected residents have nowhere to go while their homes are remediated and are faced with heartbreaking decisions. Please see the attached article entitled "*Kerr County residents navigate mold risks and rebuilding costs with dwindling resources*" that ran in one of our local newspapers, The Kerrville Daily Times on August 31st, 2026.

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So far, within the Texas Division of Emergency Management's Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT), last updated on August 17th, **966 households reported flood damage with 223 homes sustaining major damage or totally destroyed**. A total of **123 businesses were affected with 25 incurring major damage or destroyed**. Residents are still coming forward regarding unreported damage, and in collecting information from various outreach efforts, the list of affected households has grown to **1166**.

This level of damage would be catastrophic for any community, but many of our Kerr County communities were still struggling to recover from last year's horrific flooding, only to be hit again. It is heartbreaking to meet with homeowners who had just gotten back into their homes, only to face the overwhelming impact of another flood that was every bit as bad if not worse than the last one. Our small business owners have also once again been severely impacted. Numerous small businesses did not survive the 2025 flood and more will likely fail this year without assistance.

Sadly, this year flood response is very different. Families and businesses are facing a more destructive disaster with far less help than last year. Due to widespread damage across so many counties, far fewer volunteer nonprofit organizations are here to provide individual household assistance for clean-up, mold remediation, emergency financial assistance, repairs, rentals and utilities assistance.

I am glad to see that you are visiting Texas for the mid-term GOP convention in Dallas. I invite you to come to Kerr County again to see for yourself the major devastation of the July 2026 floods.

Mr. President, thank you for approving Public Assistance for Kerr County. I respectfully ask that you now amend the Major Disaster Declaration to authorize Individual Assistance for Kerr County and approve the remaining assistance requested by Governor Abbott. Kerr County does not have the resources to recover from a second major disaster in just over a year, and our affected residents urgently need direct assistance.

Thank you for your continued support for Kerr County and the State of Texas.

Sincerely,



Rich Paces
Kerr County Commissioner, Precinct 2

Attachment – Article from the Kerrville Daily Times published August 31, 2026

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CC: Senator John Cornyn
Senator Ted Cruz
Representative Chip Roy
Governor Greg Abbott