

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Granted for the CZU Lightning Complex

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OAKLAND, Calif. – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has authorized the use of federal funds to assist the state of California in combating the CZU Lightning Complex burning in Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties.

On Aug. 20, 2020, the state of California submitted a request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) for the CZU Lightning Complex. At the time of the request, the fire threatened approximately 8,593 homes in and around the communities of San Lorenzo Valley, China Creek, Boulder Creek, Bonny Doon, Selton, Zayante, and Scotts Valley. The fire also threatened critical resources and infrastructure in the area, including communications, transportation, power and gas distribution infrastructure; public schools; juvenile and adult detention centers; and area fire stations.

The FEMA regional administrator approved the state's request on Aug. 20, 2020, as the fire threatened to become a major incident.

FMAGs provide federal funding for up to 75 percent of eligible firefighting costs. The Disaster Relief Fund provides allowances for FMAGs through FEMA to assist in fighting fires that threaten to cause major disasters. Eligible costs covered by FMAGs can include expenses for field camps, equipment use, materials, supplies and mobilization, and demobilization activities attributed to fighting the fire.

For more information on FMAGs, visit fema.gov/assistance/public/fire-management-assistance.

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