

Federated States of Micronesia High Tides and Drought – Denial

Denied on October 6, 2008

On July 31, 2008, Vice President Alik L. Alik, on behalf of President Manny Mori of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), requested a major disaster declaration due to unusual high tides and drought during the period of November 2007 to March 2008. The Vice President requested a declaration for direct Federal assistance and U. S. Department of Agriculture Emergency Food Assistance for Chuuk and Pohnpei States. During the period of March 25-March 28, 2008, joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) were conducted in the requested areas and are summarized below. PDAs estimate damages immediately after an event and are considered, along with several other factors, in determining whether a disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the FSM government and the affected local governments, and that Federal assistance is necessary.¹

On October 6, 2008, FSM's request for a major disaster declaration was denied based on the determination that the damage was not of such severity and magnitude as to be beyond the combined capabilities of the FSM government and affected local governments.

Summary of Damage Assessment Information Used in Determining Whether to Declare a Major Disaster

Individual Assistance - (*Not requested*)

- Total Number of Residences Impacted:² N/A
 - Destroyed - -
 - Major Damage - -
 - Minor Damage - -
 - Affected - -
- Percentage of insured residences:³ -
- Percentage of low income households:⁴ -
- Percentage of elderly households:⁵ -
- Total Individual Assistance cost estimate: N/A

Public Assistance

- Primary Impact: Emergency Protective Measures
 - Total Public Assistance cost estimate: \$2,098,246
 - Statewide per capita impact:⁶ -
 - Statewide per capita impact indicator:⁷ -
 - Countywide per capita impact: -
 - Countywide per capita impact indicator:⁸ -
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¹ The preliminary damage assessment (PDA) process is a mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and resulting needs of individuals, businesses, public sector, and community as a whole. Information collected is used by the State as a basis for the Governor's request for a major disaster or emergency declaration, and by the President in determining a response to the Governor's request (44 CFR § 206.33).

² Degree of damage to impacted residences:

- Destroyed – total loss of structure, structure is not economically feasible to repair, or complete failure to major structural components (e.g., collapse of basement walls/foundation, walls, or roof);
- Major Damage – substantial failure to structural elements of residence (e.g., walls, floors, foundation), or damage that will take more than 30 days to repair;
- Minor Damage – home is damaged and uninhabitable, but may be made habitable in short period of time with repairs; and
- Affected – some damage to the structure and contents, but still habitable.

³ By law, Federal disaster assistance cannot duplicate insurance coverage (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(5)).

⁴ The presence of special populations, such as low-income, the elderly, or the unemployed may indicate a greater need for assistance (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(3)).

⁵ Ibid (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(3)).

⁶ Based on State population in the 2000 Census.

⁷ Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY09, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2008.

⁸ Countywide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY09, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2008.