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Governor Doyle Announces Federal Disaster Declaration FEMA Will Provide Aid to Local Governments Affected By Floods

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has made a major disaster declaration for Grant and Milwaukee counties, making assistance available to local units of government affected by floods. The assistance will help communities recover some of the costs incurred through fighting the floods, protecting citizens and repairing infrastructure. The state did not meet the federal threshold to receive individual assistance.

“I want to thank the Federal Emergency Management Agency for helping Wisconsin communities recover from these damaging floods,” Governor Doyle said. “While I am disappointed that the state did not meet the threshold for individual assistance, we will continue to work with affected communities to rebuild from July’s severe storms and flooding.”

On July 31, Governor Doyle formally requested a federal disaster declaration for three southern Wisconsin counties hit hard by storms and flooding, following the completion of FEMA’s assessment work which was required before a declaration can be sought. The request was for federal assistance for individuals, families and businesses suffering from severe weather in Grant, Milwaukee and Waukesha counties. Governor Doyle also requested public assistance for local governments in Grant and Milwaukee counties to help recover some of their flood-related costs.

A series of storms producing torrential rain, hail and strong winds moved through southern Wisconsin beginning on July 22. Flooding was widespread in the Milwaukee area. The next night, several areas of Grant County were hit by flash flooding.

Officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Small Business Administration and Wisconsin Emergency Management conducted damage assessments in conjunction with local officials in the flooded communities, which were submitted to FEMA for review.

The state will not receive emergency FoodShare assistance from the USDA as part of the Emergency Declaration. The Department of Health Services in July provided replacement FoodShare benefits to enrolled families with flood damage. No further FoodShare assistance is available for families affected by flooding.

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