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16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
17 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
18 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

19 AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO;
20 AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE
COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES,
21 AFL-CIO; SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO; AFGE
22 LOCAL 1122; AFGE LOCAL 1236; AFGE
23 LOCAL 2110; AFGE LOCAL 3172; SEIU
LOCAL 521; SEIU LOCAL 1000; SEIU
24 LOCAL 1021; ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED
AMERICANS; AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL
25 UNION; AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION; CENTER FOR TAXPAYER
26 RIGHTS; COALITION TO PROTECT
27 AMERICA’S NATIONAL PARKS; COMMON
DEFENSE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT; MAIN
28 STREET ALLIANCE; NATURAL

Case No. 3:25-cv-03698-SI

**SUPPLEMENTAL COMPLAINT FOR
DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE
RELIEF**

1 RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, INC.;
2 NORTHEAST ORGANIC FARMING
3 ASSOCIATION, INC.; VOTEVETS ACTION
4 FUND INC.; WESTERN WATERSHEDS
5 PROJECT; COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA,
6 CALIFORNIA; CITY OF CHICAGO,
7 ILLINOIS; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
8 COUNTY, WASHINGTON; HARRIS
9 COUNTY, TEXAS; CITY OF BALTIMORE,
10 MARYLAND; CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
11 FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA; AND
12 AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE
13 ASSOCIATION,

14 Plaintiffs,

15 v.

16 DONALD J. TRUMP, in his official capacity as
17 President of the United States;
18 UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
19 MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET;
20 RUSSELL VOUGHT, in his official capacity as
21 Director of U.S. Office of Management and
22 Budget;
23 UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL
24 MANAGEMENT;
25 SCOTT KUPOR, in his official capacity as
26 Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel
27 Management;
28 UNITED STATES DOGE SERVICE;
AMY GLEASON, in her official capacity as
Acting Administrator of the U.S. DOGE
Service;
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE;
BROOKE ROLLINS, in her official capacity as
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture;
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE;
HOWARD LUTNICK, in his official capacity as
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce;
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE;
PETE HEGSETH, in his official capacity as
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense;
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY;

1 CHRIS WRIGHT, in his official capacity as
2 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy;
3 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
4 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES;
5 ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR., in his official
6 capacity as Secretary of the U.S. Department of
7 Health and Human Services;
8 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
9 HOMELAND SECURITY;
10 KRISTI NOEM, in her official capacity as
11 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland
12 Security;
13 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
14 HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT;
15 SCOTT TURNER, in his official capacity as
16 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing
17 and Urban Development;
18 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
19 JUSTICE;
20 PAM BONDI, in her official capacity as
21 Attorney General of the U.S. Department of
22 Justice;
23 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE
24 INTERIOR;
25 DOUG BURGUM, in his official capacity as
26 Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior;
27 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
28 LABOR;
LORI CHAVEZ-DEREMER, in her official
capacity as Secretary of the U.S. Department of
Labor;
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
STATE;
MARCO RUBIO, in his official capacity as
Secretary of the U.S. Department of State;
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
TREASURY;
SCOTT BESSENT, in his official capacity as
Secretary of U.S. Department of Treasury;
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION;
SEAN DUFFY, in his official capacity as
Secretary for the U.S. Department of
Transportation;
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS;
DOUG COLLINS, in his official capacity as
Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

1 AMERICORPS (a.k.a. the CORPORATION
2 FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY
SERVICE);
3 JENNIFER BASTRESS TAHMASEBI, in her
official capacity as Interim Agency Head of
4 AmeriCorps;
5 UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY;
6 LEE ZELDIN, in his official capacity as
Administrator of U.S. Environmental Protection
7 Agency;
8 UNITED STATES GENERAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION;
9 MICHAEL RIGAS, in his official capacity as
Acting Administrator for U.S. General Services
Administration;
10 NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD;
11 DAVID M. PROUTY, in his official capacity as
Member of the National Labor Relations Board;
12 WILLIAM COWEN, in his official capacity as
the Acting General Counsel of the National
13 Labor Relations Board;
14 NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION;
15 BRIAN STONE, in his official capacity as
Acting Director of the National Science
Foundation;
16 PEACE CORPS;
17 PAUL SHEA, in her official capacity as Chief
Executive Officer of the Peace Corps;
18 UNITED STATES SMALL BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION;
19 KELLY LOEFFLER, in her official capacity as
Administrator of the U.S. Small Business
20 Administration;
21 UNITED STATES SOCIAL SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION;
22 FRANK BISIGNANO, in his official capacity as
Commissioner of the U.S. Social Security
23 Administration;
24 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AGENCY; and
25 KAREN EVANS, in her official capacity as the
Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA
26 Administrator,

27 Defendants.

INTRODUCTION

1
2 435. This filing supplements Plaintiffs’ operative September 29, 2025 Second Amended
3 Complaint (“SAC”), pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(d), by alleging facts pertinent to
4 Plaintiffs’ existing claims that have occurred after the filing of the SAC, and by asserting additional
5 claims challenging such later actions by Defendants to dramatically reorganize and reduce the size of
6 the federal government through the continued implementation of February 11, 2025 Executive Order
7 14210 (“Implementing the President’s “Department of Government Efficiency” Workforce
8 Optimization Initiative”), including but not limited to ongoing actions by Defendant Department of
9 Homeland Security (“DHS”) to dramatically reduce the size of the Federal Emergency Management
10 Agency (“FEMA”).

11 436. During the time that this litigation has been pending, the Administration has issued a
12 new round of directives to implement the workforce reduction directives initially set forth in the
13 President’s Executive Order 14210 and reflected in agency actions to implement those orders
14 (including the “Agency RIF and Reorganization Plans,” “ARRPs”). On October 15, 2025, the
15 President issued a new directive, Executive Order 14356, to “protect and expand upon” its “historic
16 improvements” in workforce reduction. Among other things, Executive Order 14356 required every
17 agency to create, implement and comply with “Annual Staffing Plans.” EO 14356, §1 (“Ensuring
18 Continued Accountability in Federal Hiring”). Although “final” Annual Staffing Plans were due in
19 December 2025 (*id.* §2(c)(i)), they have not been publicly revealed. Instead, Defendants have
20 decided, as they did with the ARRPs, to keep those Plans and any workforce reduction actions they
21 require secret. The limited information that has been made public confirms that while injunctive
22 relief prevented many agencies from engaging in unlawful workforce reductions during 2025, some
23 of those agencies are poised to carry out further unlawful workforce reduction plans in 2026.¹

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27 ¹ Washington Post, *Here are the agencies that were cut the most by Trump, new data shows*
28 (Jan. 10, 2026) (OPM data reveals only 11,000 federal positions eliminated through RIFs in 2025),
available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2026/01/10/federal-cuts-trump-agencies-data/>.

1 exclusive representative of active duty members of the Foreign Service employed by the U.S.
 2 Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (“USAID”), as well as the
 3 Foreign Commercial Service in the Department of Commerce, Foreign Agricultural Service, Animal
 4 and Plant Health Inspection Service in the Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Agency for Global
 5 Media. AFSA has members and represents employees who live and work throughout the world,
 6 including members and employees who live and work within the Northern District of California.
 7 AFSA is added as a plaintiff to claims in the Second Amended Complaint and this Supplemental
 8 Complaint, on its own behalf and on behalf of its members.

9 439. Defendant Karen Evans is the Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA
 10 Administrator and is sued in her official capacity as a Federal Agency Defendant. Evans is added as
 11 a Defendant to Claims VI and VII in the Second Amended Complaint and to all claims in this
 12 Supplemental Complaint.

13 440. Defendant FEMA is a federal agency headquartered in Washington, D.C. FEMA is a
 14 federal agency within the meaning of the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 551(1) and is sued as a Federal Agency
 15 Defendant. FEMA is added as a Defendant to Claims VI and VII in the Second Amended Complaint
 16 and to all claims in this Supplemental Complaint.

17 SUPPLEMENTAL FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

18 I. Executive Order 14356 and Annual Staffing Plans for 2026

19 441. On October 15, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order 14356
 20 (“Ensuring Continued Accountability in Federal Hiring”), continuing the series of Executive Orders
 21 that further the President’s goal to effectuate a “critical transformation of the Federal bureaucracy”
 22 (EO 14210). Executive Order 14356 proclaimed:

23 In just 8 months, my Administration has dramatically reduced the size of the Federal
 24 workforce ... while prioritizing hiring in national security, immigration enforcement, public
 25 safety, and other roles that further my Administration’s priorities and benefit American
 26 taxpayers. The results of this approach have surpassed the ratio of four departures for each
 new hire set forth in Executive Order 14210 of February 11, 2025 (Implementing the
 President’s “Department of Government Efficiency” Workforce Optimization Initiative).

27 EO 14356, §1. The new EO announced further “policies and procedures” in order “[t]o protect and
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1 expand upon these historic improvements, and to ensure that the Federal Government is optimally
2 staffed to meet critical mission needs and implement the agenda that the American people elected me
3 to pursue.” *Id.*

4 442. In the portion of the EO addressing those “policies and procedures” as relevant to his
5 workforce reduction goals and this case, the President required every federal agency to create,
6 implement, and comply with new “Annual Staffing Plans” that eliminate functions and positions the
7 President and his Administration view as “unnecessary.” *Id.*, §2(c). Thus, the President ordered: “In
8 these plans, agencies shall seek to improve operational efficiency; *eliminate* duplicative or
9 *unnecessary functions and positions*; reduce unnecessary or low-value contractor positions; promote
10 employee accountability; enhance delivery of essential services; appropriately prioritize hiring for
11 national security, homeland security, and public safety positions; and implement the recruitment
12 initiatives described in the Merit Hiring Plan.” *Id.* (emphasis added).

13 443. Agencies were ordered to create Staffing Plans within 60 days of the order and to
14 submit “final” plans to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) and Office of Personnel
15 Management (“OPM”). *Id.* The EO further ordered federal agencies to implement and “comply
16 with” these Staffing Plans “throughout the fiscal year.” *Id.* And the President further ordered each
17 agency to submit “updates to OPM and OMB at the beginning of each quarter, beginning with the
18 second quarter of the 2026 fiscal year, showing progress in implementing their Annual Staffing
19 Plans.” *Id.*

20 444. The White House issued a “Fact Sheet” accompanying EO 14356, which confirmed
21 the order to eliminate functions and positions the President and his Administration view as
22 unnecessary: “The Trump Administration is committed to streamlining the Federal Government,
23 *eliminating unnecessary programs*, and reducing bureaucratic inefficiency.”³

24 445. On November 5, 2025, OPM and OMB issued a Memorandum to all federal agencies
25 regarding implementation of EO 14356 that further confirmed the order to eliminate programs and
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27 ³ Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Ensures Continued Accountability in Federal Hiring
28 (Oct. 15, 2025), available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/10/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-ensures-continued-accountability-in-federal-hiring/> (emphasis added).

1 staff the Administration views as unnecessary. Citing EO 14210, the November 5 Memorandum
2 explained: “Since taking office, President Trump has made it a top priority to improve government
3 efficiency, restore government accountability, and eliminate waste, bloat, and insularity.”⁴ And it
4 further proclaimed, “[t]hose efforts have been a tremendous success” and “[t]he Trump
5 Administration has achieved unprecedented reductions in the Federal workforce.” *Id.*

6 446. In relevant part, the November 5 OMB/OPM Memorandum directs:

7 The agency’s Annual Staffing Plan shall additionally consider efficiencies that may be created
8 by organizational restructuring, removal of unnecessary management layers, *elimination of*
9 duplicative or *unnecessary functions and positions*, consolidation of administrative functions,
10 reduction of unnecessary or low-value contractor positions, performance management of
underperforming employees, effective and efficient distribution of workload across similar
positions and shared skill sets, process streamlining and improvements, and new technologies.

11 *Id.* (emphases added). The Memorandum also repeats the EO’s instruction that agencies must
12 comply with these Staffing Plans, directing that agencies may amend their Plans “in coordination”
13 with OMB and OPM. *Id.*

14 447. The November 5 Memorandum directs: “Annual Staffing Plans for FY 2026 shall be
15 submitted to OMB and OPM no later than December 1, 2025.” *Id.* Although that date has passed,
16 and notwithstanding the President’s directive that “final” plans be created and submitted to
17 OMB/OPM, neither the federal agencies nor OMB/OPM have made public any of these Annual
18 Staffing Plans.

19 448. The Administration’s statements and actions throughout 2025 make clear that the
20 President intends this EO to require agencies to continue to “eliminate” programs that he and his
21 advisors believe are “unnecessary,” regardless of Congress’s assessment of necessity or authorization
22 or funding of those programs. While both the President and OMB/OPM have proclaimed that the
23 President’s EO 14210 workforce reduction agenda has been a success, many of those plans were
24 delayed in whole or in part by litigation and/or legislation throughout 2025.

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28 ⁴ Available at : <https://www.opm.gov/chcoc/latest-memos/guidance-on-executive-order-14356-ensuring-continued-accountability-in-federal-hiring.pdf>.

1 449. The original centerpiece of the President’s agenda, as set forth in EO 14210, was
2 planned mass terminations. But government-wide mass terminations of probationary employees and
3 large-scale planned reductions-in-force (“RIFs”) at many agencies were disrupted by
4 injunctions.⁵ When agencies attempted to resume plans to RIF employees during the government
5 shutdown, they were largely halted through litigation and legislation (including Section 120 of the
6 Continuing Resolution (CR) that ended the shutdown).⁶

7 450. Thus, as a result of these developments throughout 2025 and into early 2026, many
8 federal agencies were required to hold off on reorganization and RIF plans that they otherwise would
9 have implemented.

10 451. However, the current CR language barring further RIFs is set to expire on January 30,
11 2026. Pub. L. No. 119-37, §120, 139 Stat 495 (2025). As 2026 begins, the Administration is poised
12 to continue these efforts to downsize the government, including through additional mass
13 terminations, if the CR language is not extended.

14 452. For example, as recently as November 2025, Defendant Department of the Interior
15 (“DOI”) expressed to this Court that it intended to eliminate, via a massive RIF planned pursuant to
16 EO 14210 and the Administration’s workforce reduction agenda, thousands of employees across its
17 sub-agencies. *AFGE v. OMB*, Case No. 25-cv-08302-SI, ECF Nos. 67-1; 71-2. DOI publicly
18 revealed its plans to eliminate thousands of positions across the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau
19 of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Geological
20 Survey. The level of these planned cuts would necessarily reach statutorily authorized and mandated
21 programs and interfere with the Department’s ability to perform statutorily required functions. For
22 example, the planned NPS cuts would have eliminated over 25 percent of positions in the Pacific

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24 ⁵ *E.g.*, *AFGE v. OPM*, 2025 WL 660053 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 28, 2025); 770 F.Supp.3d 1215
25 (N.D. Cal. 2025); 2025 WL 835337 (9th Cir. March 17, 2025); 781 F.Supp.3d 920 (N.D. Cal. 2025);
26 799 F.Supp.3d 967 (N.D. Cal. 2025); *see also* ECF Nos. 85, 124; *AFGE v. Trump*, 139 F.4th 1020
(9th Cir. 2025). Compliance declarations confirmed many previously terminated probationary
employees were reinstated. *AFGE v. OPM*, Case No. 25-cv-01780-WHA ECF Nos. 272-01 through
272-19.

27 ⁶ *AFGE v OMB*, 2025 WL 2936175 (N.D. Cal. October 15, 2025); 2025 WL 3018250 (N.D.
28 Cal. October 28, 2025); 2025 WL 3485737 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 4, 2025); 2025 WL 3654116 (N.D. Cal.
Dec. 17, 2025); *see also* Pub. L. No 119-37, §120, 139 Stat 495 (2025).

1 West Regional Office, which is responsible for more than 60 national parks already under siege
2 because of short-staffing.⁷

3 453. DOI explained that it was halting work on these long-planned RIFs due to this Court's
4 injunctions during the federal government shutdown and then, later, CR Section 120 (Pub. L. No 119-
5 37, §120, 139 Stat 495 (2025)). ECF No. 67-1; 71-2. The press has reported that at least some
6 Interior staff recently "have been told to prepare for potential layoffs after Jan. 30."⁸

7 454. Other agencies have also informed this Court that longstanding plans to implement the
8 President's directive in EO 14210 were suspended only in light of Section 120 of the CR and/or this
9 Court's injunctive orders enforcing that legislation, including Defendant Department of State's
10 attempt to terminate large numbers of Foreign Service employees.

11 455. At least one agency, DHS, on orders of DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, has decided to
12 begin implementing its staffing plan for FEMA by ordering a dramatic 50 percent reduction in staff
13 across the different categories of FEMA employees, and did not wait for the CR to expire before
14 beginning to implement these cuts.

15 **II. The Unlawful Downsizing Directive to the Federal Emergency Management Agency**

16 456. FEMA is the federal agency charged by Congress with creating and sustaining a
17 comprehensive national strategy, framework, and capacity to plan for, prevent, mitigate, protect
18 against, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters nationwide. It does this by, among
19 other things, deploying trained, experienced, and specialized staff from around the country at a
20 moment's notice to sites of declared disasters and emergencies and continuing to support
21 communities through recovery, and distributing and administering billions of dollars in funding to
22 state and local governments. FEMA staff provide services ranging from erecting housing for disaster
23 victims, staffing disaster recovery centers, meeting with affected residents to help them access
24 resources such as emergency food and shelter, processing longer-term recovery needs, and working

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26 ⁷ *Id.*; see also New York Times, *At Yosemite, Rangers Are Scarce and Visitors Have Gone Wild* (Jan. 19, 2026), available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/19/us/politics/yosemite-national-park-california-staffing-cuts.html>.

27 ⁸ E&E News by Politico, *More Interior layoffs coming? It's possible.* (Jan. 21, 2016),
28 available at: <https://www.eenews.net/articles/more-interior-layoffs-coming-its-possible/>.

1 with state and local governments to assess and rebuild public infrastructure and take other steps to
2 respond and recover from disasters. FEMA staff provide services for wildfires, hurricanes,
3 earthquakes, tornadoes, and terrorist and other man-made emergencies, and arrive equipped with
4 resources and training needed to help communities recover and thereby prevent further harm.

5 **A. The FEMA Workforce**

6 457. Congress has authorized FEMA to employ civil service employees subject to the
7 requirements of Title 5 (“civil service employees”) as well as other full-time employees who are not
8 subject to Title 5. Specifically, the 1988 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
9 Act (“Stafford Act”) authorized agencies performing disaster work “to appoint and fix the
10 compensation of such temporary personnel as may be necessary, without regard to the provisions of
11 Title 5 governing appointments in competitive service.” 42 U.S.C. § 5149(b)(1).

12 458. The Stafford Act’s hiring provisions allow FEMA the flexibility to hire many
13 employees, including for specific types of expertise demanded by disaster management, under a more
14 streamlined process than the civil service process. FEMA’s non-civil service statutory employees are
15 commonly referred to as “Stafford Act employees,” are funded through the non-discretionary,
16 mandatory funding established by Congress, and are exempt from furlough during government
17 shutdowns.

18 459. FEMA’s Stafford Act employees fall into two categories: the Cadre of On-Call
19 Response/Recovery (“CORE”) and reservists. CORE employees are full-time workers who are hired
20 for two- to four-year terms, renewable according to agency need, and who work across disasters.
21 Reservists are on-call employees who may be activated in particular emergencies, and are also
22 renewable according to agency need. Stafford Act employees are funded through separate dedicated,
23 non-discretionary appropriations (as part of the Disaster Relief Fund).⁹

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27 ⁹ FEMA can also augment its capacity through the DHS Surge Capacity Force, which deploys
28 volunteers employed by DHS, not FEMA, for particular disasters (and through additional short-term
local hires). On information and belief, the DHS Surge Capacity Force is largely unavailable for the
foreseeable future in light of other DHS demands.

1 460. FEMA’s Stafford Act employees are more than triple the number of regular civil
2 service employees. According to the most recent Government Accounting Office report on FEMA
3 staffing, FEMA reported employing 23,620 total staff as of June 1, 2024, of which only
4 approximately 5,100 were permanent civil service employees.¹⁰ As of fiscal year 2022, FEMA
5 employed approximately 5,000 Title 5 employees, 9,000 Stafford Act CORE employees, 8,000
6 Stafford Act reservists, and approximately 1,000 others.¹¹

7 461. All FEMA employees, including CORE employees, are assigned to one or more of the
8 following position categories: incident management (also called the disaster workforce, comprised of
9 individuals who “deploy to disaster sites to administer federal emergency response and recovery
10 programs”), incident support, ancillary support, and mission essential (which all provide support
11 services to deployed incident management staff, as well as to FEMA more generally).¹²

12 462. CORE employees perform roles across nearly every aspect of FEMA’s required
13 functions, but the vast majority of the thousands of CORE and reservist employees are assigned to the
14 disaster workforce, which provides services directly to the public and to state, local and tribal
15 governments.

16 463. The disaster workforce is further divided into 23 subject matter “cadres.” Of the
17 cadres, the biggest are individual assistance, public assistance, logistics, hazard mitigation, and
18 disaster survivor assistance, which collectively make up about two-thirds of FEMA’s disaster
19 workforce.¹³

22 ¹⁰ Government Accounting Office, *Disaster Assistance High-Risk Series: Federal Response*
23 *Workforce Readiness*, Report GAO-25-108598 (September 2025) at *9, available at:
<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-25-108598>.

24 ¹¹ Government Accounting Office, *FEMA Hiring and Staff Shortages*, Report GAO-23-
105663 (May 2023) at *6, available at: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-23-105663.pdf>.

25 ¹² *Id.*

26 ¹³ *Id.* at 8. The complete list of cadres also includes: Acquisitions, Alternative Dispute
27 Resolution, Civil Rights, Disability Integration, Disaster Emergency Communications, Disaster Field
28 Training Operations, Disaster Survivor Assistance, Environmental Historic Preservation, External
Affairs, Field Leadership, Financial Management, Hazard Mitigation, Human Resources, Individual
Assistance, Information Technology, Logistics, Interagency Recovery Coordination, Office of Chief
Counsel, Operations, Planning, Public Assistance, Safety, and Security. *Id.*

1 464. *Individual Assistance Cadre.* CORE and reservist employees assigned to FEMA’s
2 individual assistance cadre perform work to “ensure[] that individuals and families affected by
3 disasters have access to the full range of FEMA programs and information in a timely manner.”¹⁴
4 This includes “communicating with applicants about their case status and disaster assistance
5 programs; coordinating disaster resources with state, local and non-governmental organizations;
6 developing partnerships with stakeholders; and supporting the delivery of lifesaving, life-sustaining
7 services.”¹⁵ FEMA’s individual assistance program includes mass care/emergency assistance,
8 individuals and households program assistance, disaster case management, crisis counseling
9 assistance, disaster legal services, disaster unemployment assistance, and voluntary agency
10 coordination.¹⁶

11 465. *Public Assistance Cadre.* CORE and reservist employees assigned to FEMA’s public
12 assistance cadre provide “assistance to state, local, Tribal Nation, and territorial (SLTT) governments
13 and certain types of private nonprofit (PNP) organizations so that communities can quickly respond
14 to and recover from major disasters or emergencies.”¹⁷ Specifically, these employees “provide[]
15 supplemental federal grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the
16 restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities, and specific facilities of certain PNP
17 organizations.”¹⁸

18 466. *Logistics Cadre.* CORE and reservist employees assigned to FEMA’s logistics cadre
19 “coordinate[] and monitor[] all aspects of resource planning, movement, ordering, tracking, and
20 property management of Initial Response Resources, teams, and accountable property during the life
21 of an incident.” This cadre is “responsible for the operational readiness in support of FEMA’s
22 incident workforce.”¹⁹

23 _____
24 ¹⁴ <https://www.fema.gov/careers/paths/cadres>.

25 ¹⁵ *Id.*

26 ¹⁶ FEMA, Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide (IAPPG) (May 2021), available
27 at: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_iappg-1.1.pdf.

28 ¹⁷ FEMA, Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (Jan. 6, 2025), available at:
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_pa_pappg-5.0-amended.pdf.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ <https://www.fema.gov/careers/paths/cadres>.

1 467. *Hazard Mitigation Cadre*. CORE and reservist employees assigned to FEMA’s hazard
2 mitigation cadre “promote risk reduction activities from all-natural hazards through community
3 engagement” and “promote[] awareness of the benefits of hazard mitigation through public
4 education, encourage[] private sector partnership, and provide[] technical assistance to local and state
5 governments in the form of grants management, community planning, and floodplain
6 management.”²⁰

7 468. Finally, FEMA’s Disaster Survivor Assistance is the “boots on the ground” cadre that
8 “establishes a timely presence at every disaster, primarily focusing on addressing the needs of
9 disaster survivors by collecting targeted information to support leadership and operational decision-
10 making, providing accessible, in-person case-specific information and referrals, providing referrals to
11 whole community partners, as needed, and identifying disability-inclusive public information needs
12 so strategic messaging can be developed and disseminated.”²¹

13 469. Statutorily mandated “emergency response teams” and “Regional Office Strike teams”
14 are now referred to by FEMA as “Federal Incident Management Assistance Teams” (“IMATs”).²²
15 These teams are also primarily staffed with CORE employees.²³

16 470. Although CORE employees are hired under Stafford Act statutory authority for a set
17 term, their employment has historically been routinely renewed. Many CORE employees have
18 worked for FEMA for many years, if not decades. Until recently, FEMA has routinely renewed
19 CORE employees, based on “agency need.”

20 471. When CORE and reservist employees are hired, they are provided a “not-to-exceed”
21 (“NTE”) date. This date is recorded in standardized employment records, including the SF-52
22 “Request for Personnel Action” form. Beginning 90 days prior to an employee’s NTE, the employee
23

24 ²⁰ *Id.*

25 ²¹ *Id.*

26 ²² Government Accounting Office, *Actions to Implement the Post-Katrina Act*, Report GAO-
09-59R, available at: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-09-59r.pdf>.

27 ²³ Congressional Research Service, *Deployable Federal Assets Supporting Domestic Disaster*
28 *Response Operations: Summary and Considerations for Congress* (May 13, 2015) at *21 & n.77,
available at: https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/R/PDF/R43560/R43560.8.pdf.

1 and supervisor submit renewal paperwork that includes the supervisor’s approval. Historically,
2 CORE employee renewals have been routinely approved by FEMA supervisors with no DHS
3 involvement.²⁴

4 **B. DHS December 2025 Decision to Cut FEMA Staffing in Half**

5 **1. DHS Gives FEMA Target Cuts**

6 472. In December 2025, DHS moved forward with a plan to cut FEMA’s workforce in half,
7 beginning on New Year’s Eve.

8 473. On December 23, 2025, FEMA management employees across the agency were sent
9 an email directing them to plan for a 50 percent reduction of the FEMA workforce in the coming
10 months.²⁵ While the instructions were described as a “planning exercise,” the email required
11 management to identify which employees to retain as necessary and which could be terminated.

12 474. The email attached a spreadsheet for management to complete with “target” cuts to be
13 achieved in the FY 26 fiscal year prepopulated to total 50 percent of the workforce (a total reduction
14 of 11,567 positions from the 9/30/2025 Workforce Count Total of 23,067).

15 475. The sheet included specific target reductions to comprise that 50 percent cut in FEMA
16 employees, which included the following: a reduction of 15 percent for “Permanent Fulltime” (i.e.
17 Title 5 civil service) from 4,956 to 4,200 positions; a reduction of 41 percent for “Disaster Fulltime”
18 from 10,571 to 6,200; and a reduction of 85 percent for the “Surge Workforce” from 7,540 to 1,100.²⁶
19 The reductions were then further broken down by agency sub-component. The attachment is
20 reproduced here:

21
22 ²⁴ See, e.g., FEMA, *FEMA Cadre Management Guide* (October 2014), at *13, available at:
23 https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/FEMA_Cadre_Management_Guide1-10282014.pdf
24 (explaining that first line supervisors of incident management CORE employees are responsible for,
in consultation with second line supervisors, “terminat[ing] or renew[ing] the appointments of IM
COREs and other employees under direct supervision as required based on lack of work or other
mission-related needs”).

25 ²⁵ CNN, *FEMA planning exercise envisioned deep workforce cuts, adding to uncertainty*
26 *around agency’s future* (Jan. 5, 2026), available at: <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/05/politics/fema-deep-workforce-cuts-uncertainty>.

27 ²⁶ This spreadsheet is ambiguous, but from the numbers set forth therein appears to include
28 Stafford Act reservists in the “surge” category (not the “surge” force, which includes individuals who
are not employed by FEMA).

Reference Table of September 30, 2025 Actuals and FY26 Targets						
	Target Workforce Total Count	Percent of Workforce Total	9/30/2025 Workforce Count Totals	Total Count Reduction	Total Percent Reduction	
Total	11,500		23,067	11,567	50%	
Permanent Full Time	4,200	36.5%	4,956	756	15%	
Disaster Full Time	6,200	53.9%	10,571	4,371	41%	
Surge Workforce	1,100	9.6%	7,540	6,440	85%	
MET						
	9/30/2025 Total	Percentage of 9/30/25 Workforce	Target Count	Target Percentage by MET	Target of Overall Workforce	
1 Advisor to S1 and POTUS	188	1%	115	1%	1%	
Permanent Full Time	146	78%	92	80%	1%	
Disaster Full Time	42	22%	23	20%	0%	
Surge Workforce	-	0%	0	0%	10%	
2 Regional Coordination	1,961	9%	1,150	40%	4%	
Permanent Full Time	485	25%	690	60%	6%	
Disaster Full Time	1,395	71%	0	0%	0%	
Surge Workforce	81	4%	460	4%	4%	
3 Continuity	486	2%	455	99%	4%	
Permanent Full Time	483	99%	5	1%	0%	
Disaster Full Time	3	1%	0	0%	0%	
Surge Workforce	-	0%	0	0%	100%	

476. The December 23 email informed agency management that these actions were being taken consistent with the OMB/OPM memorandum implementing Executive Order 14356.

477. As discussed *supra*, the October 15 Executive Order and November 5 OMB/OPM Memorandum required agencies including DHS to submit an “Annual Staffing Plan” that reflected proposed reductions by no later than December 1, 2025 and quarterly updates thereafter. Neither OMB, OPM, nor DHS has made public any Annual Staffing Plan for DHS or FEMA. Neither DHS nor FEMA has disclosed these “final” plans to FEMA employees. On information and belief, the DHS Annual Staffing Plan includes the plan to cut FEMA staff in half.

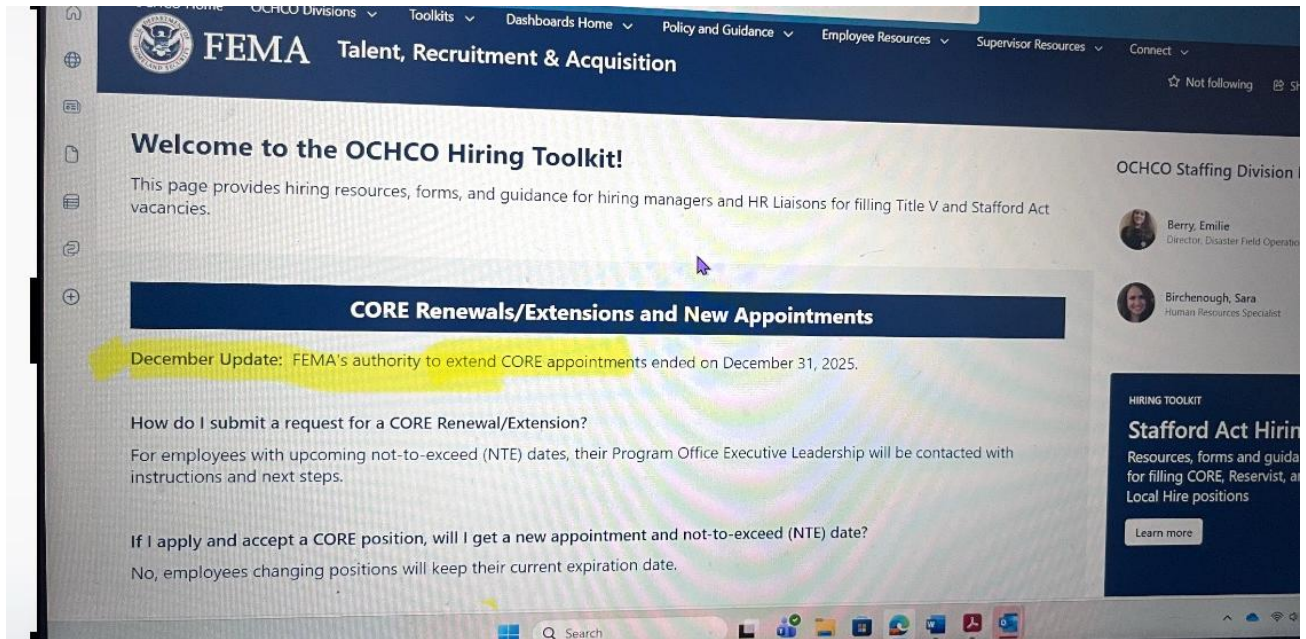
478. The December 23 email informed FEMA management that the internal deadline for completion of this required “planning exercise” was December 31, 2025. As explained *infra*, that is also the date that FEMA began implementing these cuts by eliminating positions.

479. On information and belief, the identified staffing reduction “targets” were not the result of any assessment of workforce need or FEMA’s statutory authorizations or mandates, and were not recommended by FEMA officials. Rather, officials were reportedly “stunned and pointed out that getting rid of nearly half of the nation’s disaster workforce would greatly harm communities in various stages of disaster recovery.”²⁷

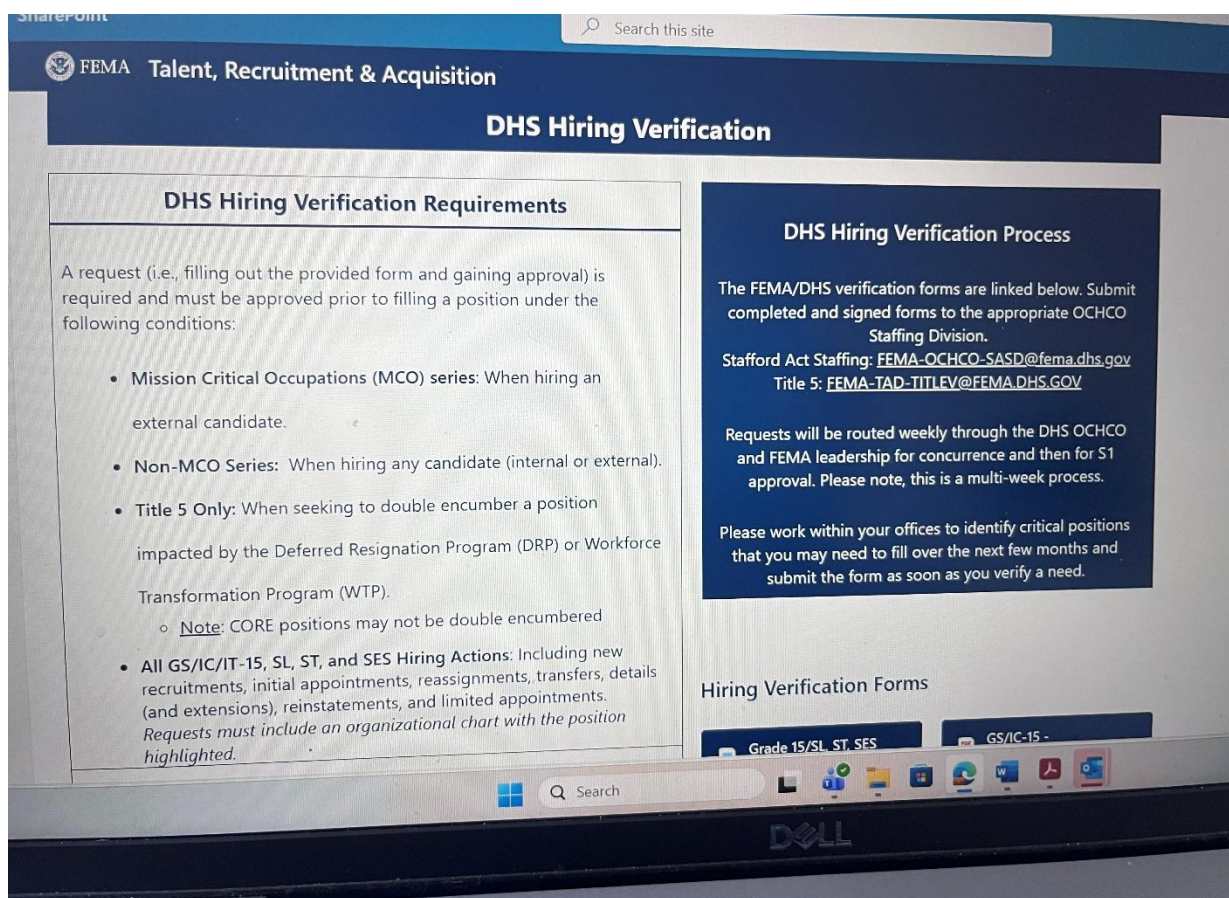
²⁷ Washington Post, *Emails outline potential cuts affecting thousands of FEMA disaster responders* (Jan. 5, 2026), available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2026/01/05/fema-disaster-core-cuts-dhs-emails/>.

1 480. The mechanism by which DHS has decided to achieve the designated 41 percent
2 reduction in CORE employees includes a DHS order to FEMA not to renew CORE employees with
3 NTEs beginning on January 1, 2026.

4 481. The FEMA human resources website states: **“FEMA’s authority to extend CORE**
5 **appointments ended on December 31, 2025.”**



1 482. The FEMA human resources website likewise confirms that CORE renewals require
 2 completed and signed forms to be submitted to the FEMA OCHCO (“Office of Chief Human Capital
 3 Officer”) for “weekly” routing to the “DHS OCHCO and FEMA leadership for concurrence” and
 4 then “for S1 approval.” “S1” stands for Secretary Noem. FEMA management is instructed that they
 5 should submit the forms “as soon as you verify a need” for the positions. The form that must be
 6 attached to any FEMA recommendation to renew CORE employment now contains a space for the
 7 signature of DHS Secretary Noem.²⁸



22 483. Never before in the history of FEMA has DHS attempted to eliminate FEMA’s
 23 authority to renew any CORE positions. Never before in the history of FEMA has DHS required
 24 DHS Secretary approval for any FEMA renewal. Nor has DHS ever instituted a policy denying those
 25 renewals notwithstanding FEMA’s determination of agency need.

26

27 ²⁸ New York Times, *FEMA Staff Bracing for Dismissal of 1,000 Disaster Workers* (Jan. 13,
 28 2026), available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/06/climate/fema-staff-cuts-1000-workers.html>.

2. DHS Orders FEMA to Begin Cuts on New Year's Eve

484. At the direction of DHS, FEMA began implementing Secretary Noem's blanket denial of CORE renewals on New Year's Eve. On information and belief, FEMA supervisors were instructed by DHS not to provide advance notice to employees.

485. Thus, on December 31, 2025, FEMA sent emails to certain CORE employees saying their positions "would not be renewed" and "therefore, your services will no longer be needed" after their NTE dates in early January. The messages were sent to work email addresses and stated:

The purpose of this message is to notify you that your appointment as a [Position] of On-Call Response/Recovery Employee (CORE), will not be renewed. Your current appointment as a CORE expires [DATE]; therefore, your services will no longer be needed beyond this date.

Individuals were then informed that they must contact FEMA human resources "for assistance with out-processing" and "must turn in all Government-issued equipment, including but not limited to cellular phones, laptop computers, keys, credentials, access or identification cards, Government travel credit/chargecard (cut credit card in half), and any FEMA office files or back-up (key drives/discs) computer files you have in your possession no later than close of business." On information and belief, affected employees received emails regarding termination of their services and immediately lost systems access. On information and belief, some employees who received these non-renewal notices were deployed on-site working on hurricane relief efforts and were abruptly terminated from federal employment with no notice. According to the Washington Post, some employees learned they were terminated on New Year's Day (a federal holiday), and were informed to return their equipment by January 2.²⁹

486. After CNN published an article detailing the cuts on January 2, 2026, the DHS spokesperson described the non-renewals as "a routine staff adjustment of 50 staff out of 8,000."³⁰ The spokesperson continued: "The CORE program consists of term-limited positions that are

²⁹ Washington Post, *Emails outline potential cuts affecting thousands of FEMA disaster responders* (Jan. 5, 2026), available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2026/01/05/fema-disaster-core-cuts-dhs-emails/>.

³⁰ CNN, *Exclusive: DHS begins slashing FEMA disaster response staff as 2026 begins* (Jan. 2, 2026), available at: <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/01/politics/dhs-cutting-fema-disaster-response-staff>.

1 designed to fluctuate based on disaster activity, operational need, and available funding.” And the
2 spokesperson falsely stated: “CORE appointments have always been subject to end-of-term decisions
3 consistent with that structure and there has been no change to policy.” DHS’s spokesperson did not
4 deny that DHS (not FEMA) had made the decision not to renew, and ignored that FEMA had actually
5 *recommended* renewals.

6 487. Non-renewals of CORE employees are not “routine.” To the contrary, CORE
7 appointments are routinely renewed as positions for which FEMA has determined there is a “need.”
8 Until this recent DHS directive, FEMA policy and practice has been to approve renewals without
9 DHS involvement, consistent with statutory restrictions discussed further *infra*.

10 488. The affected FEMA CORE employees, who had submitted renewal paperwork
11 beginning 90 days in advance of their NTEs and obtained supervisor approval, were given no
12 advance notice of these abrupt non-renewals.

13 489. The initial New Year’s Eve notices were sent to approximately 65 individuals,
14 including employees represented by AFGE. Approximately 900-1,000 FEMA CORE employees
15 have NTE dates in January 2026, including employees represented by AFGE. Given the number of
16 CORE employees and the distribution of NTE dates throughout the year, hundreds if not more than
17 1,000 FEMA employees, including employees represented by AFGE, have NTE dates every month.

18 490. Both DHS and FEMA are aware of the number and distribution of FEMA CORE
19 employees by NTE dates. Both DHS and FEMA are aware of the negative impact these staffing cuts
20 will have on the agency’s ability to perform mandated services.

21 491. During January 2026, to implement this DHS non-renewal policy and directive,
22 FEMA conducted meetings across the agency in which supervisors were informed that CORE
23 employees will not be renewed, even if actively working on rebuilding efforts for recent disasters.³¹

25 ³¹ Federal News Network, *Concerns mount over FEMA staff reductions* (Jan. 8, 2026),
26 available at: <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/hiring-retention/2026/01/concerns-mount-over-fema-staff-reductions/>; see also NPR, *FEMA is getting rid of thousands of workers in areas recovering from disasters* (Jan. 16, 2026), available at: <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/16/nx-s1-5677605/fema-cuts-jobs-trump>; Washington Post, *Emails outline potential cuts affecting thousands of FEMA*

1 Supervisors at FEMA have been told that thousands of FEMA employees will lose their positions in
2 the coming months.³² FEMA supervisors are “advising their staff to prepare for the elimination of
3 1,000 jobs this month [January] as part of changes that Kristi Noem, the secretary of the Department
4 of Homeland Security, is overseeing at the agency, according to three people with knowledge of the
5 discussions.”³³

6 492. All FEMA CORE employees who are facing non-renewal as a result of this DHS
7 policy are in positions for which FEMA supervisors have recommended renewal and for which
8 renewal paperwork has been submitted.³⁴ But after this submission and approval, DHS has been
9 denying the renewals. DHS, not FEMA, is making the decisions not to renew these employees.

10 493. The Washington Post reported that one FEMA supervisor wrote to human resources
11 stating “This must be a mistake, ... explaining that they had approved their employee’s renewal and
12 sent the paperwork through the proper channels.”³⁵

13 494. Another supervisor overseeing recovery work for Hurricane Helene “expressed
14 concern and confusion over losing a staffer, stating in a New Year’s Eve note to human resources that
15 ‘based on the attached emails and form,’ the worker’s “appointment should be renewed.”” *Id.* That
16 person wrote further: “I would like to resolve this ASAP, as this is a disappointing and confusing
17 email to get right before a holiday.”” *Id.* The Post reports that a top FEMA human resources official
18 responded that the situation was “out of their hands.” *Id.*

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21 _____
22 *disaster responders* (Jan. 5, 2026), available at:
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2026/01/05/fema-disaster-core-cuts-dhs-emails/>
(supervisors told there is “no plan” to renew any CORE employees in January 2026).

23 ³² *Id.*

24 ³³ New York Times, *FEMA Staff Bracing for Dismissal of 1,000 Disaster Workers*, (Jan. 13,
2026), available at: [https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/06/climate/fema-staff-cuts-1000-
workers.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/06/climate/fema-staff-cuts-1000-workers.html).

25 ³⁴ NPR, *supra* n. 31; see also Federal News Network, *Concerns mount over FEMA staff*
26 *reductions* (Jan. 8, 2026), available at: [https://federalnewsnetwork.com/hiring-
retention/2026/01/concerns-mount-over-fema-staff-reductions/](https://federalnewsnetwork.com/hiring-retention/2026/01/concerns-mount-over-fema-staff-reductions/).

27 ³⁵ Washington Post, *Emails outline potential cuts affecting thousands of FEMA disaster*
28 *responders* (Jan. 5, 2026), available at: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2026/01/05/fema-
disaster-core-cuts-dhs-emails/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2026/01/05/fema-disaster-core-cuts-dhs-emails/).

1 495. As shown by DHS and FEMA’s statements that Secretary Noem must approve any
2 renewals and press statements by individuals within FEMA with knowledge of the decision-making
3 process, the directive not to renew any CORE positions, as well as the decision to implement the
4 target overall cut of 41 percent of CORE and 85 percent of reservists, are decisions made by
5 Secretary Noem.

6 496. The elimination of CORE positions on a rolling basis based on NTE is indiscriminate
7 and unrelated to any workforce requirements, actual agency need, or statutory mandate. The lack of
8 planning for this directive and the lack of notice to FEMA supervisors and employees prior to
9 eliminating these positions will exacerbate the adverse impacts on the services the agency is required
10 to provide. On information and belief, neither DHS nor FEMA conducted any evaluation of
11 workforce need in deciding to reject approval by NTE date, and indeed, have acted contrary to
12 recommendations for renewal by FEMA supervisors.

13 497. The Washington Post reports that DHS and FEMA officials, including Secretary Noem
14 and “Senior Official Acting as FEMA Administrator” Evans, discussed whether to “to extend
15 positions for a month or two until the agency has had enough time to review the need for the roles,”
16 and that the suggestion was rejected by Secretary Noem.³⁶ .

17 498. The DHS statements that deny the existence and scope of these cuts, including claims
18 that neither DHS nor FEMA has made any final decision regarding cuts to FEMA staffing and that
19 neither DHS nor FEMA are using “percentage-based” targets or other specific targets, are false.³⁷
20 DHS is not telling the public or its own employees the truth about its decisions to impose ongoing
21 drastic cuts to FEMA CORE staff.

22 499. The targeted cuts of 85 percent of Reservist positions (totaling 6,440 positions) will all
23 occur in May 2026 because, on information and belief, all Reservists have the same NTE renewal
24 date in May 2026.

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27 ³⁶ *Id.*

28 ³⁷ The Guardian, *Fema staff outraged by draft plans for deep cuts under Trump* (Jan. 8, 2026),
available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/08/fema-staff-cuts-trump>.

1 500. After releasing hundreds of CORE employees in January 2026, DHS decided on
2 January 22, 2026 to “pause” implementation in light of a forecasted serious winter storm.³⁸ DHS had
3 already sent non-renewal notices to a large number of employees earlier that very day. Then,
4 following meetings with Governors regarding the impending storm, DHS Secretary Noem reportedly
5 decided to pause the off-boarding. DHS, when asked by the press, “would not comment on how long
6 the pause would last.”³⁹

7 501. The Washington Post reported on January 23, 2026 that DHS’s prior policy of
8 requiring FEMA to submit justifications of the FEMA renewals along with the request to renew has
9 been changed. The Post reported the existence of a new January 22, 2026 memo in which FEMA
10 officials “said that DHS will be making the calls without collecting justifications,” and if DHS grants
11 any extensions, “they will be limited to 90 days.”⁴⁰

12 **C. Prior Administration Efforts to Eliminate FEMA**

13 502. These actions implement the Administration’s longstanding stated goal of eliminating
14 or radically reforming FEMA based on its conclusion that FEMA is unnecessary and/or not aligned
15 with the President’s policy priorities, consistent with the President’s directives in EO 14210 and EO
16 14356. The express aim of the Administration is to eliminate spending on disaster relief and recovery
17 and push those responsibilities to state and local governments.

18 503. Since he took office on January 20, 2025, the President has declined to nominate
19 anyone for Senate confirmation to run FEMA, as required by statute, which also mandates that the
20 nominee have “a demonstrated ability in and knowledge of emergency management and homeland
21 security” and “not less than 5 years of executive leadership and management experience in the public
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25 ³⁸ Washington Post, *DHS pauses cuts to FEMA as massive winter storm barrels in* (Jan. 23,
26 2026), available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2026/01/23/dhs-pauses-fema-cuts-storm/>; CNN, *FEMA halts terminations of disaster workers as agency prepares for massive winter storm* (Jan. 22, 2026), available ar: <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/23/politics/fema-halts-terminations-winter-storm>.

27 ³⁹ W. Post, *supra* n.39.

28 ⁴⁰ *Id.*

1 or private sector.” 6 U.S.C. §313(c).⁴¹ Since January 20, 2025, various individuals have held the role
2 of Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator, including the following: Cameron
3 Hamilton (from January 2025 to May 8, 2025); David Richardson (from May 9, 2025 to November
4 17, 2025); and Karen Evans (from December 1, 2025 to the present). Neither Richardson nor Evans
5 possessed the statutorily required experience to be FEMA Administrator.⁴²

6 504. President Donald J. Trump has repeatedly expressed his belief that FEMA should be
7 eliminated and disaster relief returned to the states and local governments, which would be contrary
8 to Congressional mandate. For example, when touring Los Angeles fire disaster sites in early 2025,
9 President Trump stated that “FEMA is a very expensive, in my opinion, mostly failed situation.”⁴³ In
10 June 2025, discussing hurricane season, the President stated, “We want to wean off of FEMA, and we
11 want to bring it back to the state level.”⁴⁴

12 505. On January 24, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order 14180 creating a
13 “Council to Assess the Federal Emergency Management Agency” to engage in a “full-scale review”
14 of FEMA for the purpose of “evaluating whether FEMA’s bureaucracy in disaster response ultimately
15 harms the agency’s ability to successfully respond.” 90 Fed. Reg. 8743 (Jan. 24, 2025). The
16 President directed the Council to include “an evaluation of whether FEMA can serve its functions as
17 a support agency, providing supplemental Federal assistance, to the States rather than supplanting
18 State control of disaster relief.” The President appointed Secretary Noem and Department of Defense
19 Secretary Pete Hegseth as the co-chairs of the Council, and required a full report within 180 days of
20 the Council’s first meeting.

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23 ⁴¹ June 9, 2025 Letter from United States Senators to President Donald J. Trump, available at:
<https://www.welch.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Letter-to-White-House-on-Absence-of-FEMA-Administrator.pdf>.

24 ⁴² CNN, *‘She’s the enforcer’: New FEMA chief led effort to rein in agency spending, strip*
25 *funding from Muslim groups, sources say* (Nov. 24, 2025), available at:
<https://www.cnn.com/2025/11/24/politics/karen-evans-fema-chief-exclusive>.

26 ⁴³ NPR, *Trump wants states to handle disasters. States aren't prepared* (March 21, 2025),
27 available at: <https://www.npr.org/2025/03/21/nx-s1-5327595/trump-order-fema-states-disaster-response>.

28 ⁴⁴ NPR, *The Trump administration says it wants to eliminate FEMA. Here's what we know*
(June 26, 2025), available at: <https://www.npr.org/2025/06/26/nx-s1-5430469/faq-fema-elimination>.

1 506. On March 19, 2025, the President issued a further Executive Order 14239 (Achieving
2 Efficiency Through State and Local Preparedness) declaring the official “policy” of the United States
3 to be that “State and local governments and individuals play a more active and significant role in
4 national resilience and preparedness, thereby saving American lives, securing American livelihoods,
5 reducing taxpayer burdens through efficiency, and unleashing our collective prosperity” and “that my
6 Administration streamline its preparedness operations; update relevant Government policies to reduce
7 complexity and better protect and serve Americans; and enable State and local governments to better
8 understand, plan for, and ultimately address the needs of their citizens.” 90 Fed. Reg. 13267, 13267
9 (Mar. 18, 2025).

10 507. DHS Secretary Noem has likewise repeatedly proclaimed that FEMA should be
11 eliminated. For example, on March 24, 2025, Secretary Noem announced at a Cabinet meeting,
12 “we’re going to eliminate FEMA.”⁴⁵ Those statements were confirmed by the DHS Spokesperson,
13 who further explained: “[W]e are cutting out wasteful spending and bureaucracy that slows down
14 relief efforts” and “President Trump and Secretary Noem know that disaster recovery efforts are best
15 led by state and local officials not federal bureaucrats.”⁴⁶

16 508. On March 26, 2025, Secretary Noem called a meeting that included advisor Corey
17 Lewandowski and acting FEMA head Cameron Hamilton to discuss options for eliminating FEMA,
18 and advocated for “winding down” FEMA by the end of 2025 and for rescission of the FEMA
19 Advisory Council Executive Order 14239, to allow this process to move faster.⁴⁷ It was widely
20 reported (and later confirmed by the DHS spokesperson) that Secretary Noem ordered acting
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24 ⁴⁵ Government Executive, *FEMA set for elimination, Noem says, amid bipartisan House*
25 *reform proposal* (March 24, 2025), available at:
26 [https://www.govexec.com/management/2025/03/fema-set-elimination-noem-says-amid-bipartisan-](https://www.govexec.com/management/2025/03/fema-set-elimination-noem-says-amid-bipartisan-house-reform-proposal/404008/)
[house-reform-proposal/404008/](https://www.govexec.com/management/2025/03/fema-set-elimination-noem-says-amid-bipartisan-house-reform-proposal/404008/).

27 ⁴⁶ *Id.*

28 ⁴⁷ Politico, *New Noem plan leaves FEMA on the chopping block* (March 26, 2025), available
at: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/26/noem-fema-restructure-eliminate-grants-00250610>.

1 administrator Hamilton to submit to a lie-detector test as to whether he leaked information regarding
2 that meeting and her plans for FEMA.⁴⁸

3 509. During approximately the same March 2025 time period, DHS assumed authority for
4 FEMA employment decisions. CBS reported on March 22, 2025 that the decision was “[s]purred by
5 President Trump’s executive action last month directing the Department of Government Efficiency or
6 ‘DOGE’ to initiate large-scale reductions in the federal workforce [referring to February 11, 2025 EO
7 14210].”⁴⁹ On March 24, 2025, the DHS spokesperson confirmed that DHS was taking over
8 authority from FEMA for employment decisions.⁵⁰

9 510. Secretary Noem admitted in this time frame that actions to eliminate FEMA would
10 require Congressional action.⁵¹

11 511. On May 6, 2025, Secretary Noem testified to Congress that she intended to eliminate
12 FEMA.⁵² The next day, March 7, the then-acting FEMA administrator FEMA Cameron Hamilton
13 disagreed with Secretary Noem’s plans, testifying in response that FEMA was vital to communities
14 “in their greatest times of need” and should *not* be eliminated.⁵³ Mr. Hamilton testified: “I do not
15 believe it is in the best interest of the American people to eliminate the Federal Emergency
16 Management Agency.” *Id.* He explained that that would be “a conversation that should be had
17 between the president of the United States and this governing body.” *Id.*

18 _____
19 ⁴⁸ Politico, *FEMA chief given lie detector test after leak of private meeting* (April 4, 2025),
20 available at: [https://www.politico.com/news/2025/04/04/fema-chief-given-lie-detector-test-after-leak-](https://www.politico.com/news/2025/04/04/fema-chief-given-lie-detector-test-after-leak-of-private-meeting-politico-00272302)
21 [of-private-meeting-politico-00272302](https://www.politico.com/news/2025/04/04/fema-chief-given-lie-detector-test-after-leak-of-private-meeting-politico-00272302).

22 ⁴⁹ CBS News, *FEMA hiring overhaul drives fears of agency dismantling as hurricane season*
23 *nears* (March 22, 2025), available at: [https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fema-hiring-overhaul-fear-](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fema-hiring-overhaul-fear-agency-gutting-hurricane-season-trump/)
24 [agency-gutting-hurricane-season-trump/](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fema-hiring-overhaul-fear-agency-gutting-hurricane-season-trump/).

25 ⁵⁰ Government Executive, *FEMA set for elimination, Noem says, amid bipartisan House*
26 *reform proposal* (March 24, 2025), available at:
27 [https://www.govexec.com/management/2025/03/fema-set-elimination-noem-says-amid-bipartisan-](https://www.govexec.com/management/2025/03/fema-set-elimination-noem-says-amid-bipartisan-house-reform-proposal/404008/)
28 [house-reform-proposal/404008/](https://www.govexec.com/management/2025/03/fema-set-elimination-noem-says-amid-bipartisan-house-reform-proposal/404008/).

⁵¹ USA Today, *Trump should 'get rid' of FEMA, Homeland Security chief Kristi Noem says*
(Feb. 10, 2025), available at: [https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/02/10/trump-fema-](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/02/10/trump-fema-kristi-noem-homeland-security/78382194007/)
[kristi-noem-homeland-security/78382194007/](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/02/10/trump-fema-kristi-noem-homeland-security/78382194007/) (Noem: “He’ll work with Congress to make sure it’s
done correctly”).

⁵² New York Times, *Leader of FEMA Is Dismissed as Trump Administration Takes Aim at the*
Agency (May 8, 2025), available at: [https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/08/us/politics/fema-cameron-](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/08/us/politics/fema-cameron-hamilton.html)
[hamilton.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/08/us/politics/fema-cameron-hamilton.html).

⁵³ *Id.*

1 512. The following day, May 8, 2025, Mr. Hamilton was fired.⁵⁴ FEMA announced that he
2 would be replaced by Mr. Richardson, who was the assistant secretary at DHS’s office for countering
3 weapons of mass destruction. *Id.*

4 513. In June 2025, Bloomberg News reported that “Homeland Security Secretary Kristi
5 Noem directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to prepare a memo on how to abolish
6 itself and create a re-branded, radically smaller disaster response organization.”⁵⁵ The “Abolish
7 FEMA” memo acknowledged that many of the proposals mirrored the recommendations of the
8 Heritage Foundation’s Project 2025, that many of the proposed changes could not be implemented
9 “without the engagement and action of Congress,” and that most states are “unprepared” to assume
10 FEMA’s roles. *Id.*

11 514. Among the names proposed in the “Abolish FEMA” memo for any smaller agency
12 that would remain was the “National Office of Emergency Management,” or “NOEM.” *Id.*

13 515. Throughout 2025, DHS and FEMA implemented the Administration’s plan to radically
14 reduce FEMA’s function by cutting programs and imposing conditions on the receipt of statutorily
15 mandated federal grants to state and local governments.⁵⁶ Litigation followed, and these actions have
16 been uniformly enjoined as unlawful and contrary to Congressional mandate.⁵⁷

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20 ⁵⁴ *Id.*

21 ⁵⁵ Bloomberg News, ‘Abolishing FEMA’ Memo Outlines Ways for Trump to Scrap Agency
(June 16, 2025), available at: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-06-17/-abolishing-fema-memo-outlines-ways-for-trump-to-scrap-agency>.

22 ⁵⁶ *E.g.*, NPR, *The Trump Administration says it wants to eliminate FEMA. Here’s what we*
23 *know* (June 26, 2025), available at <https://www.npr.org/2025/06/26/nx-s1-5430469/faq-fema-elimination>.

24 ⁵⁷ *E.g.*, The HILL, *Judge finds FEMA withholding grants in violation of court order*, (Apr. 4,
25 2025), available at <https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/5232494-judge-fema-grants-trump-blue-states/>. *See also* *County of Santa Clara v. Noem*, 2025 WL 3251660 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 21, 2025)
26 (granting preliminary injunction); *Washington v. FEMA*, 2025 WL 2229394 (D. Mass. Aug. 5, 2025)
(granting preliminary injunction); 2025 WL 3551751 (D. Mass. Dec. 11, 2025) (granting summary
27 judgment to plaintiffs); *Illinois v. FEMA*, 801 F.Supp.3d 75 (D.R.I. 2025) (granting summary
28 judgment to plaintiffs); *Illinois v. Noem*, 2025 WL 3707011 (D.R.I. Dec. 22, 2025) (granting
summary judgment to plaintiffs); *Michigan v. Noem*, 2025 WL 3720147 (D. Or. Dec. 23, 2025)
(granting summary judgment to plaintiffs).

1 516. The Advisory Council created by Executive Order 14239 eventually met in May, July,
2 and August 2025 and debated proposals for FEMA reform.⁵⁸ At the first meeting, Secretary Noem
3 (co-chair of the Council) said, “The president and I have had many, many discussions about this
4 agency. I want to be very clear. The President wants it eliminated as it currently exists. He wants a
5 new agency.”⁵⁹

6 517. In November 2025, it was widely reported that Secretary Noem was “at odds” with the
7 Council and “instead of further shrinking and dismantling FEMA, the FEMA Review Council wants
8 to make it more independent.”⁶⁰ The Washington Post reported: “Noem’s office also wants to reduce
9 the federal government’s share of disaster-related costs to 50 percent, with states having to fund the
10 other 50 percent with cash, which some council members staunchly opposed, according to a person
11 familiar with the situation.” *Id.* The draft Council report recommended elevating FEMA to a Cabinet
12 agency and removing it from DHS supervision. *Id.*

13 518. It was widely reported that Secretary Noem reduced the draft Council report from 160
14 pages to 20 pages and altered the recommendations.⁶¹ The Washington Post reported: “In early
15 November, the council submitted a 160-page draft proposal on how to revamp FEMA and improve
16 the country’s disaster response system.... But after the report’s submission, Noem and her top
17 adviser, former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski, cut the draft proposal to fewer than
18 20 pages....”⁶²

19 519. In particular: “*Noem’s revisions also include a recommendation to further cut FEMA*
20 *staff by about half* and have FEMA only handle debris removal and emergency protective measures
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22 ⁵⁸<https://www.dhs.gov/federal-emergency-management-agency-review-council>.

23 ⁵⁹ NPR, *supra* n. 56.

24 ⁶⁰ Washington Post, *Noem at odds with Trump-appointed panel over future of FEMA*
25 (November 19, 2025), available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/11/19/noem-odds-with-trump-appointed-panel-over-future-fema/>; *see also* New York Times, *Trump Wanted to Abolish FEMA. His Own Advisers Disagree* (Nov. 19, 2025), available at:
26 <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/11/19/climate/fema-review-council-report-trump.html>.

27 ⁶¹ W.Post, *supra* n. 60; AP News, *Trump administration makes major changes to a report it*
28 *commissioned on FEMA reforms, AP sources say* (Nov. 21, 2025), available at:
<https://apnews.com/article/fema-review-council-kristi-noem-trump-disasters>.

⁶² W.Post, *supra* n. 60.

1 when responding to a disaster, moving most of its other work—such as helping repair damaged
 2 utilities, roads and bridges, public buildings and parks—to other agencies, according to a person
 3 familiar with the reports.” *Id.* (emphasis added).

4 520. The Council was scheduled to approve and release its final report in December 2025.
 5 The public Council meeting was noticed for December 11, 2025. *See* 90 Fed. Reg. 54360. On
 6 December 10, 2025, CNN obtained and reported on the draft report, confirming the recommendation
 7 to cut FEMA staff by half.⁶³

8 521. The December 11 meeting was abruptly cancelled following the CNN report regarding
 9 the contents of the report and Secretary Noem’s revisions, and the Council has not to date released its
 10 report (missing the deadline established by Executive Order 14180).⁶⁴ The DHS website states only:
 11 “The FEMA Review Council’s meeting has been postponed. We will keep you apprised of the new
 12 date as soon as possible.”⁶⁵

13 522. As discussed *supra*, notwithstanding the withholding of the final report, DHS moved
 14 forward with its plan to cut FEMA in half.

15 **D. Impact of DHS Actions on FEMA Functions**

16 **1. Overview of FEMA’s Statutorily Mandated Functions**

17 523. FEMA was established in 1979 because a coordinated, unified federal response was
 18 necessary to adequately prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies across the United
 19 States. As defined by Congress, “[t]he primary mission of the Agency is to reduce the loss of life and
 20 property and protect the Nation from all hazards, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and
 21 other man-made disasters, by leading and supporting the Nation in a risk-based, comprehensive
 22 emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation.” 6
 23 U.S.C. §313(b)(1). FEMA deploys its prevention, response and recovery resources (including staff

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 25 ⁶³ CNN, *Exclusive: Trump’s FEMA council to recommend dramatic downsizing and overhaul*
 26 *– but not elimination – of the agency* (Dec. 10, 2025), available at:
 27 <https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/10/politics/fema-council-report-recommend-downsizing-overhaul>.

28 ⁶⁴ CNN, *White House officials abruptly postpone final meeting of Trump-created FEMA task*
 force (Dec. 11, 2025), available at: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/11/politics/white-house-postpone-fema-meeting>.

⁶⁵ <https://www.dhs.gov/federal-emergency-management-agency-review-council>.

1 and financial support) to bolster the state and local response to declared “major disasters” and
2 “emergencies.” 42 U.S.C. §5122(1),(2).

3 524. Before FEMA was established, disaster response was largely provided by state and
4 local governments with the assistance of charitable organizations and a smattering of disparate
5 federal agencies. Following a series of large-scale natural disasters in the 1960s, it became clear that
6 centralized federal staff and resources were essential to adequately respond to disasters and other
7 types of emergencies. Following requests by the National Governors’ Association for a
8 comprehensive emergency management system, in 1979, President Carter transferred the emergency
9 response functions from a variety of federal agencies and created FEMA pursuant to congressionally
10 granted reorganization authority under Section 304 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978, 43 Fed.
11 Reg. 41943 and Public Law 95-17 (April 6, 1977). *See* Executive Order No. 12127 (April 1, 1979);
12 FEMA website, “History of FEMA,” available at <https://www.fema.gov/about/history>.

13 525. In 1988, the Stafford Act further defined FEMA’s mission and developed “a
14 comprehensive and coordinated federal response to disasters and emergencies, providing necessary
15 support to disaster survivors and helping to prevent future disasters.”⁶⁶ Public Law 100-707 (Nov.
16 23, 1988). Congress has further refined FEMA’s statutory mandates several times since to enhance
17 the federal government’s capacity for mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery from covered
18 disasters, most notably the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135, the
19 Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-295, 120 Stat. 1394, the
20 [Hurricane] Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013, Pub. L. No. 113-2, 127 Stat. 39, and the
21 Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-254, 132 Stat. 3438.

22 526. FEMA summarizes its complex statutory mission as providing federal assistance
23 “before, during, and after” major disasters and other emergencies including terrorist attacks.⁶⁷
24 Fulfilling the agency’s statutory mandates requires substantial federal resources to coordinate a
25 national system of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. *See* generally 6 U.S.C. §§313, 314.

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27 ⁶⁶ <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/stafford-act>.

28 ⁶⁷ *See* FEMA Publication No. 1: *We Are FEMA*, supra n.2.; *see also*
<https://www.fema.gov/about/how-fema-works>.

1 FEMA fulfills its mission not only by providing money in the form of grant relief, but through
2 substantial staffing and expertise on the ground during and after any emergency or disaster.

3 527. FEMA's five statutory mission areas—preparedness, protection, mitigation, response,
4 and recovery (6 U.S.C. §313(b)(19)—require a wide range of services to state and local
5 governments, communities and people impacted by disasters.

- 6 • Before a disaster, FEMA is responsible for mitigation, protection, and preparedness, which
7 includes “planning, training, and building the emergency management profession to prepare
8 effectively for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from any hazard” and “taking
9 sustained actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risks to people and property from hazards
10 and their effects.” 6 U.S.C. §314(a)(9)(A), (B).
- 11 • During a disaster and in the immediate aftermath, FEMA initiates its response efforts,
12 including “conducting emergency operations to save lives and property through positioning
13 emergency equipment, personnel, and supplies, through evacuating potential victims, through
14 providing food, water, shelter, and medical care to those in need, and through restoring critical
15 public services.” *Id.* §314(a)(9)(C).
- 16 • Finally, after a disaster, FEMA transitions into recovery work, which involves “rebuilding
17 communities so individuals, businesses, and governments can function on their own, return to
18 normal life, and protect against future hazards.” *Id.* §§314(a)(9)(D)

19 528. To effectuate FEMA's mission, Congress has identified and assigned a series of
20 specific statutory mandates, imposed through obligations on the FEMA Administrator. 6 U.S.C.
21 §§313(b)(1), (2)(A)-(I), 314(a)(1)-(21). For example, the FEMA Administrator “shall... lead the
22 Nation's efforts to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against the risk
23 of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, including catastrophic
24 incidents.” 6 U.S.C. §313(b)(2)(A).

25 529. Further, the Administrator is obligated to “develop a Federal response capability that,
26 when necessary and appropriate, can act effectively and rapidly to deliver assistance essential to
27 saving lives or protecting or preserving property or public health and safety in a natural disaster, act
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1 of terrorism, or other man-made disaster.” 6 U.S.C. §313(b)(2)(C); *see generally* 6 U.S.C. §313(b)(2)
2 (listing specific mandates imposed “[i]n support of the primary mission of the Agency”).

3 530. Additionally, the FEMA Administrator “shall” “administer[] and ensur[e] the
4 implementation of the National Response Plan, including coordinating and ensuring the readiness of
5 each emergency support function under the National Response Plan.” 6 U.S.C. §314(a), (13). In
6 2008, the National Response Plan was superseded by a National Response Framework.⁶⁸ The
7 National Response Framework “is a guide to how the Nation responds to all types of disasters and
8 emergencies,”⁶⁹ and sets out 15 emergency support functions that various federal agencies should
9 perform in responding to certain emergencies. As set forth in that Framework, FEMA must provide
10 a range of specific types of individual and public assistance⁷⁰ and manage the logistics of the federal
11 response.⁷¹

12 531. Congress further requires FEMA to take a broad “all-hazards approach” to fulfilling
13 this complex mission, requiring that, “In carrying out the responsibilities under this section, the
14 Administrator shall coordinate the implementation of a risk-based, all-hazards strategy that builds
15 those common capabilities necessary to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, or
16 mitigate against natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, while also building
17 the unique capabilities necessary to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, or mitigate
18 against the risks of specific types of incidents that pose the greatest risk to the Nation.” 6 U.S.C.
19 §314(b).

20 532. In light of the importance and complexity of this mission, Congress required that the
21 FEMA Administrator be appointed by the President and approved by the Senate (6 U.S.C. §313(c)(1))
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23 _____
24 ⁶⁸ DHS National Response Framework (3d Ed. June 2016), at 3, available at:
https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2019-06/national_response_framework.pdf.

25 ⁶⁹ DHS National Response Framework (4th Ed. Oct. 28, 2019), at 2, available at:
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/NRF_FINALApproved_2011028.pdf.

26 ⁷⁰ FEMA, *Emergency Support Function #6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary*
Housing, and Human Services Annex, available at: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_ESF_6_Mass-Care.pdf.

27 ⁷¹ FEMA, *Emergency Support Function #7 – Logistics Annex*, available at:
28 https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_ESF_7_Logistics.pdf.

1 and have “a demonstrated ability in and knowledge of emergency management and homeland
2 security” (*id.* at (c)(2)).

3 533. Congress has also imposed specific statutory mandates beyond those defined in
4 FEMA’s authorizing statutes. *See generally*, 42 U.S.C. Chapter 68 (Disaster Relief). For example,
5 FEMA must maintain “at a minimum 3 national response teams” and “sufficient regional response
6 teams, including Regional Office strike teams.” 42 U.S.C. §5144(b)(1)(A), (B). And those “Federal
7 emergency response teams [must] consist of adequate numbers of properly planned, organized,
8 equipped, trained, and exercised personnel to achieve the established target capability level.” *Id.* §
9 5144(b)(3). The Regional Office strike teams must include, among other things, “personnel trained in
10 incident management” and “public affairs, response and recovery, and communications support
11 personnel.” 6 U.S.C. § 317(f)(1).

12 534. To serve this broad and complex statutory mandate, FEMA requires a physical
13 presence in its own offices and the ability to deploy staff across the country as disasters arise. FEMA
14 is internally structured with a headquarters in Washington D.C. and ten regional offices, and
15 establishes field offices as necessary to respond to disasters. Its employees are organized to provide
16 support for FEMA’s functions and services across disasters, by assignment to 23 cadres and regional
17 offices. Employees frequently are deployed from their programmatic position to the field in response
18 to disasters.

19 535. As FEMA’s own documents make clear, Congress has repeatedly reaffirmed this
20 statutory mandate and the need for sufficient staffing to carry it out. The FEMA Fiscal Year 2025
21 Budget Justification to Congress explained: “Laws such as the Post Katrina Emergency Management
22 Reform Act, the Post Sandy Recovery Act, and the Homeland Security Act of 2002 have set
23 requirements for FEMA to gain and maintain capabilities to not only coordinate the Federal family’s
24 ability to provide lifesaving and life sustaining resources and activities during disasters, but to also be
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1 the industry leader in training and education of the emergency management field across all levels of
2 society.”⁷²

3 536. The FEMA Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Justification (from the Trump Administration)
4 explained: “As the nation continues to face an unprecedented number of complex and catastrophic
5 disasters, emergency management has never been more critical. FEMA must be ready to act at any
6 moment to support States in disaster recovery.”⁷³ For this reason, FEMA requested funding *for its*
7 *current staffing level of over 22,000 positions* for FY2026. *Id.*

8 2. Congress Also Mandates FEMA’s Independence from DHS

9 537. Prior to 2002, FEMA was an independent federal agency. The Homeland Security Act
10 of 2002 integrated FEMA into the newly formed DHS, stating that “the functions, personnel, assets,
11 and liabilities of ... [t]he Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the functions of the
12 Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency relating thereto” “shall be transferred to the
13 Secretary.” Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-296 §503, 116 Stat. 2136, 2213.

14 538. Congress quickly modified that structure and reestablished the independence of FEMA
15 from DHS’s authorized decision-making authority, following the devastation caused by Hurricane
16 Katrina and the inadequate and fractured federal government response.⁷⁴ Congress concluded that
17 DHS’s control over FEMA impaired FEMA’s ability to adequately respond to emergencies and
18 disasters.⁷⁵ Congress therefore removed DHS authority over FEMA in the Post-Katrina Emergency
19 Management Reform Act of 2006 (“Post-Katrina Act”). Pub. L. No. 109-295, 120 Stat. 1394.

21 ⁷² DHS, FEMA Budget Overview, Fiscal Year 2025 Congressional Justification, available at:
22 https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/2024_0320_federal_emergency_management_agency.pdf.

23 ⁷³ DHS, FEMA Budget Overview, Fiscal Year 2026 Congressional Justification, available at:
24 https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/25_0613_fema_fy26-congressional-budget-justificatin.pdf.

25 ⁷⁴ <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GOVPUB-PREX-PURL-LPS67263/pdf/GOVPUB-PREX-PURL-LPS67263.pdf#page=76> at page 54-64 (describing the inadequacies in the federal response).

26 ⁷⁵ The White House’s report identifying the “structural flaw[s]” that led to the inadequate
27 federal response to Hurricane Katrina, explained that “DHS has spread FEMA’s planning and
28 coordination capabilities and responsibilities among DHS’s other offices and bureaus. DHS also did
not maintain the personnel and resources of FEMA’s regional offices.” *Id.* at 53. Congress relied
heavily on this report in developing the Post-Katrina Act. *See* H. Rep. 109-476, 92-93 (2006).

1 539. The Post-Katrina Act transferred FEMA’s functions (and personnel), previously
2 transferred by statute to DHS and its Under-Secretary for Emergency Preparedness, back to FEMA:
3 “All functions of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including existing responsibilities for
4 emergency alert systems and continuity of operations and continuity of government plans and
5 programs as constituted on June 1, 2006, including all of its personnel, assets, components,
6 authorities, grant programs, and liabilities, and including the functions of the Under Secretary for
7 Federal Emergency Management relating thereto” “are transferred to the Agency.” 6 U.S.C.
8 §315(a)(1).

9 540. The Post-Katrina Act explicitly removed FEMA from DHS decision-making authority.
10 First, Congress ensured that “[t]he Agency [FEMA] shall be maintained as a distinct entity within the
11 Department.” 6 U.S.C. §316(a). Next, it exempted FEMA from the DHS Secretary’s general
12 reorganization authority. Under 6 U.S.C. §452, the DHS Secretary is authorized to “allocate or
13 reallocate functions” and “establish, consolidate, alter, or discontinue organizational units” within
14 DHS, subject to certain limitations. *Id.* §452(a). This authority, however, does not extend to FEMA:
15 “Section 452 of this title shall not apply to [FEMA], including any function or organizational unit of
16 [FEMA].” 6 U.S.C. §316(b).

17 541. Next, Congress expressly prohibited DHS from making “changes to [FEMA’s]
18 missions.” 6 U.S.C. §316(c). Thus, “[t]he Secretary may not substantially or significantly reduce, ...
19 the authorities, responsibilities, or functions of [FEMA] or the capability of [FEMA] to perform
20 those missions, authorities, responsibilities.” 6 U.S.C. §316(c)(1) (emphasis added). Congress also
21 prohibited DHS from transferring any “asset, function, or mission” to “the principal and continuing
22 use of any other organization, unit, or entity of [DHS],” 6 U.S.C. §316(c)(2), and expressly reiterated
23 the DHS Secretary’s obligation to comply with Congress’s instructions in any annual appropriations
24 act with respect to the transfer or reprogramming of appropriated funds, 6 U.S.C. §316(d).

25 542. Congress has never returned authority over FEMA to DHS in any of the subsequent
26 legislation governing DHS or FEMA, including the Sandy Recovery Reform Act in 2013, the
27 Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, or any appropriations statute.

3. Cutting Staff in Half Will Eliminate FEMA's Ability to Function

543. DHS's ongoing cuts to FEMA's staffing, especially the ongoing non-renewal of CORE employees, will incapacitate FEMA and its ability to carry out current ongoing disaster response work.

544. FEMA currently has staff deployed to respond to and recover from the "2026 Winter Storm"—an event FEMA predicts "may ... affect[]" "[o]ver 230 million Americans across multiple states."⁷⁶ On January 23, 2026, FEMA announced its readiness plans:

FEMA is actively working with states to monitor and prepare for the severe winter storm which is forecasted to produce heavy snow, dangerous freezing rain and life-threatening wind chills across most of the U.S. this weekend. In preparation, the agency activated its National Response Coordination Center and Regional Response Coordination Centers in FEMA Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to synchronize federal readiness and interagency coordination. FEMA also embedded staff in State Emergency Operations Centers to ensure real-time coordination.

Additionally, the agency deployed Incident Management Assistance Teams to support the states of Louisiana, Texas and the Commonwealth of Virginia and have 12 additional teams ready to deploy if requested by the states. Twenty-eight FEMA Urban Search and Rescue teams are on standby, prepared to deploy at the request of governors.

FEMA's strategically located distribution centers across the South and East are collectively stocked with over 7 million meals, more than 2 million liters of water, over 600,000 blankets and more than 300 generators. FEMA is also establishing staging sites in Kentucky, Louisiana and Texas with additional meals, water and generators to enable rapid movement of resources at the request of affected states.⁷⁷

545. FEMA CORE employees are also currently working on disasters that include late 2025 flooding in Western Washington,⁷⁸ the 2025 Los Angeles fires, Hurricane Helene, Hurricane Milton, wildfires in Maui, and flash flooding in Kerr County Texas, among many others.⁷⁹ FEMA also

⁷⁶ <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/2026-winter-storm>.

⁷⁷ FEMA Press Release (Jan. 23, 2026), available at: <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20260123/fema-coordinating-states-ahead-severe-winter-storm>.

⁷⁸ Cascadia Daily News, *Regional FEMA offices slashed by DOGE face further cuts; disaster response may suffer* (Jan. 4, 2026), available at: <https://www.cascadiadaily.com/2026/jan/04/regional-fema-offices-slashed-by-doge-face-further-cuts-disaster-response-may-suffer/>.

⁷⁹ NPR, *FEMA is getting rid of thousands of workers in areas recovering from disasters* (Jan. 16, 2025), available at: <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/16/nx-s1-5677605/fema-cuts-jobs-trump>; see

1 continues to provide substantial recovery assistance related to older disasters, such as Hurricanes
2 Katrina, Wilma, Ike, Sandy, Matthew, Harvey, Irma, and Maria.⁸⁰ All of this ongoing disaster
3 recovery work is primarily (if not entirely) conducted by CORE employees.

4 546. The elimination of CORE positions will significantly impair FEMA's ability to
5 continue recovery efforts related to these devastating disasters. For example, FEMA continues to
6 administer billions of dollars in public assistance grants (which fund repair and reconstruction efforts)
7 and mitigation grants (which go towards making infrastructure more resilient to prepare for future
8 disasters) to the states and localities impacted by many of the above disasters.⁸¹ And, for more recent
9 disasters, FEMA continues to provide substantial individual assistance to affected survivors.⁸²
10 Because the bulk of this recovery work is done by CORE employees, the non-renewals will
11 significantly disrupt these efforts.

12 547. These ongoing cuts will also eliminate FEMA's ability to properly prepare for and
13 respond to future disasters and emergencies. Key preparation work, such as training other FEMA
14 employees in disaster response skills, happens primarily through CORE employees. And CORE
15 employees play a central role in the responding to major disasters and emergencies. CORE
16 employees both form the backbone of the logistics force that coordinates the combined federal, state,
17 and local response efforts and comprise a large portion of FEMA's on-the-ground response. For
18 example, in the aftermath of a disaster, CORE employees perform key functions such as assisting
19 survivors access temporary housing, food, water, and medical care. The ongoing non-renewal of
20 CORE employees, along with the other planned staffing cuts, will greatly reduce FEMA's ability to
21 provide these life-saving services.

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also FEMA, Disaster Relief Fund: Monthly Report (Jan. 14, 2026), available at:
26 [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ocfo_disaster-relief-fund-](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ocfo_disaster-relief-fund-report_122025.pdf)
[report_122025.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ocfo_disaster-relief-fund-report_122025.pdf).

27 ⁸⁰ Disaster Relief Fund: Monthly Report, *supra* n. 79.

28 ⁸¹ *Id.* at 6-7, 12-15.

⁸² *Id.*

1 548. From 2025 through 2024, there was an average of 63 major disasters declared per
2 year, more than twice the average of 25 major disasters declared per year during the first decade of
3 FEMA's existence.⁸³

4 549. FEMA will not be able to replace the services eliminated as a result of staffing cuts.
5 Even before DHS began its efforts to eliminate half of FEMA's workforce, FEMA's understaffing
6 stretched its disaster relief workforce thin, impairing its ability to respond to these fatal disasters.
7 The existing staff shortages at FEMA have been well-documented by the Government Accounting
8 Office.

9 550. GAO explained, as of September 2025, that:

10 FEMA and other federal agencies faced workforce challenges related to the concurrent nature
11 of the disasters, disaster workforce capacity, and training gaps during Hurricanes Helene and
12 Milton and the 2025 Los Angeles wildfires. Further, these recent disasters exacerbated long-
13 standing FEMA workforce management issues. We previously reported that FEMA had an
14 overall staffing gap—the difference between its on-boarded staff and its staffing target—of
approximately 35 percent across different positions at the beginning of fiscal year 2022. We
also found that FEMA fell short of its yearly staffing target between 2019 and 2022, and that
gap continues to grow.⁸⁴

15 551. The 2025 GAO Report was referencing GAO analysis from 2023, which concluded
16 that FEMA has consistently fallen short of its target disaster relief staffing goals in recent years.⁸⁵
17 For example, in fiscal year 2022, the most recent year with publicly available data, FEMA's disaster
18 workforce had less than two-thirds of the staff FEMA estimated it needed to adequately administer its
19 disaster-related programs.⁸⁶

22 ⁸³ Congressional Research Service, *FEMA: Increased Demand and Capacity Strains*
23 (December 2, 2024), available at:
https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/IF/PDF/IF12834/IF12834.1.pdf.

24 ⁸⁴ GAO, *Disaster Assistance High-Risk Series: Federal Response Workforce Readiness* (Sept.
25 2, 2025), Report GAO-25-108598, at 7, available at: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-25-108598.pdf>.

26 ⁸⁵ GAO, *FEMA DISASTER WORKFORCE Actions Needed to Improve Hiring Data and*
Address Staffing Gaps (May 2023), Report GAO-23-105663, at *18 available at:
<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-23-105663.pdf>.

27 ⁸⁶ CRS, *FEMA: Increased Demand and Capacity Strains* (January 2, 2025), available at:
28 [https://www.congress.gov/crs-](https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF12834?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22Fema%22%7D&s=3&r=6)
[product/IF12834?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22Fema%22%7D&s=3&r=6](https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF12834?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22Fema%22%7D&s=3&r=6);

1 552. The 2023 GAO Report explained that FEMA had modeled its staffing needs to fulfill
2 its statutory mission and was falling significantly short. Specifically, FEMA conducted annual
3 reviews of its disaster workforce to estimate a baseline of the number of required staff and identify
4 gaps, known as the Force Structure Modification Process.⁸⁷ Those calculations disaster staff (largely
5 comprised of CORE employees) identified a 35 percent staffing gap: “As of the beginning of fiscal
6 year 2022, FEMA had a disaster force strength of approximately 11,400 employees, creating an
7 overall staffing gap of approximately 6,200 staff (35 percent) across different positions and cadres.”
8 The GAO explained further that FEMA set a target for increasing staffing of the disaster workforce to
9 hit the “target of 17,670 disaster employees across all cadres” by “fiscal year 2024, *but has since*
10 *pushed it out to fiscal year 2026.*”⁸⁸

11 553. In its 2025 budget justification, FEMA explained that the ongoing gap in its incident
12 management workforce was “creating operational performance risk” that could render FEMA unable
13 to provide “the disaster response and recovery operations it is responsible for leading and
14 supporting.”⁸⁹

15 554. On top of these preexisting staffing shortages, FEMA has also been subject to
16 reductions in its workforce as a result of other actions of this Administration, including the unlawful
17 firing of probationary employees in early 2025 and a substantial number of resignations in response
18 to the coercive Deferred Resignation Program.

19 555. FEMA’s 2026 budget justification in no way indicated that its staffing needs had
20 abated. To the contrary, the agency requested an increase of over 1,000 full-time equivalents from
21 the prior year in order to “help close capability and performance gaps.”⁹⁰

22
23 ⁸⁷ GAO, *FEMA DISASTER WORKFORCE Actions Needed to Improve Hiring Data and*
24 *Address Staffing Gaps* (May 2023), Report GAO-23-105663, at *18 available at:
<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-23-105663.pdf>.

25 ⁸⁸ *Id.*

26 ⁸⁹ DHS, FEMA Budget Overview, Fiscal Year 2025 Congressional Justification, available at:
[https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/2024_0320_federal_emergency_management_agency.pdf)
[04/2024_0320_federal_emergency_management_agency.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/2024_0320_federal_emergency_management_agency.pdf).

27 ⁹⁰ DHS, FEMA Budget Overview, Fiscal Year 2026 Congressional Justification, available at:
28 [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/25_0613_fema_fy26-congressional-budget-](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/25_0613_fema_fy26-congressional-budget-justificatin.pdf)
[justificatin.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/25_0613_fema_fy26-congressional-budget-justificatin.pdf).

1 556. A substantial number of FEMA employees signed a 2025 Petition to Congress stating
2 that further cuts to the FEMA workforce will risk a repeat of the aftermath and tragedy of Hurricane
3 Katrina.⁹¹ DHS has twice placed employees who it determined signed this Petition on administrative
4 leave.⁹²

5 557. Thus, while FEMA has projected and acknowledged an agency need to dramatically
6 increase disaster staffing by thousands of additional disaster relief workers, and set a target of doing
7 so through fiscal year 2026, DHS has now ordered FEMA's existing staff to be cut in half. Such
8 reductions will eliminate FEMA's ability to perform the role mandated by Congress and eliminate the
9 ability of the federal government to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other
10 emergencies, including terrorist attacks. The plan to halve the current size of FEMA is a complete
11 abdication of the proper and statutory role of the agency in federal disaster response and recovery.

12 558. Implementing DHS's directive to eliminating nearly half of FEMA's current staff, on
13 top of the existing staffing gaps, on an indiscriminate and rolling basis during 2026 will incapacitate
14 the agency in a matter of months, if not weeks.

15 559. State and local governments in the United States do not have the capacity to replace
16 resources or services that will be lost should FEMA be incapacitated or its functions be significantly
17 diminished through these staffing reductions.⁹³

18 **E. Cuts Will Cause Substantial Harm to Plaintiffs and the Public**

19 560. Each local government Plaintiff has suffered and/or will imminently suffer actual and
20 ongoing harm as a result of Defendants' implementation of the Administration's workforce reduction
21 actions at issue in this litigation, including the ongoing and imminent elimination of CORE employee

22 ⁹¹ <https://www.standupforscience.net/fema-katrina-declaration>.

23 ⁹² CNN, *FEMA workers put on leave after signing letter warning of Trump's overhaul of the*
24 *agency* (Aug. 26, 2025), available at: [https://www.cnn.com/2025/08/26/politics/fema-workers-](https://www.cnn.com/2025/08/26/politics/fema-workers-administrative-leave-katrina-declaration-trump)
25 *administrative-leave-katrina-declaration-trump*; New York Times, *In a Reversal, FEMA Won't*
26 *Reinstate Suspended Workers* (Dec. 1, 2025) available at:
27 <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/01/climate/fema-reinstates-workers-letter-leave.html> (DHS
spokesperson confirming reinstatement letters reversed, blaming "rogue bureaucrats" for reinstating
employees, and explaining that political appointees read news of reinstatements and reversed the
decision).

28 ⁹³ GAO, *Disaster Assistance High-Risk Series: State and Local Response Capabilities* (Dec.
18, 2025) Report GAO-26-108599, available at: <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-26-108599>.

1 positions at FEMA, as the direct result of delays and reduction in services provided by these federal
2 agencies on which they rely.

3 561. State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, including each local government
4 Plaintiff, rely on FEMA for assistance, much of which is provided by CORE employees, before,
5 during, and after a disaster. For example, CORE employees operate FEMA's Hazard Mitigation
6 Grant Program, which provides funding to states and local governments to shore up their
7 infrastructure to prevent damage from future disasters. Additionally, CORE employees operate
8 FEMA's Public Assistance program, which provides local governments with time-sensitive and
9 crucial funding for emergency repairs, debris removal, and infrastructure restoration necessary to
10 protect public health and safety in the immediate and longer-term aftermath of emergencies and
11 disasters. These services, and the funding they administer, are critical to public health and safety
12 because the cost of recovering can substantially outstrip a local government's own resources. The
13 local government Plaintiffs therefore rely heavily on CORE and other FEMA staff who operate the
14 programs (around the country) and arrive on-site (often from around the country, and within hours or
15 days) because these staff are trained and experienced with helping local governments access the
16 resources they need, including the funding directed by Congress for this purpose. Eliminating FEMA
17 staff will interfere with local governments' ability to access resources they need to recover, and force
18 them to rely on their already stretched budgets and resources.

19 562. State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, including each local government
20 Plaintiff, also rely on FEMA CORE and reservist staff to provide disaster and emergency services
21 (including administering funding) that meet the basic needs of their residents in the wake of a
22 disaster. The local government Plaintiffs do not have the resources, staff, training, or expertise to
23 replace these services or facilitate residents' access to FEMA resources. For example, CORE
24 employees also staff critical individual assistance services such as the National Process Service
25 Center and local disaster resource centers, which triages disaster-affected individuals' requests for aid
26 and help residents and businesses navigate the agencies and paperwork needed to access the
27 resources and information they need.

1 563. Each local government Plaintiff is and will be adversely affected by the elimination of
2 positions at FEMA within their geographic borders, as well as across the country because CORE
3 staff and reservists provide services nationwide and are often deployed to work in locations across the
4 country, outside of the region in which their duty station is located.

5 564. Plaintiff AFGE represents and has as members federal employees who work for the
6 Federal Agency Defendants and will be impacted by Defendants' implementation of the
7 Administration's workforce reduction actions at issue in this litigation. The employees represented
8 by AFGE include CORE and other FEMA employees who have been or will be separated from
9 employment. Upon separation, these federal employees will lose their income, health benefits, and
10 other incidents of employment, causing severe irreparable harm to them, their families, and their
11 communities. Many of these employees are longtime employees of the federal government and/or
12 their agency and will lose not only their current job but a career that has been years in the making.

13 565. Plaintiff AFGE also represents and has as members federal employees who work at the
14 Federal Agency Defendants, including FEMA, and who, if they keep their job, will have to work in
15 offices, roles, and functions that will be adversely affected by the staffing cuts, making their jobs
16 immensely more difficult. Each federal employee who remains will be required to do more to try to
17 meet the agency's statutory mission and obligations, without the support of colleagues who have been
18 separated as a result of Defendants' actions at issue in this lawsuit.

19 566. These actions have and will continue to harm Plaintiff AFGE's core function of
20 representing employees and providing counseling, advice, and representation to employees in the
21 event of adverse employment actions. Plaintiff AFGE has already expended, and will continue to
22 expend, substantial time and resources as a result of Defendants' workforce reduction actions,
23 including the DHS orders to FEMA, implementation of the non-renewal of FEMA positions, and the
24 planned further reductions in positions by DHS and FEMA, addressing employee concerns regarding
25 these actions and attempting to provide employees with effective representation. The union has been
26 forced to divert resources that would be devoted to representing employees who have, will, or may
27 experience adverse employment actions and/or other representational work. The union is also
28

1 harmed by the actual and imminent termination of its members (including members employed by
2 FEMA, including CORE employees), including by the loss of dues income.

3 567. These actions have and will continue to harm Plaintiff AFSCME and its members. The
4 vast majority of AFSCME's 1.4 million members are state and local government employees
5 throughout the country. Among those state and local government employee members of AFSCME
6 are employees within certain states' divisions of emergency management, including, for example,
7 state employees in Hawaii and Washington State whose work relates to hazard mitigation, natural
8 disaster response, emergency preparedness, and other functions that are supported by FEMA's grant
9 programs. The drastic elimination of positions within FEMA's public assistance and hazard
10 mitigation cadres is substantially likely to delay receipt of these funds, thereby creating financial
11 uncertainty for and adding pressure on the essential jobs these AFSCME members provide.

12 568. Plaintiff SEIU will likewise be harmed because the well-being and working conditions
13 of its members who work for state governments, local governments, and private employers will be
14 significantly and adversely impacted by the workforce reduction actions challenged in this lawsuit,
15 including the elimination of positions at FEMA, and the resulting loss of services and resources
16 provided by the affected agencies, including as a result of the vacuum in disaster relief prevention,
17 mitigation, relief, and recovery in their communities and shift of that work to state and local
18 governments without the capacity to replace FEMA's functions.

19 SUPPLEMENTAL ALLEGATIONS AND CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

20 Supplemental allegations to existing claims:

21 569. **Claim I (Separation of Powers/*Ultra Vires* Against Defendant President Donald J.**
22 **Trump)** is supplemented to add the following paragraph:

23 Executive Order 14536 and the directive to federal agencies to create, implement, and comply
24 with Annual Staffing Plans that eliminate programs, functions, or positions that the President
25 deems unnecessary regardless of statutory authorization or mandate also exceeds the
26 President's authority. This EO orders agencies to create such plans according to the
27 President's determination of necessity rather than consistent with congressional requirements,
28

1 mandates, and authorizations, and is therefore not authorized by Article II, usurps Congress's
2 Article I authority, and *ultra vires*.

3 570. **Claim II (Separation of Powers/*Ultra Vires* against Defendants OMB, OPM,
4 USDS and their Directors)** is supplemented to add the following paragraph:

5 The November 5, 2025 OMB/OPM Memorandum implementing EO 14536 exceeds statutory
6 authority and usurps the authority delegated by Congress to the agencies, and not to OMB or
7 OPM, by requiring agencies to create, implement, and comply with Annual Staffing Plans that
8 eliminate programs, functions, or positions that the President deems unnecessary regardless of
9 statutory authorization or mandate. The Memorandum requires agencies to create such plans
10 according to the President's determination of necessity rather than consistent with
11 congressional requirements, mandates, and authorizations, and therefore exceeds OMB and
12 OPM's authority and is contrary to statute and *ultra vires*.

13 571. **Claim III (Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C §706(2)(A) and (C) Action Not
14 in Accordance With Law and Exceeding Statutory Authority against Defendants OMB, OPM,
15 USDS and their Directors)** is supplemented to add the following paragraph:

16 OMB/OPM's issuance and implementation of the November 5, 2025 OMB/OPM
17 Memorandum implementing EO 14536 are final agency actions that exceeds statutory
18 authority and usurps the authority delegated by Congress to the agencies, and not to OMB or
19 OPM, by requiring agencies to create, implement and comply with Annual Staffing Plans that
20 eliminate programs, functions, or positions that the President deems unnecessary regardless of
21 statutory authorization or mandate. The Memorandum requires agencies to create such plans
22 according to the President's determination of necessity rather than consistent with
23 congressional requirements, mandates, and authorizations, and violates 5 U.S.C. §706(2)(A)
24 and (C).

25 572. **Claim IV (Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C §706(2)(A) Arbitrary and
26 Capricious Agency Action against Defendants OMB, OPM, USDS and their Directors)** is
27 supplemented to add the following paragraph:

1 OMB/OPM's issuance and implementation of the November 5, 2025 OMB/OPM
2 Memorandum implementing EO 14536 are final agency actions that are arbitrary and
3 capricious because OMB/OPM order federal agencies to disregard congressional
4 requirements, mandates, and authorizations and comply with the President's policy priorities
5 and determinations of what is "necessary," require agencies to abandon reasoned decision-
6 making considering all relevant factors, and require the process for the creation and approval
7 of plans to radically transform federal agencies to proceed in secret.

8 573. **Claim VI (Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C §706(2)(A) and (C) Action Not**
9 **in Accordance With Law against Federal Agency Defendants)** is supplemented to add the
10 following paragraph:

11 On information and belief, the Federal Agency Defendants have created and submitted to
12 OMB and OPM Annual Staffing Plans for fiscal year 2026, without making those Plans
13 available to the employees they impact, the employees' union representatives, or the public.
14 On information and belief, Federal Agency Defendants' Annual Staffing Plans set forth
15 actions in furtherance of the President's workforce reduction agenda that reflect the
16 President's policy priorities and determinations as to whether programs mandated and
17 authorized by Congress are "necessary." Agency actions to implement the President's EO
18 14210 and EO 14356, including but not limited to Annual Staffing Plans that conflict with
19 congressionally authorized functions or impose staffing cuts irrespective of agencies' duties or
20 needs, are final agency actions that are inconsistent with law in violation of 5 U.S.C.
21 §706(2)(A) and exceed statutory authority in violation of 5 U.S.C. §706(2)(C), and are for
22 those reasons also arbitrary and capricious in violation of 5 U.S.C. §706(2)(A).

23 574. **Claim VII (Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C § 706(2)(A) Arbitrary and**
24 **Capricious Agency Action against Federal Agency Defendants)** is supplemented to add the
25 following paragraph:

26 Federal Agency Defendant actions to implement the President's EO 14210 and EO 14356,
27 including but not limited to Annual Staffing Plans, that conflict with congressionally
28

1 authorized functions or impose staffing cuts irrespective of agencies' duties or needs reflect
2 improper considerations, abandon reasoned decision-making considering all relevant factors,
3 ignore reliance interests, arbitrary and capricious final agency actions, in violation of 5 U.S.C.
4 §706(2)(A).

5 **Supplemental Claims:**

6
7 **Claim VIII**
8 **Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C §706(2)(A), (B) and (C)**
9 **Against Defendant DHS Secretary Noem and DHS**
10 **(Action Not in Accordance With Law and Exceeding Statutory Authority)**

11 575. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs and the Second Amended
12 Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

13 576. Under the APA, a court must “hold unlawful and set aside agency action” that is “not
14 in accordance with law,” “contrary to constitutional right, power, privilege, or immunity,” or “in
15 excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations, or short of statutory right.” 5 U.S.C.
16 §§706(2)(A), (B), and (C).

17 577. DHS is an agency subject to the APA. 5 U.S.C. §701.

18 578. The following actions by DHS are final agency actions for the purposes of APA
19 review: the removal of FEMA’s decision-making authority with respect to the reduction in positions
20 at FEMA and in particular the renewals of CORE positions; the decision to reject renewals of CORE
21 and reservist positions under the Stafford Act according to NTE date; the elimination of CORE and
22 reservist positions by rejecting renewals of appointments under the Stafford Act commencing January
23 1, 2026; and the imposition and implementation of targets for workforce reduction that eliminate
24 nearly half the FEMA workforce.

25 579. These actions by DHS are contrary to law and exceed any statutory authority granted
26 to DHS, including by:

- 27 a. violating, and/or causing FEMA to violate, FEMA’s mandatory statutory duties as set
28 forth in the Stafford Act and subsequent statutes for “preparedness, protection,
mitigation, response, and recovery” from emergencies and disasters nationwide, 6

1 U.S.C. §§311-323, 711-825, and at 42 U.S.C. Chapter 68 (Disaster Relief), by
2 eliminating the staff required to perform those duties adequately;

- 3 b. violating, and/or causing FEMA to violate, these provisions of the Post-Katrina Act:
- 4 • 6 U.S.C. §316(c), including by “substantially or significantly reduc[ing] ... the
5 authorities, responsibilities, or functions of the Agency or the capability of the Agency
6 to perform those missions, authorities, responsibilities” and by usurping FEMA’s
7 decision-making authority and failing to maintain FEMA as a “distinct entity” within
8 the Department separate and apart from DHS control;
 - 9 • 6 U.S.C. §316(b), by defying Congress’ express prohibition of exercising any
10 reorganization authority with respect to FEMA; and
 - 11 • 6 U.S.C. §315, by disregarding the transfer of “[a]ll functions” of FEMA “including
12 existing responsibilities for emergency alert systems and continuity of operations and
13 continuity of government plans and programs ... including all of its personnel, assets,
14 components, authorities, grant programs, and liabilities” away from DHS and back to
15 FEMA;
- 16 c. violating Section 120(a) of the CR by imposing a reduction in force “or any similar
17 reduction of positions” on FEMA’s temporary employees;
- 18 d. ignoring and defying statutory requirements and prohibitions and thereby usurping
19 Congress’ Article I legislative authority, and violating the separation of powers
20 principles embodied in the U.S. Constitution.

21 580. The actions of DHS Secretary Noem and DHS therefore violate the Administrative
22 Procedure Act because they are inconsistent with law in violation of 5 U.S.C. §706(2)(A), contrary to
23 the Constitution in violation of 5 U.S.C. §706(2)(B), and exceed statutory authority in violation of 5
24 U.S.C. §706(2)(C).

Claim IX
Ultra Vires Unlawful and Unconstitutional Governmental Action
Against Defendant DHS Secretary Noem and DHS

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3 581. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs and the Second Amended
4 Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

5 582. Plaintiffs have a non-statutory right of action to enjoin and declare unlawful official
6 action that is *ultra vires*.

7 583. The removal of FEMA’s decision-making authority with respect to the reduction in
8 positions at FEMA and in particular the renewals of CORE positions; the creation and
9 implementation of a policy of rejecting renewals of CORE and reservist positions under the Stafford
10 Act according to NTE date; the elimination of CORE and reservist positions by rejecting renewals of
11 appointments under the Stafford Act commencing January 1, 2026; and the imposition and
12 implementation of targets for workforce reduction that eliminate nearly half the FEMA workforce are
13 all contrary to law and exceed any statutory authority granted to DHS, including by:

- 14 a. violating, and causing FEMA to violate, FEMA’s mandatory statutory duties as set
15 forth in the Stafford Act and subsequent statutes for “preparedness, protection,
16 mitigation, response, and recovery” from emergencies and disasters nationwide, 6
17 U.S.C. §§311-323, 711-825, and at 42 U.S.C. Chapter 68 (Disaster Relief), by
18 eliminating the staff required to perform those duties adequately;
- 19 b. violating these provisions of the Post-Katrina Act:
- 20 • 6 U.S.C. §316(c), including by “substantially or significantly reduc[ing] ... the
21 authorities, responsibilities, or functions of the Agency or the capability of the Agency
22 to perform those missions, authorities, responsibilities” and by usurping FEMA’s
23 decision-making authority and failing to maintain FEMA as a “distinct entity” within
24 the Department separate and apart from DHS control;
 - 25 • 6 U.S.C. §316(b), by defying Congress’ express prohibition of exercising any
26 reorganization authority with respect to FEMA; and
- 27
28

- 1 • 6 U.S.C. §315, by disregarding the transfer of “[a]ll functions” of FEMA “including
2 existing responsibilities for emergency alert systems and continuity of operations and
3 continuity of government plans and programs ... including all of its personnel, assets,
4 components, authorities, grant programs, and liabilities” away from DHS and back to
5 FEMA;
- 6 c. violating Section 120(a) of the CR by imposing a reduction in force “or any similar
7 reduction of positions” on FEMA’s temporary employees;
- 8 d. ignoring and defying statutory requirements and prohibitions and thereby usurping
9 Congress’ Article I legislative authority, and violating the separation of powers
10 principles embodied in the U.S. Constitution.

11 584. The actions of DHS Secretary Noem and DHS therefore exceed authority and are
12 contrary to statute and the Constitution and are therefore *ultra vires*.

13
14 **Claim X:**
15 **Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C § 706(2)(A)**
16 **Against Defendants DHS Secretary Noem and DHS**
17 **(Arbitrary and Capricious Agency Action)**

18 585. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs and the Second Amended
19 Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

20 586. The APA requires that a court “hold unlawful and set aside agency action, findings,
21 and conclusions found to be . . . arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in
22 accordance with law.” 5 U.S.C. §706(2)(A).

23 587. The APA requires that an agency provide “a satisfactory explanation for its action[,]
24 including a rational connection between the facts found and the choice made.” *Motor Vehicle Mfrs.*
25 *Ass’n of the U.S., Inc. v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 463 U.S. 29, 43 (1983) (internal quotation
26 marks omitted). An action is also arbitrary and capricious if the agency “failed to consider . . .
27 important aspects of the problem” before it. *Dep’t of Homeland Sec. v. Regents of the Univ. of*
28 *California*, 591 U.S. 1, 25 (2020) (quoting *Motor Vehicle Mfrs.*, 463 U.S. at 43).

1 CORE and reservist positions by rejecting renewals of appointments under the Stafford Act
2 commencing January 1, 2026; and implementing unlawful DHS targets for workforce reduction
3 eliminating nearly half the FEMA workforce.

4 594. These actions by FEMA are contrary to law and exceed any statutory authority granted
5 to FEMA by Congress, including by:

- 6 a. violating FEMA’s mandatory statutory duties set forth in the Stafford Act and
7 subsequent statutes for “preparedness, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery”
8 from emergencies and disasters nationwide, 6 U.S.C. §§311-323, 711-825, and at 42
9 U.S.C. Chapter 68 (Disaster Relief), by eliminating the staff required to perform those
10 duties adequately;
- 11 b. ceding decision-making authority with respect to FEMA to DHS, and therefore
12 violating provisions of the Post-Katrina Act:
- 13 • 6 U.S.C. §316(a), by failing to maintain FEMA as a “distinct entity” from DHS;
 - 14 • 6 U.S.C. §316(c), by allowing DHS to “substantially or significantly reduce ... the
15 authorities, responsibilities, or functions of the Agency or the capability of the Agency
16 to perform those missions, authorities, responsibilities,” which include but are not
17 limited to the statutorily required authority, responsibility, and functions including
18 “preparedness, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery” duties and other
19 specific statutory mandates identified herein and the authority and responsibility to
20 employ Stafford Act employees to perform FEMA’s statutorily mandated and
21 authorized functions;
 - 22 • 6 U.S.C. §315, by disregarding the transfer of “[a]ll functions” of FEMA “ including
23 existing responsibilities for emergency alert systems and continuity of operations and
24 continuity of government plans and programs ... including all of its personnel, assets,
25 components, authorities, grant programs, and liabilities” away from DHS and back to
26 FEMA;
- 27 c. violating Section 120(a) of the CR by imposing a reduction in force “or any similar
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1 reduction of positions” on FEMA’s temporary employees; and

- 2 d. ignoring and defying statutory requirements and prohibitions usurping Congress’
3 Article I legislative authority, and violating separation of powers principles embodied
4 in the U.S. Constitution.

5 595. The actions of Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator Evans
6 and FEMA therefore violate the Administrative Procedure Act because they are inconsistent with law
7 in violation of 5 U.S.C. §706(2)(A), contrary to the Constitution in violation of 5 U.S.C. §706(2)(B),
8 and exceed statutory authority in violation of 5 U.S.C. §706(2)(C).

9 **Claim XII**

10 **Ultra Vires Unlawful and Unconstitutional Governmental Action**
11 **Against Defendant Senior Official Performing the Duties**
12 **of FEMA Administrator Evans and FEMA**

13 596. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs and the Second Amended
14 Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

15 597. Plaintiffs have a non-statutory right of action to enjoin and declare unlawful official
16 action that is *ultra vires*.

17 598. The actions of FEMA—the implementation of unlawful DHS directives to cede
18 decision-making authority to DHS with respect to the reduction in FEMA positions and in particular
19 the renewals of CORE positions; the implementation of unlawful DHS directive to reject renewals of
20 CORE and reservist positions under the Stafford Act according to NTE date; the elimination of
21 CORE and reservist positions by rejecting renewals of appointments under the Stafford Act
22 commencing January 1, 2026; the implementation of unlawful DHS targets for workforce reduction
23 that eliminate nearly half the FEMA workforce—are contrary to law and exceed any statutory
24 authority granted to FEMA by Congress, including by:

- 25 a. violating FEMA’s mandatory statutory duties set forth in the Stafford Act and
26 subsequent statutes for “preparedness, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery”
27 from emergencies and disasters nationwide, 6 U.S.C. §§311-323, 711-825, and at 42
28 U.S.C. Chapter 68 (Disaster Relief), by eliminating the staff required to perform those

1 duties adequately;

- 2 b. ceding decision-making authority with respect to FEMA to DHS, and therefore
3 violating provisions of the Post-Katrina Act:
- 4 • 6 U.S.C. § 316(a), by failing to maintain FEMA as a “distinct entity” from DHS;
 - 5 • 6 U.S.C. § 316(c), by allowing DHS to “substantially or significantly reduce ... the
6 authorities, responsibilities, or functions of the Agency or the capability of the Agency
7 to perform those missions, authorities, responsibilities,” which include but are not
8 limited to the authority, responsibility and functions mandated for FEMA by statute
9 including “preparedness, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery” duties and
10 other specific statutory mandates identified herein and the authority and responsibility
11 to employ Stafford Act employees to perform FEMA’s statutorily mandated and
12 authorized functions; and
 - 13 • 6 U.S.C. §315, by disregarding the transfer of “[a]ll functions” of FEMA “ including
14 existing responsibilities for emergency alert systems and continuity of operations and
15 continuity of government plans and programs ... including all of its personnel, assets,
16 components, authorities, grant programs, and liabilities” away from DHS and back to
17 FEMA;
- 18 c. violating Section 120(a) of the CR by imposing a reduction in force “or any similar
19 reduction of positions” on FEMA’s temporary employees; and
- 20 d. ignoring and defying statutory requirements and prohibitions, usurping Congress’
21 Article I legislative authority, and violating separation of powers principles embodied
22 in the U.S. Constitution.

23 599. The actions of Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator Evans
24 and FEMA therefore exceed authority and are contrary to statute and the Constitution and are *ultra*
25 *vires*.

26
27
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Claim XIII
Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C § 706(2)(A)
Against Defendant Senior Official Performing the Duties
of FEMA Administrator Evans and FEMA
(Arbitrary and Capricious Agency Action)

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600. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs and the Second Amended Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

601. The APA requires that a court “hold unlawful and set aside agency action, findings, and conclusions found to be . . . arbitrary, capricious.” 5 U.S.C. §706(2)(A).

602. The APA requires that an agency provide “a satisfactory explanation for its action[,], including a rational connection between the facts found and the choice made.” *Motor Vehicle Mfrs. Ass’n of the U.S., Inc. v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 463 U.S. 29, 43 (1983) (internal quotation marks omitted). An action is also arbitrary and capricious if the agency “failed to consider . . . important aspects of the problem” before it. *Dep’t of Homeland Sec. v. Regents of the Univ. of California*, 591 U.S. 1, 25 (2020) (quoting *Motor Vehicle Mfrs.*, 463 U.S. at 43).

603. The actions of FEMA—the implementation of unlawful DHS directives to cede FEMA’s decision-making authority to DHS with respect to the reduction in FEMA positions and in particular the renewals of CORE positions; the implementation of unlawful DHS directives to reject renewals of CORE and reservist positions under the Stafford Act according to NTE date; the elimination of CORE and reservist positions by rejecting renewals of appointments under the Stafford Act commencing January 1, 2026; and the implementation of unlawful DHS targets for workforce reduction that eliminate nearly half of FEMA’s workforce—were all done without considering the necessarily relevant and important aspects of the issue and without considering FEMA’s needs or requirements or the reliance interest of affected employees or those relying on their services; were in fact contrary to the recommendations and needs of FEMA; and were done without any rational connection between the actions taken and the reasons given (or lack thereof), and are therefore arbitrary and capricious.

1 and the actions of Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Karen Evans with respect to
2 implementation of these DHS directives under 5 U.S.C. §§705 and 706.

3 DATED: January 27, 2026

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