



## League of United Latin American Citizens

### RESOLUTION: IN SUPPORT OF THE RETENTION AND FULL FUNDING OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

**WHEREAS**, FEMA was established to coordinate the federal government's response to disasters that exceed the capacity of state and local governments which the Department of Homeland Security oversees the agency. And

**WHEREAS**, the United States regularly faces severe weather events and natural disasters—including hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, landslides, winter storms and most recently, flooding in Texas—that place immense strain on local infrastructure, emergency services and communications systems. And

**WHEREAS**, FEMA plays a vital role in a state and local communities' ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from these disasters by providing financial assistance, emergency response coordination, and long-term recovery support to individuals, families, local governments, and critical institutions. And

**WHEREAS**, recent historic flooding in central Texas resulted in tragic death and destruction which necessitated FEMA's prompt response with support and to coordinate local response authorities which were acting independently of each other. And where in the past other states have benefited from FEMA's support following events such as Hurricane Harvey, Katrina, wildfires in California and other flood and fire emergencies that have devastated lives and livelihoods. And

**WHEREAS**, any reduction in FEMA's authority, capacity, or funding would jeopardize the United State's ability to protect residents, rebuild after disasters, and promote long-term resilience in an increasingly unstable climate environment, in both rural and urban areas. And

**WHEREAS**, the proposed policy framework of the current administration questions FEMA's necessity in managing emergency response to national disasters; and indeed, threatens to eliminate or significantly weaken FEMA under the supposition or misguided expectation that States will, or have the capacity to respond. And

**WHEREAS**, the July 4, 2025, flood event in central Texas, clearly highlights the need for FEMA to continue to exist in order to respond in the face of state and local failures in leadership and coordination; and failures in infrastructure and communication which resulted in a total of 137 confirmed deaths of children and adults, pets & livestock deaths with others still being unaccounted for.

**WHEREAS**, the recent Texas example, also highlighted that despite legislation filed during the 2023 Legislative Session, state lawmakers failed to pass legislation (H.B. 13) which would have funded an improved communication & broadband warning system which might have aided in the reduction of death and loss in Central Texas. And, whereas local elected officials in the area had also refused to approve measures to fund communications systems. And

**WHEREAS** the reliance or expectation that state and local entities will take steps necessary to fund improvements for known risks or for unexpected major disasters is unrealistic. And

**WHEREAS** American citizens deserve a fully funded, operational, streamlined FEMA to stand ready in times of crisis, regardless of politics or geography. And the current system of DHS oversight of certain FEMA services such as the Disaster Declaration Process, Contracting and Procurement requiring approval of contracts over \$100,000 -is overly bureaucratic and results in delay of necessary services. In Texas, termination of such contracts due to lack of DHS approval, resulted in hundreds of unanswered 911 calls and lack of assistance for removal of debris, which functions are paid by grants approved by DHS. And

**WHEREAS** approval or funding of grants in the amount of \$100,000 should not be dependent on bureaucratic chain of command or oversight which lack of action in approval delays funding of crucial disaster relief response during times of crisis. And  
Disaster declarations which are necessary to allow the release of federal disaster funds that allow for purchase of food, other necessities and begin large-scale removal and should not be held up by DHS bureaucratic delay.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the League of United Latin American Citizens:

1. Express strong support for the full funding and continued operation of FEMA as an essential federal agency. And support a streamlined FEMA to respond without bureaucratic oversight approval.
2. Urge the United States Congress to maintain and increase appropriations for FEMA's disaster relief, preparedness, mitigation, and resilience programs, particularly as threats to public safety and infrastructure increase.
3. Oppose any federal action or policy that would defund, restructure, or abolish FEMA; and
4. Call on elected leaders at the state and federal level to prioritize public safety by ensuring FEMA remains fully empowered to serve the people of the United States.

**SUBMITTED BY:** LULAC Council 650 ATX, Texas, Gloria Leal, President,

**Voted and approved by the National Assembly of the 2025 LULAC National Convention  
August 9, 2025**

**Roman Palomares  
LULAC National President**