

H.R. 3635: The Disaster Relief and Recovery Development Act
As introduced by Rep. Anh “Joseph” Cao
September 23, 2009

As introduced, this bill would:

- **streamline operations and increase accountability and transparency at FEMA** by:
 - (1) calling for review of FEMA regulations and requiring a report to Congress within 18 months of enactment (**Sec. 3**);
 - (2) requiring regular reporting to Congress on the status of the speed with which Public Assistance project worksheets and other contributions are being made for open disaster (**Sec. 8**);
 - (3) Requiring FEMA to shift to a cost estimate model by requiring regulations to be prepared within six months of enactment (**Sec. 4**).

- **return focus on FEMA’s role as a recovery and coordinating agency** by:
 - (1) formally establishing and pre-constituting Emergency Recovery Teams to establish the FEMA’s dual role as both a recovery and response agency in the immediate aftermath of a disaster (**Sec. 6**);
 - (2) establishing Federal Interagency Disaster Recovery Task Force with the purpose of ensuring federal agencies with a role to play in recovery are coordinating before a disaster and full Federal resources are identified and ready to be activated at the time of a disaster (**Sec. 7**);

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- **Formally direct FEMA to consider lump sum settlements for projects that are similar in nature** (at 100% cost share), shifting from a project-by-project approach to one that reflects the realities faced by Louisiana and elsewhere on the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of two catastrophic storms (**Sec. 9**)

- **Ensure critical information both to prepare for a storm and immediately before the storm is being efficiently disseminated:**
 - (1) commissioning a study to determine how emergency information is reaching populations with limited English proficiency (**Sec. 2**); and
 - (2) increasing the percentage of financial assistance that can be used to inform communities about mitigation technologies (**Sec. 5**)