

REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE "1997 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR RECOVERY FROM NATURAL DISASTERS, AND FOR OVERSEAS PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS, INCLUDING THOSE IN BOSNIA" (PUBLIC LAW 105-18), A REQUEST TO MAKE AVAILABLE EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



JANUARY 20, 2004.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, January 15, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with provisions of the “1997 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from Natural Disasters, and for Overseas Peacekeeping Efforts, Including those in Bosnia” (Public Law 105–18), I hereby request and make available \$22.5 million in emergency funding for the Department of the Interior’s National Park Service.

These funds would allow for the repair and replacement of concession facilities at Yosemite National Park that were damaged in a 1997 flood.

The Congress required that certain prerequisites be met before these funds could be released. These requirements have been met and I designate the funds made available today as an emergency requirement consistent with the requirements of Public Law 105–18.

The details of this action are set forth in the attached letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.

[Estimate No. 24, 108th Cong. 1st Sess.]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,
Washington, DC, January 13, 2004.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

Submitted for your consideration is a request to make available previously appropriated contingent emergency funds for the Department of the Interior's (DOI's) National Park Service. These funds were made contingent upon your submission of a budget request to the Congress that includes a designation of the amount requested as an emergency requirement.

Public Law 105-18, the 1997 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from Natural Disasters, and for Overseas Peacekeeping Efforts, Including those in Bosnia, provided \$187.3 million in emergency funding for the Park Service. Of this amount, \$30.0 million was provided for the restoration of facilities operated by the Yosemite Concession Service Corporation (YCSC) in Yosemite National Park that were damaged in a 1997 flood. Your approval of this request would now make available \$22.5 million to DOI. An additional \$7.5 million in property damage insurance proceeds has been paid by YCSC.

P.L. 105-18 also stipulates that in order for the funds to be available, the Secretary of the Interior must certify that a specific amount of such funds are required and the Solicitor of the Interior must certify that YCSC has fully met its obligations. These requirements have been met.

The National Park Service has faced many delays since these funds were appropriated in 1997. Before it could proceed with specific plans for rebuilding, the Park Service had to finalize its Yosemite Valley Plan. Although the plan was finished in 2000, it was delayed by lawsuits by various environmental groups. The litigation was not resolved until 2002. Then, the Park Service was sued over the Merced River Wild and Scenic Comprehensive Management Plan, which was finally resolved in 2003. The Park Service is now moving ahead and is ready to issue contracts for construction to begin in the spring of 2004.

I recommend that you designate this request as an emergency requirement in accordance with provisions of P.L. 105-18. No further congressional action will be required.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Secretary of the Interior in recommending that you make the requested funds available

by signing the enclosed letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

JOSHUA B. BOLTEN,
Director.

Enclosure.

EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS: AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED
MADE AVAILABLE BY THE PRESIDENT

Department of the Interior: National Park Service—Construction ... \$22,500,000

Public Law 105–18, the 1997 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from Natural Disasters, and for Overseas Peacekeeping Efforts, Including those in Bosnia, provided \$187.3 million in emergency funding for the National Park Service (NPS). To date, \$157.3 million has been designated as an emergency requirement and made available by the President.

Of the total appropriation, \$30.0 million was provided for the restoration of facilities operated by the Yosemite Concession Service Corporation (YCSC) in Yosemite National Park that were damaged in a 1997 flood. Based on P.L. 105–18, the funds were made contingent upon:

- (1) The Secretary of the Interior certifying that a specific amount of these funds are required for the Federal portion of the costs to repair or replace concession use facilities;
- (2) The Solicitor of the Department of the Interior certifying that YCSC has met its obligations to repair or replace concession use facilities; and
- (3) The President transmitting a budget request for a specific dollar amount, including designation of the entire amount of the request as an emergency requirement.

The Secretary of the Interior has certified that \$22.5 million of these funds is required for the Federal portion of the costs and the Solicitor of the Interior has certified that this payment fully satisfies the obligations of YCSC.