

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906  
judiciary.house.gov

October 8, 2025

Mr. Dave Smith  
Chief Executive Officer  
California Volunteers Fund  
1400 10th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Smith:

In January 2025, deadly wildfires devastated and wreaked havoc in the state of California.<sup>1</sup> In response to the wildfires, an organization called FireAid held a benefit concert raising \$100 million, which the organization promised to send directly to people affected by the wildfires.<sup>2</sup> According to available information, the California Volunteers Fund received grant money from FireAid.<sup>3</sup> As part of our oversight responsibilities, and in light of allegations that FireAid has diverted donations to nonprofits instead of providing direct relief to fire victims,<sup>4</sup> we request your voluntary cooperation with our inquiry.

The California Volunteers Fund is a nonprofit created by the California Legislature to “increase the quality, scale, and sustainability of California Service Corps” to promote service and volunteerism.<sup>5</sup> The Fund financially supports volunteer efforts in California, including

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<sup>1</sup> William L Jeunesse, *California Wildfire Victims Left Wondering Where \$100M Went Following FireAid Benefit Concert*, FOX NEWS, (July 25, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/us/california-wildfire-victims-left-wondering-where-100m-went-following-fireaid-benefit-concert>.

<sup>2</sup> Maria Sherman, *FireAid, the Massive Benefit Concert to Help LA Fire Victims, Came Together Quickly. Here's How*, Assoc. Press (Jan. 28, 2025); *Questions and Controversy About FireAid Funds*, AXS TV, (July 29, 2025), <https://axs.tv/news-story/questions-and-controversy-about-fireaid-funds/>.

<sup>3</sup> Hannah Nightingale, *Funds from Fire Aid concert went to non-profits- not LA wildfire victims: report*, THE POST MILLENNIAL, (July 22, 2025), <https://thepostmillennial.com/funds-from-fire-aid-concert-went-to-non-profits-not-la-wildfire-victims-report/>; Latham & Watkins, *FireAid Investigative Report as of September 8, 2025*, (Sept. 8, 2025), [https://www.fireaidla.org/assets/press-releases/pdfs/fireaid\\_investigative\\_report\\_09-08-2025.pdf](https://www.fireaidla.org/assets/press-releases/pdfs/fireaid_investigative_report_09-08-2025.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Fox 11 Digital Team, *\$100 Million FireAid money under scrutiny. Where have the concert funds gone*, FOX 11 LOS ANGELES, (July 22, 2025), <https://www.foxla.com/news/fireaid-money-scrutiny>.

<sup>5</sup> *California Volunteers Fund About*, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS FUND, (last accessed Sept. 15, 2025), <https://www.californiavolunteersfund.org/>.

programs of a separate, similarly named entity known as California Volunteers.<sup>6</sup> California Volunteers is a state entity within the Office of the Governor “tasked with engaging Californians in service, volunteering and civic action to tackle our State’s most pressing challenges.”<sup>7</sup> California Volunteers is led by a 25-member board of commissioners appointed by the Governor,<sup>8</sup> on which the California First Partner, Jennifer Siebel Newson, serves as the honorary chair.<sup>9</sup>

Since the January 2025 fires, FireAid has come under scrutiny for diverting donations to nonprofits instead of providing direct relief to fire victims.<sup>10</sup> According to an internal report commissioned by FireAid, the California Volunteers Fund received \$500,000 in grants to support victims of the California wildfires.<sup>11</sup> It is not publicly known how the California Volunteers Fund distributed this \$500,000, or what individuals or entities received funds. It is also unclear whether the state-based California Volunteers, run out of the Governor’s Office, received any of the FireAid-originated funds via the California Volunteers Fund.

On January 8, 2025, then-President Biden approved a disaster declaration for the California fires, making federal funds available to victims and authorizing federal agencies to assist in the recovery efforts.<sup>12</sup> The nation has an important interest in assisting victims of federally declared disaster and in discouraging potential fraud or misuse of charitable funds solicited to help these victims. It is critical in this case that money raised for fire recovery efforts go directly to victims of the California fires. Therefore, as part of the Committee’s oversight, we respectfully ask that you provide the following documents and information:

1. A detailed breakdown of all money received from FireAid, directly and indirectly, including the amount, date, recipient, and purpose of each expenditure;
2. All documents and communications between or among the California Volunteers Fund and California Volunteers referring or relating to FireAid or the California fires for the period January 1, 2025, to the present; and
3. All documents and communications referring or relating to FireAid for the period January 1, 2025, to the present.

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<sup>6</sup> Hannah Nightingale, *Funds from Fire Aid concert went to non-profits- not LA wildfire victims: report*, THE POST MILLENNIAL, (July 22, 2025), <https://thepostmillennial.com/funds-from-fire-aid-concert-went-to-non-profits-not-la-wildfire-victims-report/>.

<sup>7</sup> *California Volunteers Fund About*, CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS FUND, (last accessed Sept. 15, 2025), <https://www.californiavolunteersfund.org/>.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> Hannah Nightingale, *Funds from Fire Aid concert went to non-profits- not LA wildfire victims: report*, THE POST MILLENNIAL, (July 22, 2025), <https://thepostmillennial.com/funds-from-fire-aid-concert-went-to-non-profits-not-la-wildfire-victims-report/>.

<sup>11</sup> Latham & Watkins, FireAid Investigative Report as of September 8, 2025, (Sept. 8, 2025), [https://www.fireaidla.org/assets/press-releases/pdfs/fireaid\\_investigative\\_report\\_09-08-2025.pdf](https://www.fireaidla.org/assets/press-releases/pdfs/fireaid_investigative_report_09-08-2025.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> The White House, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Approves California Major Disaster Declaration (Jan. 8, 2025).

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Please produce all documents and information as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 22, 2025.

The Supreme Court has recognized that Congress has a “broad and indispensable” power to conduct oversight, which “encompasses inquiries into the administration of existing laws, studies of proposed laws, and surveys in our social, economic or political system for the purpose of enabling Congress to remedy them.”<sup>13</sup> Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives the Judiciary Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of matters concerning criminal law and fraud in order to inform potential legislative reform.<sup>14</sup>

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Kevin Kiley  
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

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<sup>13</sup> *Trump v. Mazars USA, LLP*, 591 U.S. 848, 862 (2020) (internal quotation marks omitted).

<sup>14</sup> Rules of the House of Representatives, 119th Cong., R. X (2025); 18 U.S.C.A. § 1341.