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Wells Fargo & Company has awarded \$300,000 in grants to six organizations statewide engaged in disaster relief and recovery work after floods and fires this year.

The grants come from the Wells Fargo Disaster Response and Recovery Fund. Wells Fargo opened the fund at North Valley Community Foundation more than two years ago as a means to quickly respond to disasters throughout the state.

“Collaborating with local organizations to create sustainable communities is at the core of what we do at Wells Fargo,” said Kären Woodruff, Senior Vice President of Philanthropy and Community Impact at Wells Fargo. “These grants will empower families and businesses throughout California to swiftly and efficiently respond to and recover from natural disasters.”

The grant recipients include:

- United Way of Northern California, to help support individuals and businesses in the aftermath of the Klamath River Basin fires in Siskiyou County over the summer.
- El Pajaro Community Development Corporation, to provide recovery services to small farms and businesses after the Pajaro River levee break.
- Inland Empire Community Foundation, for the Inland Empire Disaster Relief Fund opened by the community foundation after Tropical Storm Hilary caused severe flooding in parts of the Coachella Valley in Riverside County. The fund assists local nonprofit organizations as they help those most impacted by the storm.
- United Way of Tulare County, to help support 742 families after spring floods. Aid included gift cards, hotel stays, gas cards and food.
- American Red Cross Southern California, to help the organization respond to Tropical Storm Hilary in Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Imperial counties.
- Institute for Sustainable Development, to provide technical assistance to entrepreneurs and micro-businesses in Los Angeles and supporting the strategic development of Together for LA. Together for LA is an existing network that activates when a disaster

occurs to support small businesses. Most recently, the group activated with rapid response during a tornado that impacted businesses in Montebello.

“We are very grateful for Wells Fargo’s commitment and generosity,” said Carmen Herrera-Mansir, executive director of the El Pajaro Community Development Corporation. “These additional funds will support the El Pajaro CDC team to provide culturally relevant support to small businesses and farmers in Pajaro that were impacted by floods and storms. These entrepreneurs will receive technical assistance and access to resources, including access to capital.”

“Once again, Wells Fargo has stepped up for our communities during a time of need,” said Larry Olmstead, president and CEO of the United Way of Northern California. “Siskiyou County often is hit with wildfires that impact lives and strain its rural infrastructure. Because of Wells Fargo’s generosity, United Way has been able to provide immediate emergency cash to evacuees and survivors, and assist the local nonprofits working with residents on the ground to provide needed services. United Way is deeply grateful for this continued support.”

Wells Fargo gave more than \$3 million to Camp Fire relief efforts through NVCF after the devastating fire on Nov. 8, 2018. The Wells Fargo Disaster Response and Recovery Fund has awarded an additional \$1.3 million since its inception.