By The Associated Press

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved public assistance for three Vermont counties hard-hit by spring flooding.Washington, Orange and Essex counties will get flood relief under the announcement made Monday by Gov. Peter Shumlin and the state's three-member congressional delegation.

Barre Mayor Thomas Lauzon says the inclusion of Orange County in the declaration is key to covering damage to the reservoir that serves the city's water system.

The reservoir, which sits just outside the Washington County border, sustained damages reaching $1.5 million as a result of flooding in May.