



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2009-025

DECLARING A DISASTER IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO DUE TO DROUGHT

WHEREAS, New Mexico is currently suffering through a prolonged and severe drought and the disastrous effects of high winds that have occurred from October 2008 and continuing through the present date;

WHEREAS, certain counties in the State of New Mexico have incurred physical damage and production losses to agriculture as a result of high temperatures, high winds, and prolonged lack of precipitation;

WHEREAS, the Counties of Otero, Lincoln, De Baca, Roosevelt, Lea, Eddy, and Chaves, in particular, and the Counties of Dona Ana, Torrance, Guadalupe, Quay, Curry, Sierra, and Socorro to a slightly lesser extent, have suffered the most from these prolonged conditions;

WHEREAS, hay, pasture, and forage crops in particular have been acutely affected by the severe drought conditions;

WHEREAS, the length and severity of the drought conditions have also caused extreme fire danger to exist across most of the State;

WHEREAS, recent precipitation has been isolated and insufficient to relieve the severe conditions caused by prolonged and pervasive dry conditions;

WHEREAS, the drought conditions are forecasted to continue well into the coming months and may in fact worsen;

WHEREAS, this disaster may require emergency action to protect the peace, health, and safety and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of New Mexico;

WHEREAS, this disaster is of such magnitude as to be beyond local control and may require the resources of the State to avoid or minimize economic or physical harm and to take action necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 12-11-25, emergency funds shall be expended by the Governor or any agent or agency designated by him either as a state project or for securing matching funds when the disaster is beyond local control and requires state resources to avoid or minimize economic or physical harm and to take action necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by the virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New Mexico do hereby declare a State of Disaster in the State of New Mexico due to drought.

I DIRECT the Department of Finance and Administration to make available emergency financial resources in an amount not to exceed **the unallocated remainder of the \$500,000 made available pursuant to Executive Order 2008-037** to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in accordance with NMSA 1978 §§, 12-11-23 through 12-11-25. The funds shall be expended for actions taken to avoid and minimize economic or physical harm and to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and shall be paid out only in an amount specified by warrants drawn by the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration upon vouchers approved by the Governor or the Governor's designee.

I FURTHER DIRECT the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to coordinate all requests for assistance and responses to such requests under the authority of and as determined by the Governor and his Authorized Representative and to request such aid and assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency as may be appropriate.

I FURTHER DIRECT the Adjutant General to order into service any elements of the New Mexico National Guard as are or may be needed to provide military support to civil authorities as needed for this emergency. This action is pursuant to and in accordance with NMSA 1978, §§ 20-1-1 through 20-1-8, NMSA 1978, §§ 20-2-1 through 20-2-8, and NMSA 1978, §§ 20-4-1 through 20-4-14. Such emergency assistance shall be provided during the period of need at the discretion of the Governor's Authorized Representative.

THIS ORDER supersedes any other previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the Governor rescinds it.

ATTEST:


MARY HERRERA
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS
29TH DAY OF JUNE, 2009

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO


BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

