

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Republican Legislators Secure Emergency Flood Relief for Hidalgo County

SANTA FE—Today, the Governor's office announced that Hidalgo County was to be included in the latest emergency declaration for severe flooding. Counties in southwest New Mexico were devastated by the second largest wildfire in New Mexico history, the Black Fire, earlier this year. Now this season's monsoon flooding has caused further environmental devastation with historic flash flooding in the burn scar.

"To see the towns and forest that I grew up in destroyed has been a gut wrenching experience," said **Senator Crystal Diamond** (District 35-Elephant Butte). "I am glad to see Hidalgo County specified in today's emergency declaration. Ignorance of the vast impact of these floods beyond Silver City is only missed by politicians disconnected from our people. I am glad to have dedicated public servants from my corner of the state who partnered with me in elevating this issue to the executive. I hope to see access to these funds extended to Sierra County and Catron County who were also badly damaged by recent flooding."

In the original emergency declaration issued last Thursday, only Grant County was listed as eligible for emergency aid despite the burn scar's impact on surrounding counties. Senator Diamond, Representative Dow, and Representative Terrazas all made public and personal appeals to the executive to have the order amended to include Hidalgo, Sierra, and Catron Counties in the declaration. As of today Sierra and Catron counties are working to have declarations signed in order to gain access to federal relief funding.

"Upon first glance, what's been lost in the fires and the floods may seem replaceable and tragically unavoidable," said **Representative Luis Terrazas** (District 39-Silver City). "Some people in Santa Fe seem to believe a few dollars to replace material goods is good enough. What is missed by the Santa Fe elite is the compounding impact of lockdown policy, devastating wildfires and historic flooding on our community. Bad forest and economic policy have destroyed generational ranch land, closed small business for good and ended family legacies in our community. I am glad that the executive heeded our advice, but this is a bandaid on a wound that they caused. There is still a lot of work to do."

"Historic mudslides and flooding are unfortunately just the latest symptom of the perennial neglect given to the bootheel of this state. I'm happy that my communities are getting the access to resources they deserve and so desperately need," added **Representative Rebecca Dow** (District 38-Truth or Consequences).

Attached below are the declaration and a picture of Representative Terrazas at a community meeting in Virden, New Mexico held in response to the farm floods.

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State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2022-129

DECLARING EMERGENCY IN HIDALGO COUNTY DUE TO FLOODING AND AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, Hidalgo County, specifically in and around the village of Virden, was severely impacted by flooding as a result of a monsoon rain event that began on August 12, 2022, and continued to August 23, 2022;

WHEREAS, the amount of rainfall that resulted from this monsoon rain event caused flooding that, according to the National Weather Service on Sunday August 21, 2022, the Gila River near the Village of Virden rose to 30.28 feet, breaking the all-time record water level for that gauge site;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service predicts further flooding of the Gila River due to continuing rains;

WHEREAS, this monsoon event prompted the Board of County Commissioners of Hidalgo County to issue a local disaster declaration on August 23, 2022;

WHEREAS, the local disaster declaration issued by Hidalgo County noted that the flooding from this monsoon event has resulted in damage to homes, left residences without water, and resulted in damage to public roadways, including washouts on Fuller Road, POW Road, Sky Ranch Road, Pine/Cemetery Road, Gin Road, McCarty Road, Old Animas Highway, Cloverdale Road, and C-001.

WHEREAS, the damage from this monsoon event has resulted in undue human suffering

and hardship and threatens the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens Hidalgo County.

WHEREAS, the local Disaster Declaration issued by Hidalgo County states that all local resources available have been insufficient to cope with the resulting situation and therefore Hidalgo County requests aid, assistance, relief programs, and funding from the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, this disaster is of such magnitude as to be beyond local control and requires the resources of the State of New Mexico to minimize economic or physical harm and to take actions necessary to protect the public peace, health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Mexico do hereby **DECLARE** a state of emergency to exist in Hidalgo County due to the severe flooding from the monsoon rain event that began on August 12, 2022, and continued to August 23, 2022, and **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. The Department of Finance and Administration shall make available emergency financial resources in an amount not to exceed seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 12-11-23 to -25, and NMSA 1978, Sections 12-10-14 to -15. The funds shall be expended for the resources and services necessary to avoid or minimize economic or physical harm until the situation becomes stabilized; on a temporary, emergency basis for lodging, sheltering, health care, food, any transportation or shipping necessary to protect lives or public property; or for any other action necessary to protect the public health, safety, welfare, and property. The funds shall be expended in accordance with the policy and procedures of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as approved by the Governor or

the Governor's Authorized Representative.

2. The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management shall coordinate all requests for assistance and responses to such requests under the authority of and as determined by the Governor and her Authorized Representative. In addition to such other eligibility criteria as may be established by the Governor and her Authorized Representative, applicants requesting financial assistance from the State for necessary action taken in response to the emergency shall be required to demonstrate that the cost of the necessary action exceeds their available resources, as determined based upon criteria developed in conjunction with the State agencies (if any) with financial and budgetary oversight responsibilities for the applicant.

3. The Adjutant General shall 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, Sections 20-1-1 to -8, NMSA 1978, Sections 20-2-1 to -8, and NMSA 1978, Sections 20-4-1 to -14. Such emergency assistance shall be provided during the period of need at the discretion of the Governor's Authorized Representative.

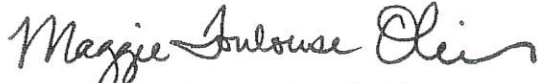
4. All Cabinet Departments and agencies under gubernatorial control shall provide any assistance that may be required by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management or by the State Emergency Operations Center under the authority of the Governor's Authorized Representative.

I FURTHER ORDER and DIRECT as follows:

1. This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until renewed, modified, or rescinded.

ATTEST:



MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 12TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2022

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



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

