



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Richardson Extends Disaster Declaration to Five Additional Flood Affected Counties

(Santa Fe, NM) Governor Bill Richardson, last Wednesday, signed an Executive Order declaring a state of disaster for eight flood affected counties. Today, the Governor added Luna, Otero, Cibola, Harding, and Rio Arriba counties to the disaster declaration. This is the fourth executive order issued by Governor Richardson in the past six weeks to cover flood related damage.

For the past two weeks New Mexico has been deluged with heavy rain and thunderstorms causing communities and cities to incur damage to roads, canals, and other pieces of public infrastructure. The State of New Mexico Office of Emergency Management, in conjunction with local officials, is scheduling site visits to the affected counties to assess initial damage estimates associated with the flooding. The Governor's Executive Order will provide emergency money available to the counties to help recover some eligible costs associated with the flooding.

"Counties continue to suffer damage from these powerful thunderstorms," Governor Richardson said. "I am committed to include all counties in need of state disaster assistance, so they can begin to rebuild as soon as possible."

The disaster declaration makes all affected counties eligible for reimbursement, at a 75%- 25% state-local split, for expenses such as overtime for public safety personnel, road, water line, and sewer repairs, and other public assistance needs created by the storm. The money comes from the state disaster relief fund.