



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Richardson to Seek Presidential Disaster Declaration for Alamogordo

Request for federal assistance would supplement state emergency funds

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson announced today that he will seek a presidential disaster declaration for the city of Alamogordo to help rebuild following the flooding on June 22. The Governor is requesting the federal declaration nearly one week after he declared parts of Alamogordo a disaster in order to free up as much as \$750,000 in state emergency funds.

The State of New Mexico Office of Emergency Management made a preliminary visit to assess the damage with city officials last week. As many as 106 homes have been affected and it is estimated that clean up cost will approach \$5.2 million.

“I am committed to provide all possible assistance to the people of Alamogordo, and we will do everything we can to ensure federal assistance to help the city rebuild,” Governor Richardson said.

On Friday, the Governor requested FEMA join State Emergency Management officials to conduct a joint assessment and tour the area surveying public roads, parks and infrastructure damaged by the flood. Alamogordo was struck by a severe thunderstorm which caused tons of rock, debris, and mud to demolish concrete culverts sending mud, water, and boulders into homes and the streets of the community. The results of the joint assessment will be used to determine if Alamogordo would qualify for a Major Disaster declaration.

The presidential disaster declaration request, if granted, would make Alamogordo eligible for reimbursement from the federal government. Costs that will be covered will include labor, equipment, materials, and contract work associated with the cleanup. Pavement, curb and gutter, and culvert restoration will also be included in the request. A presidential declaration is a difficult order to obtain and the timeline for the process is unknown. Governor Richardson's request will direct the Office of Emergency Management to coordinate the assistance.

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