



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson Requests Federal Disaster Assistance for Taos and Rio Arriba Counties

If Approved, Counties to be Eligible for Federal Public Assistance

(Santa Fe, NM) – Governor Bill Richardson today formally requested that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) include Taos and Rio Arriba Counties in the Presidential Disaster Declaration that was awarded to New Mexico in late August. This action follows a joint damage assessment -- conducted in late September between the New Mexico Office of Emergency Management and FEMA -- that indicated flooding damage to roads, bridges, culverts, utilities, buildings and equipment.

“I am pleased that FEMA has acted quickly following my requests for flooding assistance earlier this summer and I hope that positive relationship will continue,” said Governor Richardson. “Taos and Rio Arriba Counties need and deserve this aid.”

Since July 26, nineteen New Mexico counties have faced severe flooding. Since the onset of flooding, emergency protective measures and debris removal have been underway. With the presidential disaster declaration, Taos and Rio Arriba Counties would be eligible to receive federal funds to cover eligible expenses like labor, equipment, materials, and contract work associated with recent flooding. With the Public Assistance federal aid program, the federal government will cover 75% of the county’s cost associated with the flooding, the state will cover 18%, and the local government will cover 7% of the total cost.

Previous counties designated for Public Assistance include: Cibola, Dona Ana, Grant, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Luna, Mora, Otero, San Miguel, Sandoval, Sierra, Socorro, Torrance and Valencia bringing the total number of counties under the current declaration for Public Assistance to seventeen.

Governor Richardson has also declared a state disaster in 19 New Mexico flood-impacted counties to free up millions of dollars in state funds for emergency response and clean up.