



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Contact: Carrie B. Moritomo
(Cell) (505) 699-2318

Governor Richardson Requests Presidential Disaster Declaration for 9 Additional New Mexico Counties

(Santa Fe, NM) – Governor Bill Richardson has requested that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) add nine additional counties to the Presidential Disaster Declaration awarded to New Mexico last week. The nine counties are Grant, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Mora, Sandoval, San Miguel, Sierra, and Torrance. With the presidential disaster declaration, the newly listed counties would be eligible to receive federal funds to cover eligible expenses like labor, equipment, materials, and contract work associated with recent flooding.

On August 30, President Bush officially declared seven counties in New Mexico a major disaster area. These were Lincoln, Socorro, Otero, Luna, Dona Ana, Cibola, and Valencia.

“Flooding has hit New Mexico communities very hard this year,” said Governor Richardson. “I will continue to work to provide whatever state and federal assistance is available to help these communities clean up and get back in business.”

During the week of August 21, the nine counties were visited by representatives from FEMA and state emergency management officials who conducted a joint damage assessment examining public infrastructure damaged by flooding. The most severe impacts are to roads, bridges, culverts, utilities, buildings, water control facilities, and equipment. Since the onset of flooding, emergency protective measures and debris removal have been underway.

Governor Richardson has declared nineteen counties in New Mexico state disaster areas and freed up millions of dollars in state funds for emergency response and clean up. Additionally, preliminary data is being collected for Taos, Rio Arriba, and McKinley counties to determine if they will be eligible for federal funding.

Governor Bill Richardson traveled to Washington, DC last week to meet with David Paulison, Director of FEMA, to personally request federal assistance for flood damaged areas in New Mexico.