



# State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Governor*

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-084**

### **DROUGHT DECLARATION**

WHEREAS, New Mexico has experienced a significant and extended drought since January 2018; and

WHEREAS, according to the October 20, 2020 U.S. Drought Monitor, which reflects drought conditions, 100 percent of New Mexico has been classified as being in a drought condition with approximately 85% of the State classified as severe drought or worse, with approximately 67% classified as extreme drought; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico river basins have experienced Water Year 2020 precipitation ranging from 55% to 80% of normal with an estimated 50% of the basins receiving less than half of normal; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 80% of the State has received less than one-half of its normal rainfall through the monsoon season; and

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, Water Year 2020 stream flows ranged from 5% to 81% of average with 20 of 21 river basins below average; and

WHEREAS, these water supply conditions have left usable water stored in New Mexico reservoirs at an estimated 20% of average; and

WHEREAS, these combined conditions have resulted in extreme shortage of soil moisture in farmlands, rangelands, and forests; and

WHEREAS, no single definition of drought works in all circumstances, which makes it much more difficult to discern as compared to other natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and tornadoes; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is susceptible to numerous natural disasters associated with drought, including agricultural loss, severe wildfires, and flooding after severe wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the drinking water supplies of many New Mexico communities are being negatively impacted by the drought; and

WHEREAS, it will take a considerable amount of precipitation and snow melt runoff to return the soil moisture conditions and vegetation health to normal levels; and

WHEREAS, fire conditions in many areas of New Mexico reached a critical stage this summer and are unlikely to improve while the drought persists; and

WHEREAS, the current U.S. seasonal drought outlook from the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center states that the drought will likely persist across all of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, this drought is of such magnitude as to be beyond local control and to require additional resources; and

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures may be necessary to protect public health, ensure public safety and well-being, and provide for the economic stability of New Mexico.

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 Laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby declare a state of emergency due to drought conditions statewide, and declare that the drought is of such magnitude that it constitutes a disaster beyond local

control that requires the resources of the State; and

I URGE New Mexico's counties, municipalities, and local governments to strongly consider implementing appropriate firework bans and other reasonable fire prevention measures, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 60-2C-8.

I ORDER the New Mexico Drought Task Force to review current and ongoing drought mitigation activities and recommend actions to the Governor and to other governing bodies within the state in accordance with the All Hazard Emergency Management Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 12-10-1 through 12-10-10.

I FURTHER ORDER the New Mexico Drought Task Force to recommend to the Governor recipients and objects of emergency funding, pursuant to and in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 12-11-23 through 12-11-25.

THIS ORDER supersedes any other previous orders, proclamations, or directives that conflict with it. This executive order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it is rescinded by the Governor.

ATTEST:



MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
THIS 9TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2020

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



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

