



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2023-128

DECLARING EMERGENCY IN LAS CRUCES, ALBUQUERQUE, AND SANTA ROSA DUE TO SEVERE DAMAGE TO STATE HIGHWAYS

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2023, a tanker truck hauling fuel struck the concrete wall barrier on the I-10 Eastbound to I-25 Northbound flyover ramp in Las Cruces, igniting the fuel and engulfing the bridge and roadway in flames and causing substantial damage to the bridge deck, concrete wall barrier, abutment wall, and asphalt pavement;

WHEREAS, on or about August 5, 2023, a fire began and burned for three days, eventually completely destroying a timber bridge structure on NM 91 at Milepost 0.83 (otherwise known as South 3rd Street) over the El Rito Creek in Santa Rosa, NM;

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2023, the Albuquerque area received a historic amount of rainfall, leading to significant flooding which, among other things, created a massive sinkhole in the Embudo channel between Eastbound and Westbound I-40 just east of San Pedro;

WHEREAS, temporary and permanent repairs occasioned by these three sudden unexpected disastrous occurrences will cost millions of dollars, the exact amount of which has not yet been determined;

WHEREAS, 23 U.S.C. § 125 authorizes federal emergency funds to be expended for the repair or reconstruction of highways and roads that the Secretary of the United States Department

of Transportation finds have suffered serious damage as a result of a natural disaster or catastrophic failure from any external cause; and

WHEREAS, 23 U.S.C. § 125 further provides that no funds shall be so expended unless an emergency has been declared by the governor of the state with concurrence by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation.


NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby **DECLARE** that a state of emergency exists in Las Cruces, Albuquerque, and Santa Rosa due to these disasters. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until the Secretary of the Department of Transportation determines the emergency has subsided.

ATTEST:


MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 29TH DAY OF AUGUST 2023

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


MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

