



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2024-127

AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR THE NEW MEXICO NATIONAL GUARD DUE TO THE SOUTH FORK FIRE AND SALT FIRE

WHEREAS, Lincoln County was severely impacted by the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire, both of which began on June 17, 2024;

WHEREAS, the South Fork and Salt Fire have burned over 25,000 acres, collectively;

WHEREAS, the South Fork and Salt Fires have claimed the lives of two people and impacted over 1,400 structures;

WHEREAS, the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire have led to the evacuations of the Village of Ruidoso and many nearby communities;

WHEREAS, the Village of Ruidoso and the Mescalero Apache Reservation have both declared a local state of emergency as a result of the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire;

WHEREAS, the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire prompted Lincoln County to declare a local state of emergency on June 17, 2024;

WHEREAS, the local state of emergency issued by Lincoln County notes that all available local resources are insufficient to alleviate the emergency and repair impacted infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the local state of emergency issued by Lincoln County requests financial aid and material assistance from the State of New Mexico;

WHEREAS, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham initially declared a state of emergency for in Lincoln County and the Mescalero Apache Reservation due to the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire

on June 18, 2024;

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico has officially submitted a request that the President of the United States grant a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of New Mexico for the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire;

WHEREAS, President Biden issued the requested Major Disaster Declaration on June 20, 2024;

WHEREAS, the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire have resulted in widespread hazardous debris, which contains potentially dangerous toxins, including heavy metals and asbestos, and which must be cautiously and expeditiously removed and properly disposed of;

WHEREAS, Governor Lujan Grisham declared an emergency as a result of the ash and fire debris resulting from the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire on June 25, 2024;

WHEREAS, the New Mexico National Guard plays a key role in responding to natural disasters such as the South Fork and Salt Fires; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico National Guard requires additional funding to continue its efforts to protect public peace, health, and safety in the aftermath of the South Fork and Salt Fires.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Howie Morales, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Mexico and acting Governor pursuant to Article V, Section 7 of the New Mexico Constitution, do hereby **DECLARE** a state of emergency to exist in Lincoln County and the Mescalero Apache Reservation due to the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire, and **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. The Department of Finance and Administration shall make available emergency financial resources in an amount not to exceed seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) to the New Mexico National Guard in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 12-11-23 to -25, and NMSA 1978, Sections 12-10-14 to -15. Such funds shall be expended for the

purposes of avoiding or minimizing economic and physical harm; protecting the public health, safety, welfare; and providing emergency and disaster relief, including but not limited to the payment of any expenses incident to the provision of humanitarian relief and other assistance to civil authorities. Such funds shall be paid out upon warrants drawn by the Secretary of Finance and Administration upon vouchers approved by the Governor or an agent or agency designated by her for that purpose.

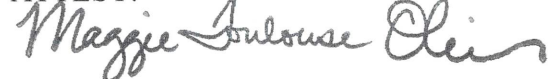
2. The Adjutant General shall order into service any elements of the New Mexico National Guard as are or may be needed to provide military support to civil authorities as needed for this emergency. This action is pursuant to and in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 20-1-1 to -8, NMSA 1978, Sections 20-2-1 to -8, and NMSA 1978, Sections 20-4-1 to -14. Such emergency assistance shall be provided during the period of need at the discretion of the Governor or her Authorized Representative.

I FURTHER ORDER and DIRECT as follows:

1. This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until all authorized funds are expended or no longer necessary to provide emergency assistance.

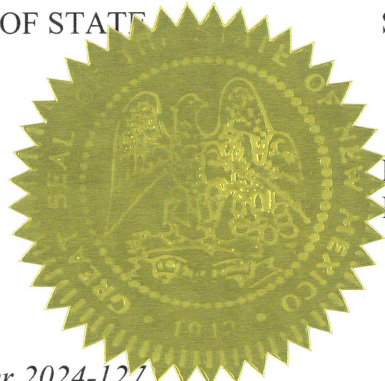
ATTEST:



MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 19TH DAY OF AUGUST 2024

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



HOWIE MORALES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR