



# State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Governor*

## EXECUTIVE ORDER 2024-203

### AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DUE TO WILDFIRES AND FLOODING IN LINCOLN COUNTY

**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 Fire and Salt Fire burned over 25,000 acres, collectively;

**WHEREAS**, the Ruidoso Downs Racetrack is downstream of a watershed in Lincoln County that was severely impacted by the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire;

**WHEREAS**, monsoonal rain patterns have repeatedly impacted the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire burn scars—which interact with four other active burn scars in the region—producing high levels of mudflow and debris flow that are continuously threatening public infrastructure and residences;

**WHEREAS**, the postfire debris flows into a water channel that goes directly through the Ruidoso Downs Racetrack, which has resulted in both a partial culvert collapse on the west end of the racetrack, as well as a full collapse of a culvert at the east end of the racetrack;

**WHEREAS**, the culvert and road structure at the racetrack is in a state of complete failure due to these collapses;

**WHEREAS**, segments of the structure are already flowing downstream, and the remaining portions of the structure will very likely also flow downstream;

**WHEREAS**, these impacts pose a severe threat to the communities and public infrastructure which lie directly upstream and downstream of the Racetrack; and

**WHEREAS**, this disaster is of such magnitude as to be beyond local control and requires the resources of the State of New Mexico to minimize economic or physical harm and to take actions necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

**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 the laws of the State of New Mexico do hereby **DECLARE** a state of emergency to exist in Lincoln County due to wildfires and flooding, 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 Department of Transportation 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, and 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 her Authorized Representative.

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

3. 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*

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
THIS 20TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2024

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

*Michelle Lujan Grisham*

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

