



City of Las Vegas

1700 N. Grand Avenue | Las Vegas, NM 87701 | T 505.454.1401 | lasvegasnm.gov

Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Whereas, on April 6, 2022, the U.S. Forest Service initiated a prescribed burn on federal land in the Santa Fe National Forest in San Miguel County, New Mexico, when erratic winds were prevalent in the area that was also suffering from severe drought after many years of insufficient precipitation;

Whereas, on April 12, 2022, said prescribed burn, which became known as the “Hermit’s Peak Fire”, exceeded the containment capabilities of the U.S. Forest Service, was reclassified as a wildland burn, and spread to other federal and non-federal land, quickly becoming characterized as a wildfire;

Whereas, on April 19, 2022, the Calf Canyon Fire, also in San Miguel County, New Mexico, began burning on federal land;

Whereas, on April 27, 2022, the Hermit’s Peak Fire and the Calf Canyon Fire merged;

Whereas, by May 2, 2022, the merged fire had grown in size and caused evacuations in multiple villages and communities in San Miguel County and Mora County, including San Miguel county jail, the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute, the United World College, and New Mexico Highlands University’

Whereas, on May 4, 2022, President Biden issued a major disaster declaration for the counties of Colfax, Mora, and San Miguel, New Mexico;

Whereas, on June 3, 2022, New Mexico governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed and issued Executive Order 2022-077, declaring an emergency in San Miguel County, New Mexico due to ash and fire debris resulting from the Cooks, Hermit’s Peak and Calf Canyon fires;

Whereas, the merged fire resulted in the loss of federal, state, local, tribal and private property, including thousands of acres of the watershed for the Gallinas River, which is the primary source of municipal water for the City and surrounding areas;

Whereas, the burn scar of the Gallinas River watershed has resulted in thousands of acres of scorched forest, flooding, ash, and fire debris;

Whereas, with each precipitation event in the Gallinas River watershed, large amounts of ash and other fire-related debris, including trees and rocks, are deposited into the Gallinas River;

Whereas, the City relies almost exclusively on the water from the Gallinas River for its municipal water source;

David Ulibarri
Councilor Ward I

Michael Montoya
Councilor Ward 2

Barbara Casey
Councilor Ward 3

David G. Romero
Councilor Ward 4



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Whereas, the large amounts of ash and turbidity in the Gallinas River have prevented the City from pulling water off the Gallinas River, as the City's municipal water treatment facility is not able to treat water containing such large amounts of ash and turbidity;

Whereas, the City is currently relying solely on its reservoirs, which currently contain less than fifty (50) days of stored water at the current City consumption rate;

Whereas, the burn scar also creates the likelihood of injurious flooding to the Gallinas River, and all improvements and infrastructure which are currently located within the Gallinas River flood zone;

Whereas, the City's Mayor has determined that it is in the best interest of the City and the public health, safety and welfare of the City's residents and visitors to issue this declaration of emergency; and

Whereas, pursuant to Section 3.02(C) of the City Charter, the Mayor is recognized as the head of the City government for purposes of responding to civil emergencies.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Louie Trujillo, Mayor of the City of Las Vegas, New Mexico, on this 27th day of July, 2022, due to the safety and health emergencies created by recent wildfires, and ongoing injury and damage from flooding, ash, and fire debris caused by the wildfires, and the increased risk of water supply, water quality and other water-related issues for the foreseeable future, in response to the aforementioned civil emergency hereby declare a state of emergency to exist in the City of Las Vegas, New Mexico, and the aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein by reference.



Mayor Louie Trujillo

Attest:



City Clerk Casandra Fresquez

David Ulibarri
Councilor Ward I

Michael Montoya
Councilor Ward 2

Barbara Casey
Councilor Ward 3

David G. Romero
Councilor Ward 4