



**SIERRA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION № 109-078**

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DROUGHT DISASTER

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Sierra County, met in a regular meeting on May 18, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. in the Sierra County Administration Office, 855 Van Patten, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1 (1995) provides that Counties have the power to, “provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants”; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA, 1978, Section 4-38-18 (1976) provides that a Board of County Commissioners generally has the duty and authority “[t]o represent the county;” and,

WHEREAS, Sierra County is suffering from severe drought conditions due to significantly low moisture, a non-existent monsoon season, late frost conditions, extreme heat, strong winds, and wildland fire conditions that have increased to an extreme condition; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Sierra County Commissioners resolve that said conditions constitute a disaster of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the County, or even the State of New Mexico, and that Federal assistance is necessary, and there are few emergency plans available to alleviate the damage and economic chaos resulting from these drought conditions; and,

WHEREAS, Sierra County does not have the financial resources to respond to this disaster; and,

WHEREAS, stock dirt tanks, arroyos, springs, the Rio Grande and other water sources are drying up and are unable to provide the necessary water for livestock, irrigation, wildlife and fire-fighting resources, and,

WHEREAS, according to the US Agricultural Census there are 1,012,233 acres of agricultural land in Sierra County the majority of which is pastureland, with 7,417 acres of irrigated cropland, that are affected by this drought; and,

WHEREAS, as reflected in Exhibit A, the United States Drought Monitor currently shows all of Sierra County in Severe drought conditions with no signs of immediate improvement as shown below; and,

WHEREAS, contiguous counties have enacted or are considering enacting a Drought Disaster Resolution; and

WHEREAS, numerous other acres of New Mexico and surrounding states are also experiencing drought conditions which has threatened the availability of alternate sources of hay and forage, and the price of hay and forage; and,

WHEREAS, this natural disaster is exacerbated by the current COVID-19 resulting in disastrously low commodity prices and decreased ability to market agriculture products or livestock; and,

WHEREAS, the livestock and wildlife industry is important to Sierra County, the State of New Mexico, and the nation's economy and should be preserved; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Sierra County by virtue of the County's general power and the authority provided by the New Mexico Civil Emergency Preparedness Act (NMSA 1978, §§ 12-10-01 to 12-10-21) does hereby declare the drought event to be an emergency/disaster for the purposes of exercising necessary emergency powers and expenditure of available resources, and requesting aid, assistance, and relief programs, and funds from the State of New Mexico and the Government of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the drought conditions in the County of Sierra is hereby declared to be a continuing disaster in consideration of the extent of potential damage and the unceasing severity of conditions.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Sierra County Commissioners requests that the Governor of the State of New Mexico also declare an emergency and disaster for Sierra County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Sierra County Commissioners respectfully petitions the Governor of the State of New Mexico and the President of the United States to provide with all dispatch any remedies and state and/or federal assistance available for this type of emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor's Office the Office of the President of the United States, to members of the New Mexico Legislature and to the New Mexico Congressional delegation.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND RESOLVED this 18th day of May, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SIERRA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Jim Paxon, Chairman

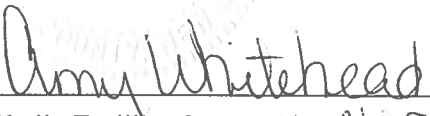


Travis Day, Vice-Chair



Hank Hopkins, Commissioner



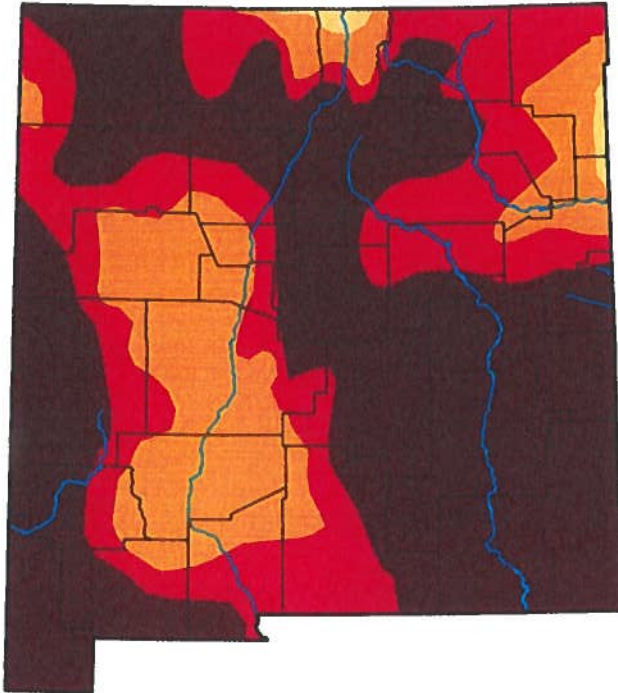


Shelly Trujillo, County Clerk *Chief Deputy*







Exhibit A

U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico

April 20, 2021
(Released Thursday, Apr. 22, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu