

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

CURRY COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-54

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CURRY COUNTY A DISASTER AREA

WHEREAS, Curry County is a rural County, existing primarily of farming and ranching acreage with numerous dairies and agricultural/livestock related businesses throughout the rural areas; and,

WHEREAS, Curry County has approximately 1357 miles of caliche, dirt and sand roads that are maintained solely by the Curry County Road Department; and,

WHEREAS, during a six-month period of time, from March through September of 2017, Curry County experienced extremely wet conditions which included numerous severe or large thunderstorms that produced several inches of rain and hail throughout Curry County. Including storms on

- March 23rd, 2017;
- May 9th, 2017;
- June 26, 2017;
- June 30th, 2017 through July 1, 2017;
- July 3rd, 2017 through July 5th, 2017;
- July 22nd, 2017;
- July 30th, 2017;
- August 9th, 2017;
- August 22nd, 2017;
- September 22nd, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, the continuous rainfall over this seven-month period from March 2017 through September 2017 completely saturated the ground making many roads impassable and created extreme difficulties and effectively prevented Curry County from working on and maintaining a vast number of roads throughout this period; and,

WHEREAS, on or around October 4th, 2017 Curry County was hit by another large thunderstorm that produced multiple inches of rain throughout the entire County; and,

WHEREAS, the County roads are necessary for the citizens of Curry County to travel back and forth, and continued use of these roads has worsened the conditions caused by the storms, and many roads and intersections in Curry County have been either completely washed out or severely eroded, and the bar ditches that normally handle the flow of water have been compromised and filled with run-off, dirt, and sand. In addition, numerous culverts have been washed up or exposed; and,

WHEREAS, the extensive damage that the rain, hail, and continuous and prolonged moisture over this eight (8) month period caused to Curry County Roads has

overwhelmed Curry County resources and far exceeds the County's financial ability to repair the same. The damage to the roads is vast and widespread. Curry County is a rural area and most of these damaged or destroyed roads need to be repaired or rebuilt as quickly as possible as they are the only means of access by individuals to their property, by school buses for picking up and delivering children, by farm ranch and other businesses in maintaining and continuing their operation, and by emergency services and first responders to provide services in the County; and,

WHEREAS, the damage to the Curry County roads since March of 2017 has resulted, and continues to result in undue hardship and threatens the health, safety, welfare, and well-being of the citizens of Curry County as well as the economic function of these citizens and Curry County. Curry County has been utilizing all of its available resources to the point that County equipment and personnel are unable to repair the damage caused by the severe rain, and prolonged water damage and, are unable to maintain all of the other County roads that have not been as badly affected, damaged or destroyed by the storms; and,

WHEREAS, all locally available public and private resources and forces committed to mitigating damage caused by this eight-month period of storms and alleviate the damage have been overwhelmed and are deemed insufficient to cope with the current situation or complete repairs or restore the roads; and,

WHEREAS, in order to reconcile and balance the Curry County Road budget for the 2018 Fiscal Year, the County had to transfer \$1,232,659.00 from the general fund to the County Road Fund, as the road revenue is not self-sufficient to cover the needs of the County and handle catastrophic damage caused by the severe weather over this eight-month period.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Curry County, acting pursuant to the New Mexico Civil Emergency Preparedness Act (§ 12-10-1 to 12-10-11, NMSA 1978), as a result of the damage to County roads, concern for further damage and additional hardship do, by this Resolution, hereby declare Curry County a disaster area for the purposes of exercising necessary emergency powers and expenditure of available resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Curry County that the damages and hardships that Curry County has sustained and suffered are to the extent that Curry County is in need of and is requesting aid, assistance and relief programs and funding as may be available from the State of New Mexico and/or Federal Funds which may be available to the State of New Mexico.

Done on this 7th day of November, 2017.

CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ben McDaniel

Ben McDaniel, Chairman

Angelina Baca

Angelina Baca, Vice-Chair

Chet Spear

Chet Spear, Commissioner

Vacant, Commissioner, District # 4

Robert Thornton

Robert Thornton, Commissioner



Annie Hogland
Annie Hogland, County Clerk

REVIEWED FOR LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Stephen Doerr
Stephen Doerr, County Attorney