



**VALENCIA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY RESOLUTION № 2022-37**

**DECLARING A DISASTER IN THE COUNTY OF VALENCIA FOR THE
BIG HOLE FIRE EVENT**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners met in an Emergency Meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 12:30 p.m. at the Valencia County Administration Building, 444 Luna Avenue, Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 4-38-1 (1884) the powers of a county as a body politic and corporate shall be exercised by a board of county commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1 (1975) recognizes that the County is granted “[the same powers that are granted municipalities except for those powers that are inconsistent with statutory or constitutional limitations placed on counties. Included in this grant of powers to the counties are those powers necessary and proper 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, on Monday, April 11, 2022 the Big Hole Fire in the Belen Bosque area North of River Road ignited and due to extreme drought conditions and high winds is currently burning out of control; and,

WHEREAS, currently evacuations are in progress for all neighborhoods in the area of Los Chapulinas and for those living near Nighthawk Lane. Evacuees are reporting to the Belen Community Center at 305 Eagle Lane in Belen and voluntary evacuations have been ordered by the Valencia County Sheriff’s Office for areas south on Gabaldon Road; and,

WHEREAS, structures have burned and many more homes and building are in danger of burning as firefighters, the Sheriff's Office and County staff are working heroically to save them; and,

WHEREAS, at this time 1 firefighter has been injured, nineteen structures, including one residence, have be destroyed and 850 acres have been burned while the fire remains 0% contained; and,

WHEREAS, the County has activated its emergency management resources and opened as shelter at the Del Rio Community Center in Rio Communities, the Sheriff's Posse is taking in at risk livestock and the Valencia Animal Control Shelter is taking in at risk pets; and,

WHEREAS, the Open Meectings Act, NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 (F) (2013) provides in pertinent part that "[e]xcept in the case of an emergency or in the case of a public body that ordinarily meets more frequently than once per week, at least seventy-two hours (72) hours prior to the meeting, the agenda shall be available to the public and posted on the public body's web site, if one is maintained. [] Except for emergency matters, a public body shall take action only on items appearing on the agenda. For purposes of this Subsection, an "emergency" refers to unforeseen circumstances that, if not addressed immediately by the public body, will likely result in injury or damage to persons or property or substantial financial loss to the public body;" and,

WHEREAS, the unforeseen damage has resulted in undue human and animal suffering and hardship and threats the safety, health welfare, and well-being of citizens and the economic function of the County of Valencia and if not addressed immediately by the County Commission, will likely result in injury or damage to persons or property or substantial financial loss to Valencia County; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted pursuant to the All Hazard Emergency Management Act, NSMA 1978, Section 12-10-1 *et seq.*, and particularly NMSA 1978, Section 12-10-5 (2007), the Board authorizes the use of all available resources of the County to assist in the County's response to this situation.

WHEREAS, all locally available public and private resources and forces available to mitigate and alleviate the damage are deemed insufficient to cope with the resulting situation, initiate repairs and meet restoration requirements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Valencia 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 12-10-11) does hereby declare the Big Hole fire event in the afore. described areas the County of Valencia 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.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Hole Fire in the County of Valencia is hereby declared to be a continuing disaster in consideration of the extent of damage and the unceasing severity of the dry conditions and high winds.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 12th day of April 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Gerard Saiz, Chairman
District I



Jhonathan Aragon, Vice-Chairman
District V

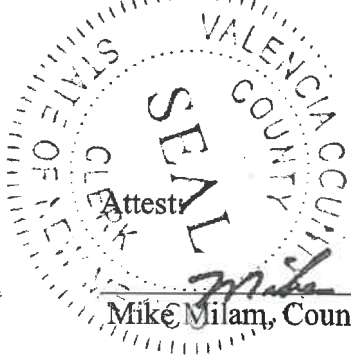
Troy Richardson, Commissioner
District II



David A. Hyder, Commissioner
District III



Joseph Bizzell, Commissioner
District IV



Attest:



Mike Milam, County Clerk