Resolution 041-2013

Declaring Emergency/Disaster Declaration from Flooding Caused by the Whitewater-Baldy Fire & Other Recent Catastrophic Wildfires

WHEREAS, the County of Catron has suffered damages caused by the Whitewater-Baldy Fire, Bear Wallow Fire and other recent wildfires located in the State of New Mexico, and the continuing threat from the Whitewater-Baldy Fire, Bear Wallow Fire and other recent wildfires, and their impacts to Catron County continue for the foreseeable future; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Catron County Commission declared a state of emergency/disaster from June 8, 2012 through September 2012 (Resolution 054-2012), and, the Governor of New Mexico declared emergency, providing funding due to enhanced flooding potential due to Whitewater-Baldy wildfire (Executive Orders 2011-040 and 2012-007); and,

WHEREAS, since September 2012, the possibility of disastrous flooding continues to exist with heightened potential of flooding due to the accumulated snow pack; if precipitation events occur over the threshold set by the National Weather Service (0.25 inches in 1/2 hour, or 0.50 inches in 1 hour) for potential severe flooding; and,

WHEREAS, since September 2012, communities, households and agricultural producers have experienced black soot from recent flooding that clogs domestic wells, destroying potable household water supplies; and, spreading toxic black water into irrigated fields, destroying agricultural crops; and,

WHEREAS, due to continued impending threat to Catron County from the possibility of destructive flooding, as well as the impending severe wildfire season; extensive costs have impacted Catron County and its residents in preparing and taking defensible actions on public property, roads, public utilities, and private property, valuable agricultural areas and infrastructure, including acequias irrigation systems along the San Francisco River and its

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tributaries located in the projected paths of the Whitewater-Baldy, Bear Wallow and other recent wildfires; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Catron will suffer severe flooding caused by the Whitewater-Baldy, Bear Wallow and other recent wildfires to public property, roads, public utilities, and private property, agricultural production and irrigation fields, clogging and poisoning wells and agricultural crops, creating deep cutting erosion, significant soil loss, and gullies located in and around the paths of these catastrophic wildfires; and,

WHEREAS, rains will cause flooding that is aggravated by dangerous debris, resulting from the Whitewater-Baldy, Bear Wallow Fire and other recent wildfires creating hazardous conditions that could result in significant property damage, threats to human safety; and,

WHEREAS, systematic capital improvements and flood prevention planning is an effective tool for protecting and improving the infrastructure to acequias irrigation systems, and communities and counties to define our development needs, establish priorities, and pursue concrete mitigation actions and strategies to achieve necessary project development; and,

WHEREAS, due to the Whitewater-Baldy Fire, Bear Wallow Fire and other recent wildfires in Catron County; and impending threat from severe flooding after the fires, resources and the Catron County Emergency Operations Center have been pre-positioned and activated mitigation measures for the local communities, but the irrigated systems infrastructure remains the highest at-risk with the need for mitigation; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Catron and its residents have equipment and manpower that continues to be used to take defensible actions and to protect and repair damages in communities from flooding resulting from the Whitewater-Baldy Fire, Bear Wallow Fire and other recent wildfires; and,

WHEREAS, all locally available public and private resources and forces available to mitigate and alleviate the threat and impending damage from fire and flooding are deemed insufficient to cope with the resulting situation, to initiate pre-suppression activities, pre-flooding control, conduct structure protection, and implement and assist with suppression and flood control actions; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority provided by the New Mexico All Hazard Emergency Management Act (NMSA 1978, 12-10-01 to 12-10-11), the Board of Catron County Commission does hereby declare the San Francisco River basin in the County of Catron to be an emergency/disaster area; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, under the provisions of the All Hazard Emergency Management Act, Chapter 12, Article 10, Section 9, Existing services and facilities to be used by agency. Catron County Commission does hereby request assistance from existing departments, offices and agencies of the state to cooperate with Catron County Commission, pursuant to this County declaration, especially in monitoring, flood mitigation and prevention, an especially in
the protection of at-risk agricultural infrastructure exposed to flood destruction and loss of associated loss water rights, pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order 2012-007.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of March, 2013 in regular session of the Catron County Commission, at Reserve, Catron County, New Mexico.

ATTEST:
M. Keith Riddle, Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CATRON COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Glyn Griffin, Chairman

Richard McGuire, Member

Van J. Allred, Member