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STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Roy Romer
Governor

DECLARING A DISASTER EMERGENCY IN COLORADO DUE TO THE IMMINENT THREAT OF WILDLFIRE, DROUGHT AND SEVERE WEATHER

- WHEREAS, major portions of Colorado have been experiencing drought due to prolonged below normal precipitation; and
- WHEREAS, the lack of precipitation has been aggravated by above normal temperatures and high winds; and
- WHEREAS, tree fuel moisture is at all time lows in Southern and Western portions of the state; and
- WHEREAS, thirty one counties, mostly in the Southern and Western areas of the state, have issued bans on open burning to reduce the risk of human caused fires; and
- WHEREAS, these conditions have resulted in severe impacts to agriculture, groundwater and municipal water systems, and in a large number of wildland and grassland fire incidents; and
- WHEREAS, as a result of these impacts, I directed the activation of the State Drought Response Plan, intensified the state's monitoring and preparedness activities, and have sought assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and
- WHEREAS, I, along with other Western governors, have sent a letter seeking relief and assistance from the U.S. Congress to address drought impacts; and
- WHEREAS, the state of Colorado is participating with the federal Administration's appointed Federal Drought and Emergency Assistance Task Force to address drought impacts; and
- WHEREAS, the Colorado State Forester has indicated that the present conditions present an imminent threat of additional wildland and grassland fires; and
- WHEREAS, the fire fighting costs and other expenses related to drought are starting to escalate beyond the capacity of routine funding mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, the state has recently experienced severe summer weather in the form of tornadoes, hail, and flooding which has caused considerable damage in areas such as Buffalo Creek in Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS, these conditions of drought, fire risk and severe weather are projected to persist throughout the rest of the summer and fall months in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, these conditions have resulted in further significant impacts requiring the response of state government and such impacts are likely to increase in number and scope; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado State Legislature is currently out of session; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need for disaster emergency funds to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from these actual occurrences and potential threats; and

WHEREAS, the demands placed on disaster emergency funds appropriated to state and local agencies to address imminent threats such as those described above are unreasonably great, and the moneys available in the disaster emergency fund are insufficient to cope with this continued threat of drought, fires and severe weather; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 24-32-2106, C.R.S., the Governor may make funds available from the state Disaster Emergency Fund and may transfer and expend moneys appropriated for other purposes to meet the needs of the disaster emergency, if the funds regularly appropriated to state and local agencies are insufficient; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Disaster Emergency Council concurs with the findings and actions set forth in this Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, the conditions under which funds can be made available and used to meet the needs of a disaster emergency have been satisfied as a result of the occurrence and imminent threat of emergency described herein.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Roy Romer, Governor of the State of Colorado, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Colorado, including section 24-32-2104, C.R.S., the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act of 1992, Do Hereby Declare that a state of disaster emergency exists in the State of Colorado, due to the reasons set forth above, and DO HEREBY ORDER THAT:

1. The State Emergency Operations Plan be activated.

2. Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000) in year-end General Fund reversions be transferred into the State Disaster Emergency Fund to address the consequences of the existing and potential threats.
3. These funds shall be taken from fiscal year 1995-96 year-end General Fund reversions when they become available.
4. All expenditures from the fund for the purposes intended will be based upon the recommendations of the Director of the Colorado Office of Emergency Management and with the approval of the Chief of Staff of the Office of the Governor or the Director of the Office of State Planning and Budgeting.
5. The Fund balance shall remain in this account until December 31, 1996, when funds not expended for the purposes intended herein shall revert to the state General Fund.
6. On or before January 1, 1997, a report shall be provided to the Governor, the State Disaster Emergency Council, and the General Assembly detailing the expenditures from the Disaster Emergency Fund.
7. All state departments and institutions are directed to intensify their preparedness and mitigation efforts to address these potential natural hazards, and to respond to those events that may occur. These efforts shall be coordinated with the Office of Emergency Management.
8. This Executive Order shall expire in thirty (30) days unless otherwise extended.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado on this 29th day of
July, 1996.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Romer", written in a cursive style.

Roy Romer
Governor