



D 2025 002

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Amending Provisions of Executive Order D 2024 014 Concerning the Disaster Emergency Due to Flooding and Debris Flow in Ouray County

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, issue this Executive Order to amend provisions of Executive Order D 2024 014 due to additional damage to State infrastructure identified in Montrose County by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) as a result of the same monsoonal weather system, and providing CDOT the ability to seek federal reimbursement for eligible expenses.

I. Background and Purpose

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the State and people presented by disasters. C.R.S. § 24-33.5-704(1). The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act defines a disaster as “the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or cause of human origin.” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3).

Beginning August 5, 2024, rain from a monsoonal weather system caused flash flooding, landslides, and debris flows in Ouray County. Numerous roads became damaged and impassable and debris flows rerouted Beaver Creek, destroying the Town of Ridgeway’s drinking water collection system.

On August 23, 2024, I verbally declared a disaster emergency due to the Flooding and Debris Flow in Ouray County and activated the State Emergency Operations Plan. On September 20, 2024, I issued Executive Order D 2024 014 memorializing my verbal declaration of a disaster emergency.

On August 12, 2024, monsoonal storms produced a flood surge causing severe damage to the abutment embankment of bridge K-01-B, carrying CO 141 (MM 85.52) over the Dolores River, located in Montrose County. The precipitation runoff from the storm took place in a wildfire affected burn scar watershed which drains into a tributary stream feeding into the Dolores River, creating a 25 year flood surge in the location of the bridge. Massive damage took place to the south abutment embankment (Abutment 1) leaving approximately 25 feet of exposed abutment piling, compromising the approach roadway at the end of the bridge. Upon further

inspection, additional damage was discovered to the adjacent pier (Pier 1), a primary foundational element required to safely hold up the adjacent spans of the bridge. The localized scour had also compromised the soil supporting the footing under Pier 1, leaving the bridge susceptible to failure during a future flooding event.

Temporary repairs have been implemented by placing a layer of large stones to protect the soil from erosion (rip rap) around the existing damaged areas. However, CDOT needs to complete permanent repairs before the 2025 spring runoff to avoid further closures and disruptions to the lives of Coloradans. The permanent repairs require reinforcement with the use of micro piles around the foundation at Pier 1 to meet the requirements to resist future flooding events. The repairs will additionally include armoring of the embankment and channel around Abutment 1.

CO 141 is a critical route connecting the rural communities of Norwood, Nucla, and Naturita to the City of Grand Junction for critical agricultural supplies and medical needs. If this bridge is closed, the detour route is 230 miles, or approximately 4 hours. County roads are not available as detours due to the rough canyon terrain that the highway travels.

In December 2024, CDOT determined that repair expenses are expected to exceed three million dollars (\$3,000,000) and may be eligible for federal reimbursement through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This amendment to the Executive Order provides CDOT the ability to seek federal reimbursement for eligible expenses related to the bridge repair.

II. Amendments

1. Executive Order D 2024 014 is amended to include Montrose County in the disaster declaration due to extensive and serious damage to bridge K-01-B on CO 141 in Montrose County.

2. Section II.E of Executive Order D 2024 014 is amended to add as follows:

E. I authorize CDOT to pursue federal transportation emergency relief funds under sections 120 and 125 of Title 23 of the United States Code. I request that the FHWA Division Administrator concur in the declaration of this disaster emergency for the purposes of securing FHWA Emergency Relief Program Funds to provide CDOT with personnel and resources to assist with slide area monitoring, mudslides and debris flows cleanup operations, and repair of any damaged or destroyed highway assets for CDOT Bridge Structure K-01-B, located at mile marker 85.52 on CO 141 in Montrose County.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in effect unless modified or rescinded by future Executive Order of the Governor. In all other respects, Executive Order D 2024 014 shall remain in full force and effect as originally promulgated.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this seventh
day of February, 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor