



D 2025 021

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to Western Colorado Flooding

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, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency due to Western Colorado Flooding, enabling State agencies to coordinate response, consequence management, mitigation, and recovery efforts.

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, including but not limited to . . . flood.” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3).

Beginning on October 8, 2025, a flood watch was issued by the National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office in Grand Junction for portions of southwest Colorado, to begin the night of October 9, 2025. Moisture from Tropical Storm Priscilla, closely followed by the remnants of a second tropical storm, Raymond, was forecast to move across portions of southwest Colorado. These storms were predicted to produce total rainfall amounts of 1-2 inches with amounts up to 3 inches possible in certain local areas. The surge of moisture from Friday, October 10, into Saturday, October 11, was forecast as 300 percent of normal moisture content. The duration, and anomalous amount of moisture available, created heightened risk for excessive runoff which could result in flooding and flash flooding across the flood watch area.

As predicted, beginning late in the evening on October 10, the remnants from the first of two tropical storms supplied anomalous moisture to southwest Colorado, resulting in an extended period of heavy rainfall through October 14. The most intense rainfall occurred over La Plata, Archuleta, and Mineral Counties, with as much as 6.1 inches of rain recorded. Between October 9 and October 16, rainfall accumulations between 3-8 inches, and higher in certain local areas, fell across the San Juan Mountains within the local San Juan and South Fork Rio Grande watersheds.

Throughout the heavy rainfall, stream gauges in La Plata, Archuleta, and Mineral Counties showed high water levels and flooding, with stream gauges staying at or above the flood stage consistently from October 9 through October 16.

As of November 3, damage assessments from the flooding are ongoing. Representatives from local governments, the Colorado Division of Emergency Management (DEM), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducted a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (JPDA) for public infrastructure, which was completed on October 30. The JPDA identified widespread damage to roadways, bridges, dams, and water and wastewater infrastructure within La Plata, Archuleta, and Mineral Counties. The damage is estimated to exceed \$10,000,000.

On October 12, 2025, at approximately 11:12 AM, I verbally declared a disaster emergency due to the Western Colorado Flooding and activated the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Plan and directed the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to take all necessary and appropriate State actions to assist the affected jurisdictions with their response, consequence management, mitigation, and recovery efforts.

II. Declarations and Directives

- A. The Western Colorado Flooding and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of October 12, 2025, declaring a disaster emergency, is hereby memorialized by this Executive Order and shall have the full force and effect of law as if it were contained within this Executive Order.
- B. My verbal order of October 12, 2025, activated the State Emergency Operations Plan. All State departments and agencies are authorized to take whatever actions may be required and requested by the Director or their delegate of the OEM, pursuant to the State Emergency Operations Plan, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment, as necessary.
- C. I direct State agencies to pursue all available federal funding for response and recovery operations, including but not limited to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, and Small Business Administration.
- D. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4)(b), funds in the Disaster Emergency Fund (DEF) are insufficient to pay for response, consequence management, mitigation, and recovery efforts related to the Western Colorado Flooding. Therefore, I order that six million dollars (\$6,000,000) be transferred from the State Emergency Reserve Cash Fund (SERCF) to the DEF. I encumber six million dollars

(\$6,000,000) in the DEF to pay for response, consequence management, mitigation, and recovery efforts related to the Western Colorado Flooding.

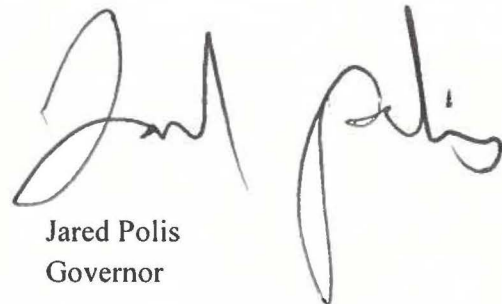
- E. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-705.4(5), the Director of the OEM is authorized and directed to allocate the funding described in Section II(D) to the appropriate government agencies and non-profit organizations and execute awards, purchase orders, or other mechanisms to effect the allocation of funds. The funds described in Section II(D) above shall remain available for this purpose until seventy-two (72) months from the date of this Executive Order, and any unexpended funds shall remain in the DEF.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from October 12, 2025, unless extended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in Section II(D) above shall remain available for the described purposes for seventy-two (72) months from the date of this Executive Order.



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



Jared Polis
Governor