RESOLUTION NO. 13

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO DECLARING A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY DUE TO FLOODING WITHIN MONTEZUMA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701 et seq., provides procedures for statewide and local prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from disasters; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3), a "disaster" includes the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from natural causes including, but not limited to flooding; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, the governing body of a political subdivision may declare a local disaster emergency when such conditions exist or are imminent; and

WHEREAS, Montezuma County experienced persistent heavy rain events and flooding beginning on October 23, 2026 resulting in soil saturation and widespread flooding and damage to personal and public property, including critical infrastructure throughout Montezuma County; and

WHEREAS, Governor Polis declared a verbal local disaster emergency on October 23, 2026 for 12 impacted counties including Montezuma County; and

WHEREAS, a subsequent extreme rain event beginning on November 1 caused additional damage throughout Montezuma County, particularly in the Towns of Mancos and Dolores as a result of the water levels in the Mancos and Dolores Rivers exceeding the 100-year flood levels; and

WHEREAS, flooding has damaged or undermined County roads, bridges, drainage infrastructure, requiring closures, emergency work, inspections, and repairs, which are still being documented and evaluated by the County Road and Bridge Department; and

WHEREAS, flooding impacted essential water and wastewater services in and around the Town of Mancos, including floodwater overtopping municipal wastewater treatment lagoons, sediment-related limitations to the municipal drinking-water treatment facility, and a separate mainline failure for Mancos Rural Water customers; and

WHEREAS, these conditions have threatened safe transportation, access to homes and services, the continuity of critical utility operations, public health, property, and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, activation of local emergency authorities is necessary to facilitate preparedness, response, resource coordination, emergency protective measures, public information efforts, and requests for state and federal assistance; and

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WHEREAS, local emergency resources have reached their capacity and broader disaster response assistance is required to address the flood conditions, necessary repairs, and mitigation measures resulting from flood-related property damage in Montezuma County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO, THAT:

1. Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency.

A Local Disaster Emergency is hereby declared for Montezuma County due to widespread flooding, and associated damage to public and private property and infrastructure.

2. Activation of Emergency Operations Plan.

This declaration activates the response and recovery aspects of all applicable local and interjurisdictional emergency operations plans and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans.

3. Emergency Actions.

The Montezuma County Office of Emergency Management is authorized to coordinate emergency preparedness and response activities, seek mutual aid resources, coordinate with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, and take all lawful actions necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

4. Emergency Procurement

The County Administrator and the Office of Emergency Management are authorized to utilize Emergency Procurement Procedures as necessary to combat the disaster. All procurement and contracting actions taken under this declaration shall comply with Colorado law and shall be documented for audit and public inspection under the Colorado Open Records Act, C.R.S. §24-72-201.

5. State and Federal Assistance.

The Board hereby requests that the Governor of Colorado, the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and all appropriate state and federal agencies provide technical assistance, emergency resources, and any available disaster relief programs necessary to address the impacts of flooding and associated damage.

6. Duration.

This declaration shall become effective immediately upon adoption and shall remain in effect until terminated by the Board of County Commissioners or until conditions no longer warrant the declaration.

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7. Filing and Public Notice.

The Clerk and Recorder is directed to file this Resolution promptly and provide such public notice as required by Colorado law.

ADOPTED this 10th day of November 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO

Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Clerk and Recorder

(SEAL)

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