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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Concerning the Eldorado Canyon Wildfire Disaster Emergency

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, and pursuant to relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, § 24-32-2100 *et seq.*, C.R.S., I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order confirming my verbal order declaring a state of disaster emergency for the Eldorado Canyon Wildfire and providing state disaster funds for fire suppression costs remaining after reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

1. Background & Need

During the summer of 2000 the State of Colorado fought to control several major wildfires. The fifth wildfire of the fire danger season occurred on September 17, 2000 in the Eldorado Canyon (the "Eldorado Canyon Fire") eight miles southwest of Boulder, Colorado. The blaze scorched 1087 acres located on state and private lands and forced the evacuation of 140 homes in the area.

Because the State of Colorado had other wildfires in progress, and the Colorado Forest Service had fire fighting resources available through contractors used by the Service, activation of the National Guard was not necessary for this fire. By September 20, 2000 the State Forest Service contractors working with local fire fighting agencies were able to contain the fire. The Federal Emergency Management Agency began work to reimburse the State of Colorado for the eligible costs of fighting several of the wildfires last year. In an extraordinarily rapid reimbursement period, the State recovered significant funds from the federal government. Accordingly, the State of Colorado is now in the position to utilize the State Disaster Emergency Fund to pay the remaining costs outstanding from the Eldorado Canyon Fire.

Accordingly, I hereby proclaim that a state of disaster emergency existed beginning on September 17, 2000 and ending on September 20, 2000. I reconfirm my verbal declaration of a state of disaster emergency issued on September 17, 2000 for the purposes of controlling the Eldorado Canyon Fire and confirm my activation of the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Plan.

2. Directive

I hereby order the transfer of up to \$275,000 from the State Disaster Emergency Fund to the Colorado Forest Service to reimburse the remaining fire suppression costs incurred in connection with fighting the Eldorado Canyon Fire.

3. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from the date of its execution unless extended by Executive Order.

GIVEN under my hand and
the Executive Seal of the
State of Colorado this 8th day
of March, 2001.

Bill Owens
Governor