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## **EXECUTIVE ORDER**

### Proclamation Pursuant to the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Proclamation identifying the San Miguel County mudslides as qualifying under state law for state disaster emergency designation.

1. Background and Need

On August 8, 2001, the Colorado Department of Transportation (“CDOT”) and several other agencies of Colorado State government responded to multiple mudslides in San Miguel County. Up to six feet of mud and other debris accumulated on State Highway 145 between the towns of Placerville and Telluride, Colorado trapping several vehicles and causing severe damage to the road system. The mudslides were a result of torrential rains over a two-hour period that produced flooding and runoff conditions.

Repairs were required immediately to respond to the emergency conditions presented by the slides and to prevent further degradation of public safety and losses of public and private property due to the runoff conditions. CDOT immediately began repairs to the damaged roadway surfaces, drainage structures and began work to reinforce surrounding embankments, utilizing its contingency reserve funds. Local officials of the San Miguel Sheriff’s office declared that the mudslide and runoff conditions qualified as a disaster emergency. The devastation included the complete blockage of over 70 drainage structures; the headwalls or inlets of some highway structures were plugged or crushed. The roadway was completely filled with debris in sections. On the downhill side of the road, four remaining rock walls or crib walls were completely destroyed.

The repair work needed to protect the public safety was provided by existing budget available through the Colorado Department of Transportation.

2. Proclamation

For the purposes of this Proclamation and pursuant to the power and authority vested in the Office of the Governor by Colorado Revised Statute §24-32-2104, I declare that the San Miguel County mudslide of August 8, 2001, constituted a disaster for purposes of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, § 24-32-2103, C.R.S. Under the Act, disaster means

“the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or cause of human origin, including but not limited to fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, wave action, hazardous substance incident, oil spill or other water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, volcanic activity, epidemic, air pollution, blight, drought infestation, explosion, civil disturbance, or hostile military or paramilitary action.”

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 26th  
day of March, 2002.

Bill Owens  
Governor