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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-13

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Chris Rivera

Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth

Councilor Signe Lindell

Councilor Jamie Cassutt

Councilor Renee Villarreal

A RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING SEVERE OR EXTREME DROUGHT CONDITIONS EXIST IN THE CITY OF SANTA FE; IMPOSING FIRE RESTRICTIONS FROM MARCH 10, 2022, TO APRIL 10, 2022; RESTRICTING THE SALE OR USE OF FIREWORKS WITHIN THE CITY OF SANTA FE AND PROHIBITING OTHER FIRE HAZARD ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, the danger of range fires, grass fires, forest fires and structure fires is very high or extremely high in and around the city of Santa Fe; and

WHEREAS, the weather in Santa Fe has been dry and windy, contributing to the present very high or extremely high fire risk, and it is predicted that the windy and dry weather will continue into the coming weeks, causing progressively worsening fire conditions; and

WHEREAS, due to abnormally low winter precipitation, United States forest service data indicates very high or extreme fire danger presently exists; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that drought conditions will be present for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the probability of ignition of materials likely to serve as fuel for fire is

1 presently extremely high in the city of Santa Fe; and

2 **WHEREAS**, if the city experiences a fire that burns out of control in the watershed, 40%
3 of the city’s water resources are at serious risk of complete loss or substantially reduced capacity;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, if the city experiences a fire that burns out of control in populated areas, it
6 may be necessary to evacuate and relocate affected residents; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 Pandemic is complicating suppression operations on wildland
8 fires in New Mexico; and

9 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 60-2C-8.1, the governing body of a
10 municipality is authorized to restrict the sale or use of fireworks within the boundaries of the
11 municipality if severe or extreme drought conditions exist; and

12 **WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Santa Fe County is in an extreme
13 drought, the second highest category; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the recent Marshall fire northwest of Denver burned 6,000 acres, 1,000
15 homes, and resulted in several deaths; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the environmental conditions that led to the Marshall fire and its rapid spread
17 are increasingly common throughout the Southwest, including in Santa Fe; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the City seeks to ensure the risks of such a catastrophic fire are reduced as
19 much as possible.

20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF**
21 **THE CITY OF SANTA FE:**

22 **Section 1.** This resolution shall be deemed a proclamation within the meaning of
23 NMSA 1978, Section 60-2C-8.1 and Section 12-3.9 SFCC 1987.

24 **Section 2.** As per NMSA 1978, Section 60-2C-8.1, the Governing Body anticipates
25 severe or extreme drought conditions exist or may exist within the boundaries of the city of Santa

1 Fe based upon current drought indices published by the national weather service and other relevant
2 information supplied by the United States forest service.

3 **Section 3.** The Governing Body restricts the sale or use of fireworks from March 10,
4 2022 to April 10, 2022 to the maximum extent possible permitted in NMSA 1978, Section 60-2C-
5 8.1.

6 A. The sale or use of the following fireworks is specifically prohibited within
7 the city limits:

8 (1) aerial devices:

9 (a) aerial spinners;

10 (b) helicopters;

11 (c) mines;

12 (d) missile-type rockets;

13 (e) roman candles;

14 (f) shells; and

15 (g) stick-type rockets;

16 (2) ground audible devices:

17 (a) chasers; and

18 (b) firecrackers.

19 B. All fireworks within any lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush,
20 or native grass are prohibited.

21 **Section 4.** An exception to the above restrictions is public displays of fireworks in
22 strict conformance with the requirements and conditions set forth in Section 12-3.3 SFCC 1987 and
23 as approved by the City of Santa Fe fire chief.

24 **Section 5.** Pursuant to Section 12-3.9 SFCC 1987,

25 A. Any individual, firm, partnership, or other entity found in violation of the

1 above restrictions shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by
2 imprisonment for up to ninety (90) days or a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500),
3 or both.

4 B. Each and every occasion on which this section is violated shall be
5 considered a separate offense.

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that

7 **Section 1.** Due to severe or extreme drought conditions and wildland fire conditions,
8 the Governing Body hereby prohibits the following activities, in accordance with the International
9 Fire Code® , Section 307.1.1, as adopted by Section 12-2.1 SFCC 1987:

- 10 A. Open burning, including campfires, bonfires, pit barbecues;
- 11 B. Burning of weeds, trash, or other vegetation;
- 12 C. Using charcoal barbecue grills in public parks and recreation areas;
- 13 D. Smoking in public parks, recreation areas, or on any public trail; and
- 14 E. Using any motorized all-terrain vehicle or motorcycles on city owned open
15 space, parks, trails, or other recreational areas, except for the Motocross
16 Track located off of the 599 Relief Route.

17 Charcoal barbecuing at a residential structure is permitted if the fire is closely monitored
18 and fire-extinguishing equipment, such as a garden hose or fire extinguisher, is readily available.


19 **Section 2.** Pursuant to Section 1-3.1 SFCC 1987:

20 A. Any individual, firm, partnership or other entity found in violation of the
21 above restrictions shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by
22 imprisonment for up to ninety (90) days or a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500),
23 or both.

24 B. Each and every occasion on which this section is violated shall be
25 considered a separate offense.

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body recognizes that NMSA 1978,
2 Section 60-2C-8.1 only allows municipalities to adopt fire restrictions for 30 days at a time and no
3 less than 20 days prior to a holiday for which fireworks may be sold. Therefore, to ensure that there
4 will be no lapse in the fire restrictions imposed by this resolution, the Governing Body may impose
5 these fire restrictions at any subsequent meeting date hereafter to ensure that such fire restrictions
6 are in place during extreme or severe drought conditions and wildland fire conditions.

7 PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 9th day of March, 2022.

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11 ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

12 ATTEST:

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15 KRISTINE MIHELIC, CITY CLERK

16 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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19 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY