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CITY OF SANTA, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-38

INTRODUCED BY:

Mayor Coss
Councilor Bushee
Councilor Wurzbarger

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

DIRECTING STAFF TO SUBMIT A SPONSOR LETTER TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO REQUEST EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM FUNDS TO PROTECT, PRESERVE AND RESTORE ANY DAMAGE OR POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO THE SANTA FE WATERSHED AS A RESULT OF THE PACHECO FIRE.

WHEREAS, the Pacheco Fire began on June 18, 2011, two miles north of the Santa Fe Ski Basin and as of June 23, 2011 the Pacheco Wildfire has burned 5,500 acres and is 10% contained; and

WHEREAS, the Pacheco Fire is being fueled by timber, heavy dead and down fuels and mixed conifer and the slope of the land on which the Fire is located is steep; and

WHEREAS, according to the Santa Fe National Forest website report dated June 23, 2011, the Santa Fe Watershed is potentially threatened by the Pacheco Fire, attached as Exhibit "A"; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Pacheco Fire is both an immediate potential threat to the Santa Fe
2 Watershed as well as a long term threat due to potential flooding and degradation of the
3 Santa Fe Watershed’s reservoir water, because after the Fire, the steep sloped lands will no longer
4 have sufficient vegetative cover to hold back torrential monsoon rains which may cause snot and
5 debris to impair the Santa Fe Watershed’s reservoir water; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (“NRCS”), a division of the
7 Department of Agriculture, has established the Emergency Watershed Protection (“EWP”)
8 program; and

9 **WHEREAS**, EWP is designed to resolve imminent hazards to life and property caused
10 by fires and other natural disasters and is a funding mechanism for the City to tap into to protect
11 its land and private land and to protect the citizens of the City from the aftermath of the Pacheco
12 Fire; and

13 **WHEREAS**, EWP funds may be used to remove debris from stream channels, stabilize
14 road culverts and bridges, reshape and protect eroded banks, correct damaged drainage facilities,
15 stabilize levees and structures, revegetate damaged areas, and purchase floodplain easements on
16 lands subject to frequent flooding; and

17 **WHEREAS**, NRCS can typically pay up to 75 percent of construction costs of eligible
18 emergency treatments and the remaining 25 percent must come from local sources and can be in
19 the form of cash or in-kind services; and

20 **WHEREAS**, in order to request EWP funds, the City of Santa Fe must submit a sponsor
21 letter to the NRCS which will be forwarded to Congress in the order it is received; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Congress will make a determination, as to whether the City of Santa Fe
23 would be approved for funding, depending on the availability of such funding.

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
25 **CITY OF SANTA FE** staff is directed to draft a sponsor letter signed by the Mayor, along with

1 this resolution, to the NRCS to request EWP funding in the event there is damage to the Santa Fe
2 Watershed resulting from the Pacheco Fire. Staff is further directed to work with the New
3 Mexico Office of the NRCS and the State Conservationist's staff in the application for EWP
4 funds and the implementation of the EWP program.

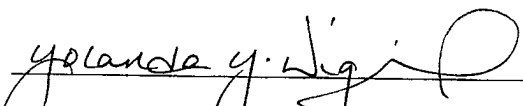
5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that staff is directed to forward a copy of the sponsor
6 letter and this resolution to New Mexico's Congressional Delegation.

7 **PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 29th day of June, 2011.**

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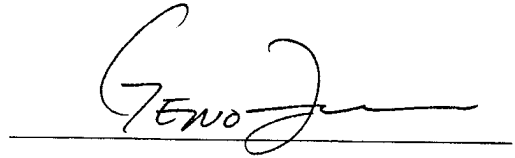
11 DAVID COSS, MAYOR

12 ATTEST:

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14 

15 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

16 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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19 GENO ZAMORA, CITY ATTORNEY

InciWeb - Incident Information System

Exhibit A

Pacheco Fire

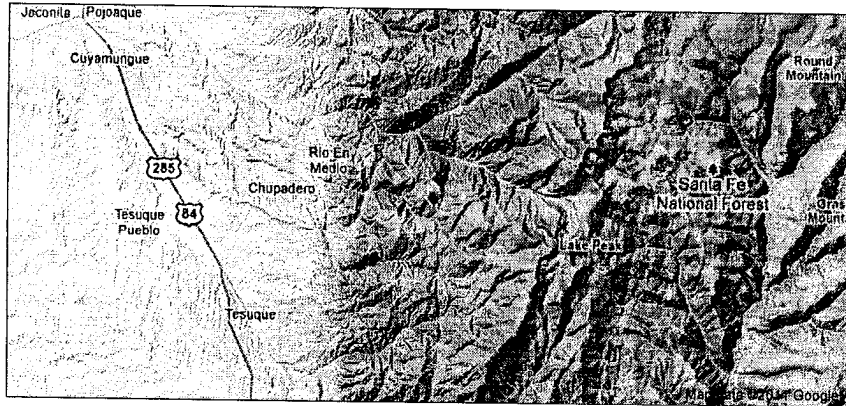
ANNOUNCEMENT

New Telephone Number for Pacheco Fire Information
 The new telephone number for Pacheco Fire Information is: 505-473-3760 Hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 7 more

INCIDENT UPDATED 2 HRS. AGO

Approximate Location

35.812 latitude, -105.837 longitude reset view



Incident Overview

Summary: Yesterday afternoon the slope and fuels aligned, along with hotter temperatures and lower humidity, creating a 500 acre push and a noticeable column above Rio Capulin. Firefighters maintained and improved the established anchor point and continued fire line construction on the south and west sides of the fire perimeter. The southwest line was mopped up 200 feet inside the fire perimeter to prevent reignition. Considering firefighter safety and the topography, hand crews constructed indirect contingency lines west and south of the fire perimeter. Helicopters completed water drops on the fire and delivered supplies to firefighters. The fire remains within the Pecos Wilderness.

Fire behavior is expected to intensify today as the weather is predicted to be hotter, dryer and unstable. This weather pattern is expected to last through the weekend. Fire progression is anticipated; however, firefighters are prepared for an increase in fire behavior. Hand crews will extend the indirect contingency line on the west and south perimeters. Helicopters will be used for water drops on the fire and to deliver supplies to firefighters as needed.

Cause: The Santa Fe National Forest is requesting that anyone having knowledge of or having been in the vicinity of the Pacheco Fire (north of Aspen Ranch by the Borrego Trail) between June 17 and June 18 please contact the Santa Fe National Forest at (505) 438-5372.

Threats: The Santa Fe watershed, Santa Fe ski area, Nambé Pueblo lands, Tesuque Pueblo lands and Tesuque Peak communications site remained threatened. No evacuations are in effect at this time within Pacheco Canyon. Residents of the area should remain aware of changing conditions as fire spread increases.

Smoke: Smoke will remain a concern in the fire area until the summer rains come. Atmospheric inversions at night may result in smoke being present in Santa Fe, Tesuque and Nambé, particularly in those areas near the foot of the mountains in the mornings. Smoke sensitive persons in the area need to be alert to this possibility and be prepared to take any necessary precautions. For more smoke information and air quality forecasts, please visit the New Mexico Environment Department's website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/WildfireSmokeResources.htm>.

Other websites with useful information concerning smoke are: <http://smoke.airfire.org/sw-outlook>, <http://smoke.airfire.org/sw-outlook/map>, <http://smoke.airfire.org/sw-monitoring>.

Road and Fire Area Closure: New Mexico Route 475, also known as Hyde Park Road, and Artist Road are closed at mile post 9, at the Forest boundary. Forest Service Road 102 to Pacheco Road is also closed.

A Fire Area Closure has been enacted. Review it at: www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/conditions/index.html

Open and active: Communities in and around the Santa Fe National Forest remain open and accessible including Tesuque, Nambé, Santa Fe, and Pecos (including the Highway 63 corridor).

Fire Restrictions: The entire Santa Fe National Forest, encompassing 1.6 million acres, is under Stage II fire restrictions due to severe drought conditions and extreme fire danger. The Santa Fe National Forest includes National Forest System lands near Jemez, Cuba, Coyote, Gallina, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Espanola, Pecos, Las Vegas and Mora. Under Stage II fire restrictions, campfires, smoking, explosives, fireworks, welding and driving off road are not allowed. Chainsaw use is not allowed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Internal and external combustion engines must have properly installed, maintained and effective spark arresters. For a copy of the Stage II fire restriction order, please visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/>.

The Santa Fe National Forest will be implementing Stage III Fire Restrictions across the Forest beginning Friday, June 24th. Stage III Fire Restrictions will restrict access to/use of certain parts of the Forest, yet there will be recreational opportunities available. **A detailed list of areas that will be off limits (restricted) and areas that will remain OPEN will be available sometime today. Open areas will remain under Stage II restrictions.**

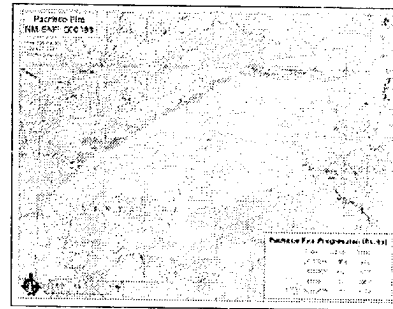


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Basic Information

Incident Type	Wildfire
Cause	Under Investigation
Date of Origin	Saturday June 18th, 2011 approx. 03:17 PM
Location	2 miles north of Santa Fe Ski Basin
Incident Commander	Clay Templin



Current Situation

Total Personnel	625
Size	5,500 acres
Percent Contained	10%
Fuels Involved	Timber (litter and understory) Heavy dead and down fuels, mixed conifer
Fire Behavior	Moderate fire behavior with single and group torching and short crown runs to the north.
Significant Events	At 1300, the slope and fuels aligned in Section 38 above Rio Capulin. A 500 acre push and noticeable column resulted over the next three hours. Fire growth was minimal over the remainder of the fire. A spot fire above Lake Johnson was observed today and was undetected on last night's infrared flight. The spot is 1/10th of an acre and surrounded by talus slope at 12,400 ft. elevation. Replacement IHC or Type 21A crews were essential for line constructing and fring operations. Contingency line was completed to the Wilderness Boundary and up to the peak at 9128 ft elevation in DIV B. Helispot established on the 9128 Peak at the Wilderness Boundary. Indirect line from the fire's edge to Aspen Peak was completed in DIV X. Mop-up 200 feet in DIV A.

Outlook

Planned Actions	In DIV A hold and improve line, and mop-up. In DIV B improve indirect line in the Rio Capulin drainage and prepare for firing operations. In DIV D construct indirect line from the drainage bottom near the confluence of Rio Nambe and Rio Capulin to the ridgeline connecting into the Molina Fire; pick up the ridge line at 9121 and move to Northeast. In DIV X construct indirect line and coordinate with DIV Z and Structure Group. In DIV Z continue line prep around the Ski Resort and utilize dozer to improve road system.
Growth Potential	Extreme
Terrain Difficulty	Extreme
Remarks	The Incident Commander met with the Mayor, City Manager, and Fire Chief of the City of Santa Fe today. They are supportive of strategy and efforts.

Current Weather

Wind Conditions	10G23 mph W
Temperature	74 degrees
Humidity	10%



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