

SANTA FE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING

June 7, 2022

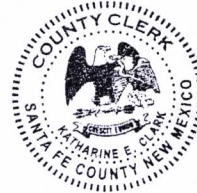
Anna T. Hamilton, Chair - District 4
Anna Hansen - District 2
Hank Hughes - District 5

Rudy Garcia, Vice Chair - District 3 [excused]
Henry Roybal - District 1 [excused]

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC MINUTES
PAGES: 6

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 Katharine E. Clark
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SANTA FE COUNTY

SPECIAL MEETING

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 7, 2022

1. A. This special meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners was called to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. by Chair Anna Hamilton in the County Commission Chambers, 102 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

B. Roll Call

Roll was called by County Clerk Katharine Clark and indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present:

Commissioner Anna Hamilton, Chair
Commissioner Anna Hansen
Commissioner Hank Hughes

Members Excused:

Commissioner Rudy Garcia
Commissioner Henry Roybal

C. Approval of the Agenda

There were no changes and upon motion by Commissioner Hughes and second by Commissioner Hansen, and unanimous [3-0] voice vote the agenda was unanimously approved as published.

2. **Public Hearing on Proposed Resolution Banning Sale and use of Fireworks**
A. **Resolution No. 2022-039, A Resolution to Repeal Resolution 2022-032, to Proclaim Extreme or Severe Drought Conditions Within Santa Fe County, and to Ban the Sale and Use of Certain Fireworks in the Unincorporated Portions of the County and Within Wildlands in the County** [*Exhibit 1: Map, Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook June 2022*]

JAOME BLAY (Fire Marshal/Asst. Chief): Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members of the Commission. The Santa Fe Fire Department is requesting approval of a resolution repealing Resolution #2022-032 and proclaiming extreme or severe drought conditions within Santa Fe County and banning the sale and use of certain fireworks in the unincorporated portions of the County and within wildlands in the County. Resolution 2022-032 did the same thing, however, the resolution had a 30-day duration and is set to expire on June 10, 2022.

This resolution will repeal resolution 2022-32 and put in place a new 30-day ban on the sale and use of certain fireworks in the unincorporated portions of the County and within wildlands in the county until July 7, 2022. It will expire after this time period. It will expire after this time period unless renewed by subsequent action of the Board of County Commissioners.

Repealing Resolution 2022-32 and replacing it with this resolution ensures proclamation of extreme or severe drought continues and prohibition on fireworks does not elapse prior to the new regularly scheduled BCC meeting. Approval of these restrictions is necessitated by persistent and severe drought conditions set to continue past June 10, 2022.

If you could see please the handout about the significant wildland fire potential [*Exhibit 1*] as you can see it is not looking very good.

The July 4th holiday increases the use of fireworks and in the past approximately half of the fires started over the July 4th weekend were attributed to fireworks.

Finally, County fire resources are currently committed to existing fires which could diminish the capacity to respond to new fires. As indicated by the United States National Integrated Drought Information System, drought conditions are forecast to exist and deepen throughout Santa Fe County and New Mexico during the next month. Under these circumstances, this resolution will reduce the likelihood of an accidental human-ignited wildland fire, improve public and firefighter safety and preserve property in Santa Fe County. With that, I stand for any questions.

CHAIR HAMILTON: Excellent. Thank you so much. Are there any questions or discussion of interest? Yes, Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Yes, I know we have to go to public hearing but I'm going to ask a few questions first. On June 28th if we do not have monsoon seasons or we're still facing this drought will we intend to renew this resolution?

AC BLAY: Madam Chair, Commissioner Hansen, this resolution will take a past the 4th of July.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I know but if you live in the City of Santa Fe fireworks go on quite a bit longer after the 4th of July weekend.

AC BLAY: So if the Board of Commissioners deems it necessary I could come before you and extend it for another 30 days.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I personally think that this is a really important idea to do and to consider in considering the level of drought that we're facing and the fact that our soil is completely dried out and the forest are also facing really severe dry-out. I would just like to suggest that as the time goes forward.

CHAIR HAMILTON: Thank you. Commissioner Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGES: Thank you and I think this is part of what Commissioner Hansen was saying is that it would probably be most convenient to do that at the June 28th regular BCC meeting rather than have to call a special meeting. At the June 28th meeting we could ban fireworks all the way through July 28th which might get us into monsoon season.

AC BLAY: Madam Chair, Commissioner Hughes, thank you for clarifying. I guess I didn't understand her question. Currently this ordinance is good until July 7th I will consult with the legal team and determine how best to go about doing it to cover us until the end of July.

CHAIR HAMILTON: Excellent and before we go to public hearing, have you had any feedback, has the Fire Department had any hassles with people – positive feedback, negative feedback on the ban so far?

AC BLAY: Madam Chair, huge feedback, everybody is very happy that we are under fireworks ban. We haven't heard once somebody complaining about this ban. Actually, everybody seems support of this ban.

CHAIR HAMILTON: I was just curious. Neither have I and I imagine the other Commissioners are maybe in a similar positions. Have there been any enforcement needs? Have you found people breaking this ban already?

AC BLAY: Madam Chair, usually people wait until the 4th of July or around the 4th of July time to purchase some of these fireworks. We haven't had any instance where we had to respond to any illegal fireworks use.

CHAIR HAMILTON: Excellent, I had to ask. I'm going to go ahead and open the public comment on this. Is there anybody on Webex? Daniel, is there anybody who has joined on Webex who appears interested making a comment on this matter?

SARA SMITH (Operations Manager): Madam Chair, there is no one on Webex except staff.

CHAIR HAMILTON: Okay, that's pretty definitive. I'm going to go ahead and close the public hearing since there is nobody in person and nobody on Webex?

Is there any further discussion or questions or what is the pleasure of the Board?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'll make a motion to approve the ordinance.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I'll second, it's a resolution.

CHAIR HAMILTON: Excellent. I have a second and a motion. I believe I need a roll call. No, oh, I couldn't tell. Motion and second, all in favor please say aye.

The motion passed by unanimous [3-0] voice vote.

CHAIR HAMILTON: Excellent and thank you so much for bringing this forward again and if we just stay on top of the potential need for re-upping it at the end of the month, that would be great.

AC BLAY: Madam Chair, thank you.

3. CONCLUDING BUSINESS

A. Announcements

CLERK CLARK: If you have not voted today, there is still time. The polls are opened until 7 o'clock.

CHAIR HAMILTON: Excellent. Thank you for that. I hope everybody is voting. Yes, Commissioner Hansen.

COMMISSIONER HANSEN: I just want to mention my Coffee and Tea Under the Trees will be June 11th from 10 to noon at Reunity Resources at the San Ysidro Crossing and please come and join me. We will have a presentation by the Fire Department on the Ready Set Go process and being prepared for wildfires of any kind.

CHAIR HAMILTON: Commissioner Hughes, did you want to –

COMMISSIONER HUGES: Sure, thank you, Madam Chair. I'll just mention that we're having a townhall meeting, Hour with Hank tonight at 5:30 on Webex and Assistant Fire Chief Martin Vigil will be there to answer questions about the alert Santa Fe and the recent brush fire on the border of District 5 and District 4.

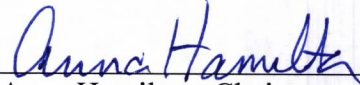
CHAIR HAMILTON: Excellent, thank you very much. Are there any other announcements or closing business?

B. Adjournment

Following motion by Commissioner Hansen and second by Commissioner Hughes, Chair Hamilton declared this meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

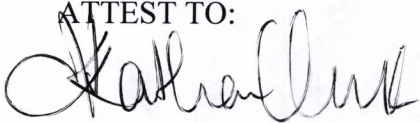


Approved by:



Anna Hamilton, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

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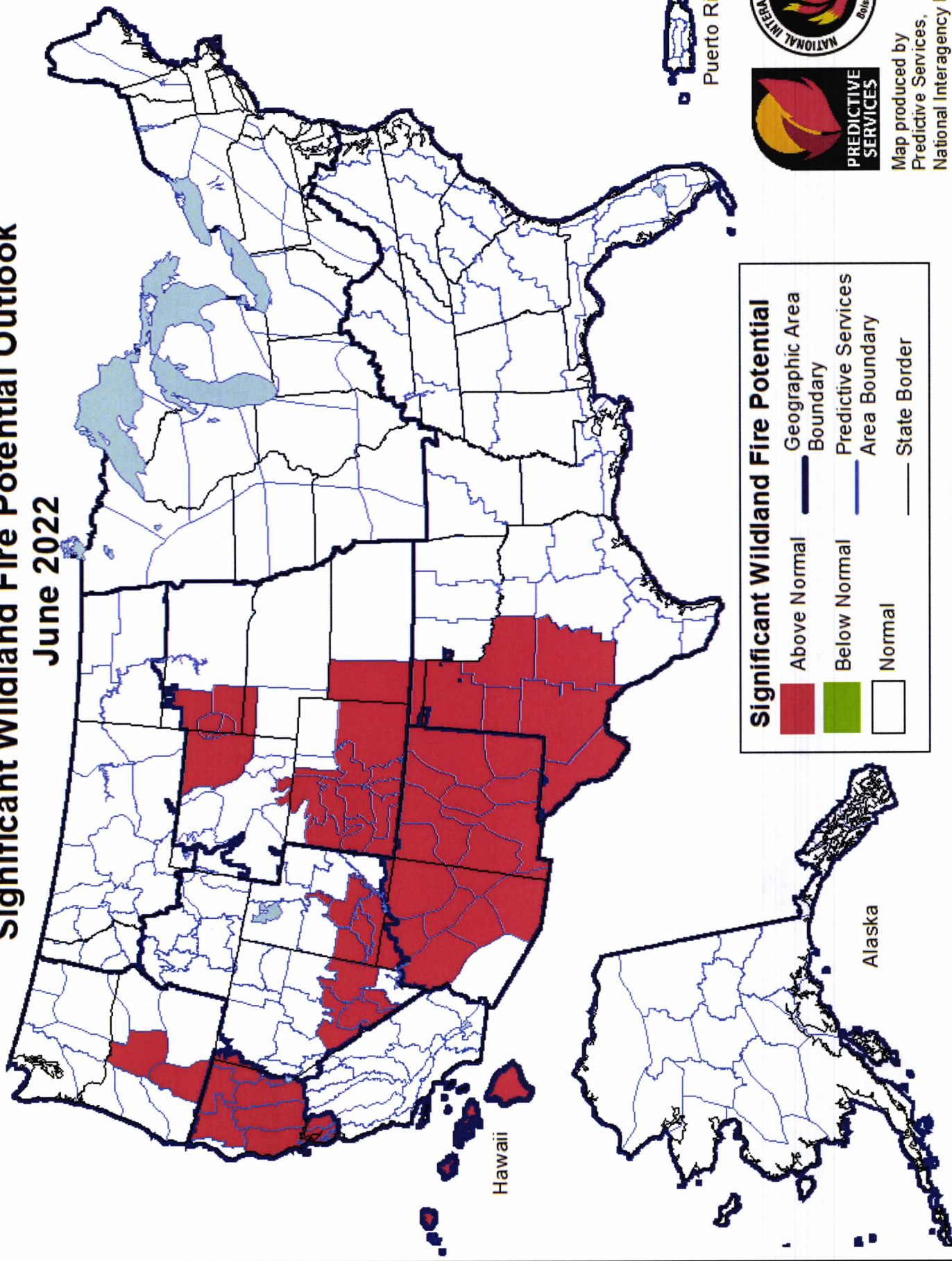


KATHARINE E. CLARK
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Farrell, Wordswork
453 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook June 2022



Significant Wildland Fire Potential

	Above Normal		Geographic Area Boundary
	Below Normal		Predictive Services Area Boundary
	Normal		State Border



Map produced by
Predictive Services,
National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho
Issued June 1, 2022
Next issuance July 1, 2022

Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.