



**San Juan County**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **For Immediate Release**

#### **San Juan County Commission Adopts Emergency Declaration of Drought Conditions**

*Declaration activates emergency response*

**AZTEC, NM**—Tuesday, San Juan County Commissioners adopted a declaration of drought conditions in San Juan County, signifying a state of emergency in the county.

The declaration of a drought emergency was prompted by the persistent ranking of D4-Exceptional Drought in the majority of San Juan County. As of June 10, according to the US Drought Monitor report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, almost 72% of the county is under exceptional drought. The most of remaining portions of San Juan County are listed as D3-Extreme Drought.

Declaration of drought conditions and state of emergency serve to formally engage the San Juan County of Emergency Management to coordinate resources to mitigate, to the extent possible, impacts on the residents of the county. The declaration may also make available emergency funding from the state and federal levels for emergency response by the county. On March 11, 2021, the United States Department of Agriculture has already declared a drought disaster for counties in New Mexico, including San Juan, which can make farmers in affected counties eligible for emergency loans.

Current long-range precipitation forecasts indicate a probability of below-average precipitation over the summer and slightly above average temperatures. Essentially, there is no forecasted relief coming from seasonal monsoon activity. Further, the amount of rainfall required to decrease the drought rating amounts to weeks of steady, soaking rain.

The San Juan County Commission has already enacted restrictions on the sale of certain types of fireworks in the county based on the drought conditions. Fireworks will go on sale June 20, 2021.

In May, Commission banned the sale of all missile-type rockets, helicopters, aerial spinners, and stick-type rockets within the unincorporated portion of San Juan County. The use of permissible fireworks is only allowed in areas with barren ground, or paved, and have a water source readily available nearby. The use of any fireworks in areas covered partially, or wholly, by native grass, brush, or trees is totally banned.

The residents are encouraged to use water-saving measures wherever possible, such as fixing leaks in plumbing, using low-flow fixtures, using good practices for watering landscaping, and generally reducing water consumption, to the extent possible.