Mr. Kim J. Carpenter
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SAN JUAN COUNTY NEW MEXICO SINCE 1887

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DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY REGARDING THE ANIMAS RIVER IN SAN JUAN COUNTY NEW MEXICO

Whereas, a significant spill occurred at the Gold King Mine North of Silverton, Colorado which resulted in over 1,000,000 gallons of contaminated water into the Animas River; and

Whereas, initial testing of the River north of the Colorado - New Mexico State Line indicate the presence of heavy metals, lead, iron, zinc, arsenic, calcium, and aluminum; and

Whereas, the contaminated water will reach San Juan County, New Mexico; and

Whereas such contaminates may be harmful if there is bodily contact or consumed; and

Whereas, the New Mexico Secretary of the Environment has indicated that water wells located within the floodplain of the Animas River have the potential to be contaminated; and

Whereas, San Juan County has closed the Animas River Corridor and is directing citizens to avoid any and all contact with river water until further advised:

Now, Therefore, under the authority granted pursuant to 12-20-1 through 12-20-11, NMSA (1978), as County Executive Officer, I declare that a State of Emergency exists within San Juan County, New Mexico, within the Animas River floodplain as a result of the presence of contaminates. The protection of Public Health, Safety and Welfare Requires that action be taken.

I therefore order as follows:

1. The Animas River is closed from the New Mexico State Line to the point of confluence with the San Juan River. All boating, rafting, and swimming is prohibited as is the taking of water for personal use or agricultural uses. The Sheriff of San Juan County shall enforce this declaration.

2. Until such time as the New Mexico Environmental Department has given clearance, drinking water shall be made available, at no cost, to those individuals who rely upon well water for drinking and other household uses, including watering livestock. The San Juan County Fire Department shall provide drinking water at reasonable locations until further notice and shall publicize those locations and their hours of operations.

8-7-15

Kim Carpenter, Ph.D

Date

County Executive Officer