

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

Date: August 7, 2007

**JOSÉ M. SANCHEZ**

Chairman

**STEVEN L. BESICH**

Clerk of the Board

**TOMMIE C. MARTIN**

Vice-Chairman

By: Marian Sheppard  
Chief Deputy Clerk

**SHIRLEY L. DAWSON**

Member

Gila County Courthouse  
Globe, Arizona

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PRESENT: Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman; Tommie C. Martin, Vice-Chairman; Shirley L. Dawson, Member; Steve Besich, County Manager/Clerk; Marian Sheppard, Chief Deputy Clerk; and, Bryan Chambers, Chief Deputy County Attorney.

Immediately following the Board of Supervisors' regular meeting, Chairman Sanchez called to order an emergency session at 11:57 a.m. to adopt Resolution No. 07-08-02. The Resolution was being adopted to declare a state of emergency in Gila County as a result of excessive rainfall that has occurred during this monsoon season, which began on July 15, 2007, and has reached the point of saturation causing flooding in areas of northern and north-central Gila County.

Steve Besich, County Manager/Clerk, advised that adopting a resolution is standard practice when any kind of adverse weather has occurred in the County, whereby land, waterways, and/or structures have been damaged and are of potential danger to people and/or animals. During the time that total damages to a particular area are being assessed, Mr. Besich advised that adopting a resolution "gets us a place holder with the (Arizona) Department of Emergency Management in case the Governor declares a state of emergency." By adopting a resolution, it also enables the County to apply for state and/or federal financial assistance when an emergency situation occurs in the County.

Steve Stratton, Public Works Division Director, and the Board entered into a brief discussion regarding the process for receiving calls during an emergency event. Mr. Stratton acknowledged that each Board member may receive such calls; however, he requested that any information be given to one of his assistants, Pat Wentz or Hillary Nye, so that Public Works Division staff will be prepared to respond to the emergency. Mr. Stratton then provided a brief PowerPoint presentation, which showed the flood damage that occurred to roads crossing the Verde River, particularly the Whispering Pines area. He provided the status of each road, whether it was open or closed for public transportation, and the timeline for re-opening any road or creek crossing.

The Board, Mr. Stratton and Mr. Besich then briefly discussed the number of complaints filed by residents that pertain to roads and the County's role with regard to road repairs or improvements. Mr. Besich explained the situation with properties that are owned by the State of Arizona. The Board of Supervisor, by law, must oversee the sale of any State-owned properties that are physically located in Gila County. The present situation is that once a property is deeded to the State by the County Treasurer, neither the State nor the County performs any maintenance or repairs on any of the parcels of land owned by the State. The County's position is that because ownership of these properties lies with the State, it is the State's responsibility to repair and/or maintain the properties. Since the State has never maintained these properties and the County has no authority to do so, many of the properties have problems with erosion, trash, raw sewage, stagnant water, etc. and many times it affects properties owned by adjoining land owners. This becomes more problematic when an emergency event occurs that requires action on a property or road owned by the State, and the County is not able to take any action. Mr. Besich advised that he is working with Mr. Stratton to establish a process to respond to those individuals that submit complaints on State-owned properties. As complaints are received, a Public Works employee will investigate the complaint and a report of the situation will later be presented to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Stratton pointed out that some of the complaints

that have been investigated are due to people building in inappropriate areas. At the conclusion of the discussion, Vice-Chairman Martin questioned whether the area of north and north-central Gila County was sufficient or whether a larger geographical area should be stated in the Resolution. Mr. Besich nodded that the area of north and north-central Gila County was sufficient.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 07-08-02. **(A copy of the Resolution is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

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Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk