DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
2026 October Storms

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2026, and continuing through October 22, 2026, a strong area of low pressure moved slowly across the southwest U.S. contributing to several days of intense thunderstorms across Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the thunderstorms caused severe weather conditions including heavy rains, flash flooding, high winds, hail, and tornadoes severely impacting parts of Coconino County, Navajo County, and contiguous counties and Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the scale of the disaster of this event caused local municipalities, counties, and contiguous Tribal Nations to declare states of emergency or evacuations, to include the City of Flagstaff, the Hopi Reservation, Navajo County, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and White Mountain Apache Tribe. The Navajo Nation has been under an on-going State of Emergency declared on September 17, 2026; and

WHEREAS, in Coconino County, the thunderstorms caused severe weather conditions including heavy rains, flooding, high winds, hail, and a tornado; and

WHEREAS, Flagstaff suffered collapsed sewer risers, damage to sewer lines, dredging of stormwater basins and sewer overflow; and

WHEREAS, in Navajo County, the thunderstorms caused severe weather conditions including heavy rains, flash flooding, high winds, hail, and a tornado; and

WHEREAS, a tornado damaged and destroyed private homes and infrastructure in Heber-Overgaard; and

WHEREAS, in the community of Heber-Overgaard, an estimated 36 homes were damaged; and

WHEREAS, residents were displaced from their homes; and

WHEREAS, temporary shelters were set up for displaced residents; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo County Board of Supervisors declared on October 22, 2026, that a State of Emergency exists in Navajo County; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona Emergency Operations Center was activated; and

WHEREAS, the Governor is authorized to declare an emergency pursuant to A.R.S. §26-303(D).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State, do hereby determine that this situation justifies a declaration of a State of Emergency, pursuant to A.R.S. § 26-303(D), and I do hereby:

a. Declare that a State of Emergency exists in Coconino and Navajo Counties, due to heavy rains, high winds, hail, and tornado effective October 20, 2026 through October 22, 2026; and

b. Direct that the sum of $200,000.00 from the general fund be made available to the Director of the Arizona Division of Emergency Management to be expended in accordance with A.R.S. § 35-192, A.A.C. R8-2-301 to 319, and Executive Order 79-4; and

c. Direct that the State of Arizona Emergency Response and Recovery Plan be used to direct and control state and other assets and authorize the Director of the Arizona Division of Emergency Management to coordinate state assets.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 30th day of October in the Year Two Thousand Twenty-Six and of the independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Fifty-First.

ATTEST:

Secretary of State