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BY: Chelsea Clark
SANDRA K. DUCKWORTH, COUNTY CLERK

DECLARATION OF DISASTER

WHEREAS, the County of Newton, Texas, on the 20th day of January 2025, was in imminent threat of being in the path of a severe winter weather system event, as described in reports issued by the United States National Weather Service, Texas State Operations Center and local Southeast Texas professional meteorologists. This winter weather system may potentially cause widespread injury or loss of life, as well as severe property damage, resulting from conditions created by excessive sustained periods of below freezing temperatures, freezing rain, snowfall and high-speed winds in residential, agricultural and commercial areas. These conditions are projected to cause major infrastructure damage preventing access to, or the safe passage on, many roadways, as well as the potential for long term countywide electrical power and utility outages, exponentially increasing the dangers of injury or the loss of life. Such conditions have created an imminent public safety hazard.

WHEREAS, the County Judge of Newton County, Texas, has determined, based upon trajectory and intensity reports issued by the National Weather Service, the Texas State Operations Center and local Southeast Texas meteorologists, that extraordinary measures must be taken to protect life, as well as to protect or rehabilitate property, and are necessary and hereby ordered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNTY JUDGE OF NEWTON COUNTY, TEXAS:

- I. That a local state of disaster is hereby declared for Newton County, Texas, pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
- II. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, the state of disaster shall continue for a period of not more than seven days from the date of this declaration unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of Newton County, Texas.
- III. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk.
- IV. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a local state of disaster activates the Newton County Emergency Management Plan.

ORDERED this 20th day of January, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald J. Cochran".

Ronald J. Cochran
Newton County Judge