STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2012-029

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Rescinding Executive Order D 2012-015 – Ban on Open Burning in the State of Colorado

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section2 of the Colorado Constitution and C.R.S. § 23-31-308, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order rescinding Executive Order D 2012-015.

I. Background, Need, and Purpose

On June 14, 2012, pursuant to a request from the Colorado State Forest Service, County Commissioners and the Federal Land Management Agencies, and based on a finding of extreme fire danger, we issued an Executive Order banning all open burning in the State of Colorado. At the time, Colorado was experiencing unseasonably high temperatures and dry conditions which lead to a number of wildfires across the State.

Wildfire conditions across Colorado have changed in the recent days. As of the date of this Executive Order, existing major wildfires are well contained and no new wildfires are being monitored or supported by the Colorado Office of Emergency Management. The High Park wildfire is one-hundred percent contained, Waldo Canyon wildfire is ninety-eight percent contained, the Weber wildfire is ninety percent contained, and the Little Sand wildfire is forty percent contained.

The extreme wildfire conditions have abated in all 64 Colorado counties as a result of current rainfall amounts and short and long term forecasts predicting cooler and wetter weather. More than 60 counties are forecasted to move to moderate or low danger over the next seven days, though the wildfire season will continue for a few months and a few counties continue to experience high fire danger.

We now believe it is appropriate to lift the state-wide ban and allow the counties, local law enforcement or federal entities to consider the wildfire restrictions at a local level and take measures as they deem appropriate. Even though the 2012 wildfire season is far from over and still challenging, we believe conditions are such that local authorities and federal land managers ought to resume control over fire bans in their jurisdictions. Many counties have fire bans in place that will not change as a result of this Executive Order.

We commend the people of Colorado for complying with the fire ban and the efforts of fire fighters, local law enforcement, federal land managers, Colorado National Guard, United States military and all other first responders for their assistance and collaboration during this wildfire season. We will continue to monitor the fire danger across the State and re-enact the state-wide ban if necessary as conditions change.

II. <u>Directive</u>

I hereby rescind Executive Order D 2012-015. This Executive Order rescinds the state-wide ban on open burning, including campfires, warming fires, charcoal grill fires, fused explosives, and fireworks. Local and federal fire bans remain in effect.

We encourage Coloradans to be ever vigilant and continue to use extreme safety precautions when using open flames or undertaking any activity that poses a risk of starting a fire.

GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this eighth day of
July, 2012.

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor