

Special Weather Briefing Heavy Rainfall / Flood Event September 22-24

Issued September 21, 2026
Prepared by: Alina Nieves
Warning Coordination Meteorologist



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

EL PASO



TEXAS

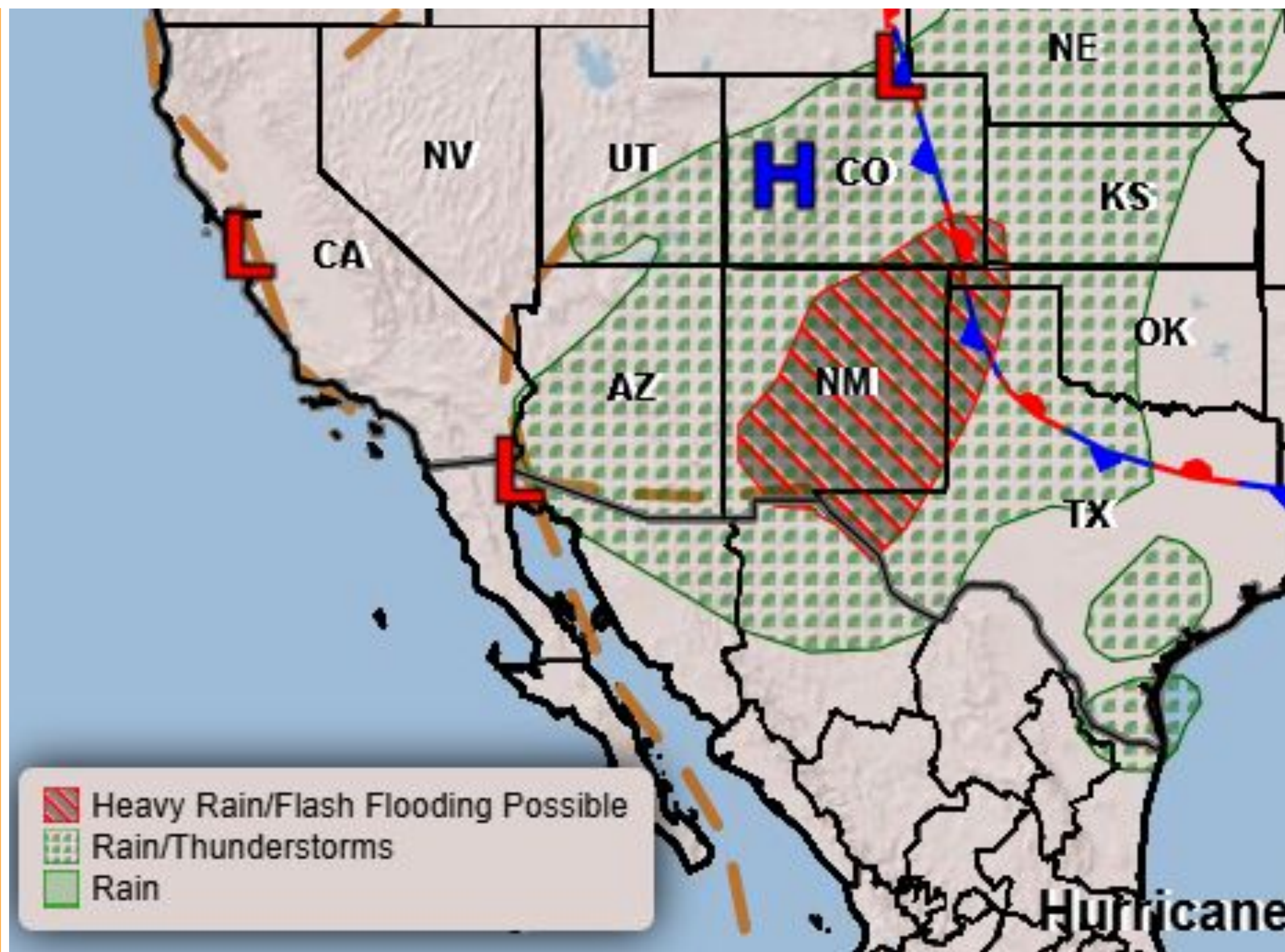
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- Bottom Line Up Front: **Widespread thunderstorms across the region Tuesday through Thursday.** Level 3 of 4 (**Moderate**) Risk for Flash Flooding through Thursday morning.
 - Rain chances decrease and drift eastward late in the week.
- Hazards:
 - **Up to 3-5 inches of rainfall accumulations, producing flash flooding.**
 - Damaging winds over 60 mph and small hail in isolated stronger storms.
 - Very low risk of flooding in the Rio Grande.
- A **Flood Watch** is in effect 12 PM Tuesday - 7 PM Wednesday.



- Abundant moisture paired with an approaching upper level disturbance will lead to periods of widespread storms and a **Moderate** flood risk Tuesday-Thursday.
- Highest flood threat will be across south-central NM and far west TX where soils are already saturated.
- Strong winds and small hail will be additional hazards with this activity.
- Rain chances are forecast to decrease later in the week.

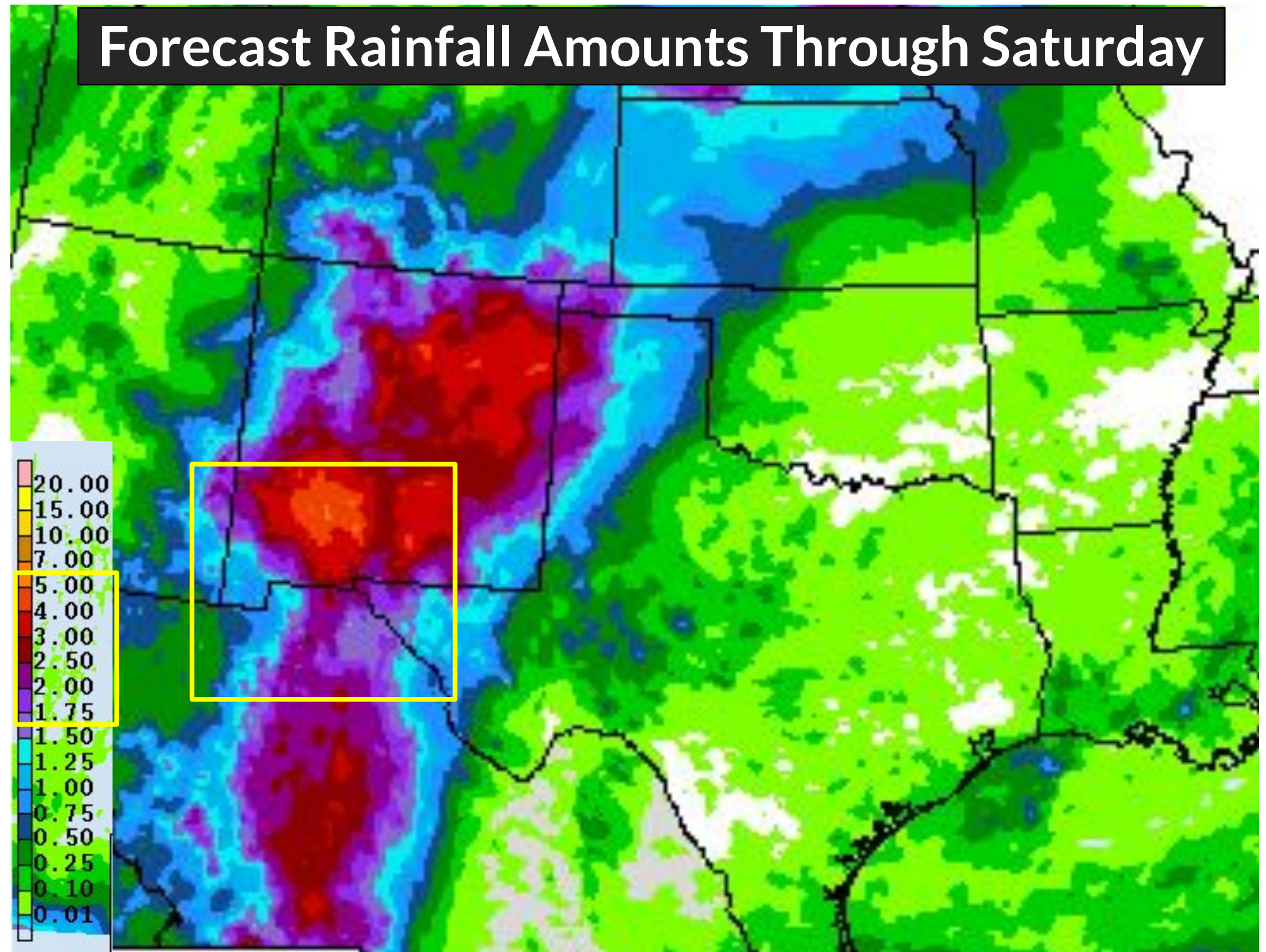


Situation Overview - Forecast 5 Days Rainfall Amounts

September 21, 2026
1:20 PM

- 1-3" of rain already fallen over south central portions of NM in the last 7 days.
- Additional rainfall amounts 2-5" over the next 5 days
 - Heaviest amounts over south-central NM

Forecast Rainfall Amounts Through Saturday



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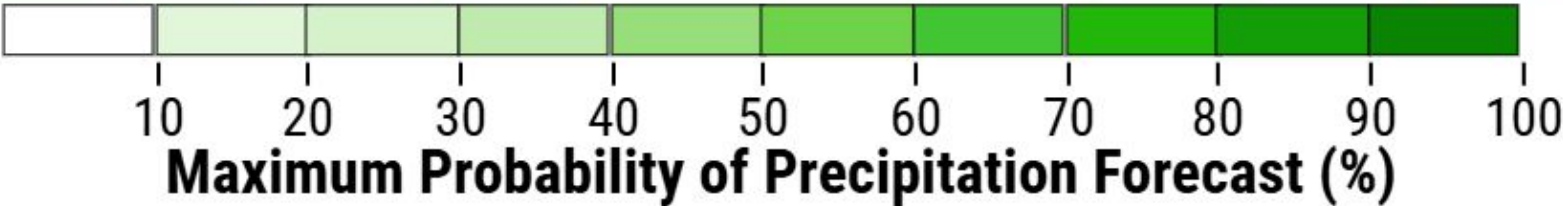
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Rain Chances Tuesday through Saturday

September 21, 2026
1:20 PM

Maximum Probability of Precipitation (%) Forecast

	9/22 Tue				9/23 Wed				9/24 Thu				9/25 Fri				9/26 Sat		
	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm
Alamogordo	5	30	65	70	85	95	80	65	75	80	75	50	75	75	65	45	40	25	25
Cloudcroft	20	55	80	90	85	95	90	70	75	85	90	60	80	80	80	50	35	30	40
Deming	5	40	70	80	85	80	45	55	50	45	45	60	75	40	30	30	25	10	10
El Paso	5	10	60	90	95	90	55	65	70	50	50	55	70	55	35	40	25	15	10
Las Cruces	5	25	75	90	95	90	60	60	70	55	40	50	75	55	40	30	30	15	10
Sierra Blanca	0	15	30	45	75	70	60	65	65	40	60	60	60	45	45	30	25	10	20
Silver City	10	45	75	75	80	80	75	50	35	40	50	70	75	50	50	30	20	15	20
T or C	5	55	75	85	95	90	80	55	60	65	60	70	80	55	45	45	40	15	20



- Forecast confidence (flood):
 - Medium-High (Tue-Wed)



Flood Watch

weather.gov/**EIPaso**

Updated: Mon Sep 21, 2026 2:17 PM

Valid: 12:00 PM Tue. through 7:00 PM Wed.



All of Southwest and South-Central NM and Far West TX, with the heaviest rain around the Rio Grande.

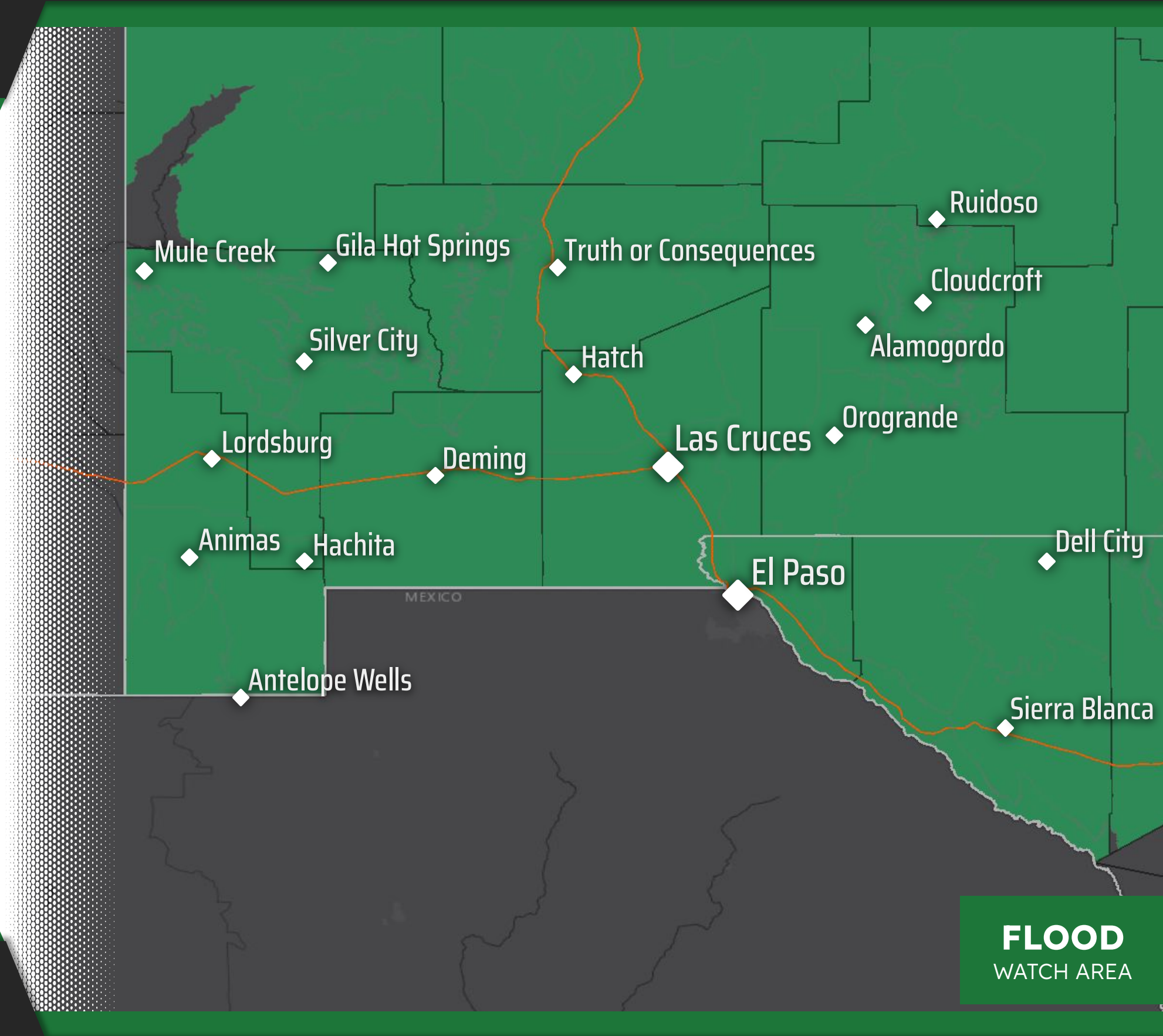


→ **Widespread showers and thunderstorms with heavy rainfall. Some areas within the watch may get several inches of rainfall.**



→ **Flooding of rivers, creeks, streams and other low-lying flood prone areas**

→ **Low-water crossings may flood**



FLOOD
WATCH AREA



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Highest Local Risk



WHAT THIS MEANS:

Heavy Rain with at least
a 40% Chance for
Flash Flooding

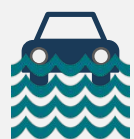
TIMING

TUES-WED
12 PM to 6 AM

THREATS



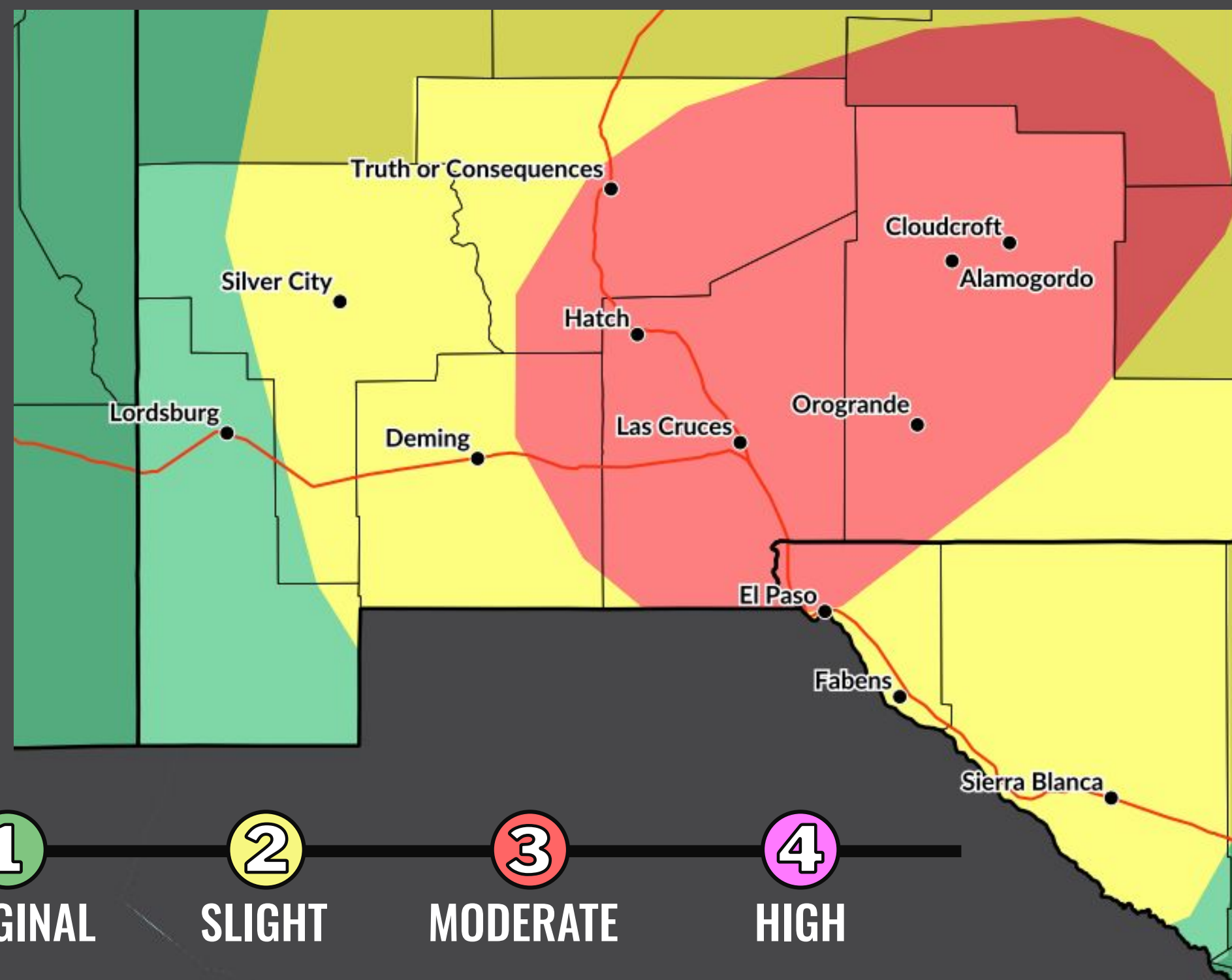
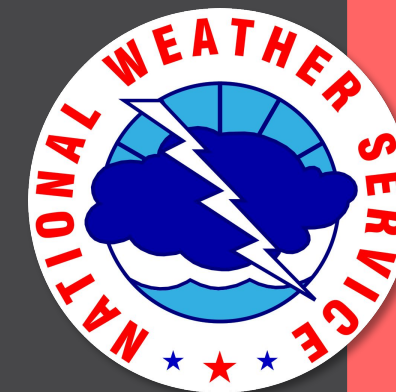
HEAVY
RAIN



Flash
Flooding

Widespread **Flash Flooding** Tuesday

Tuesday 6 AM - Wednesday 6 AM



1

MARGINAL

2

SLIGHT

3

MODERATE

4

HIGH

Excessive Rainfall Risk

Updated: 1:20 PM, Monday, September 21, 2026



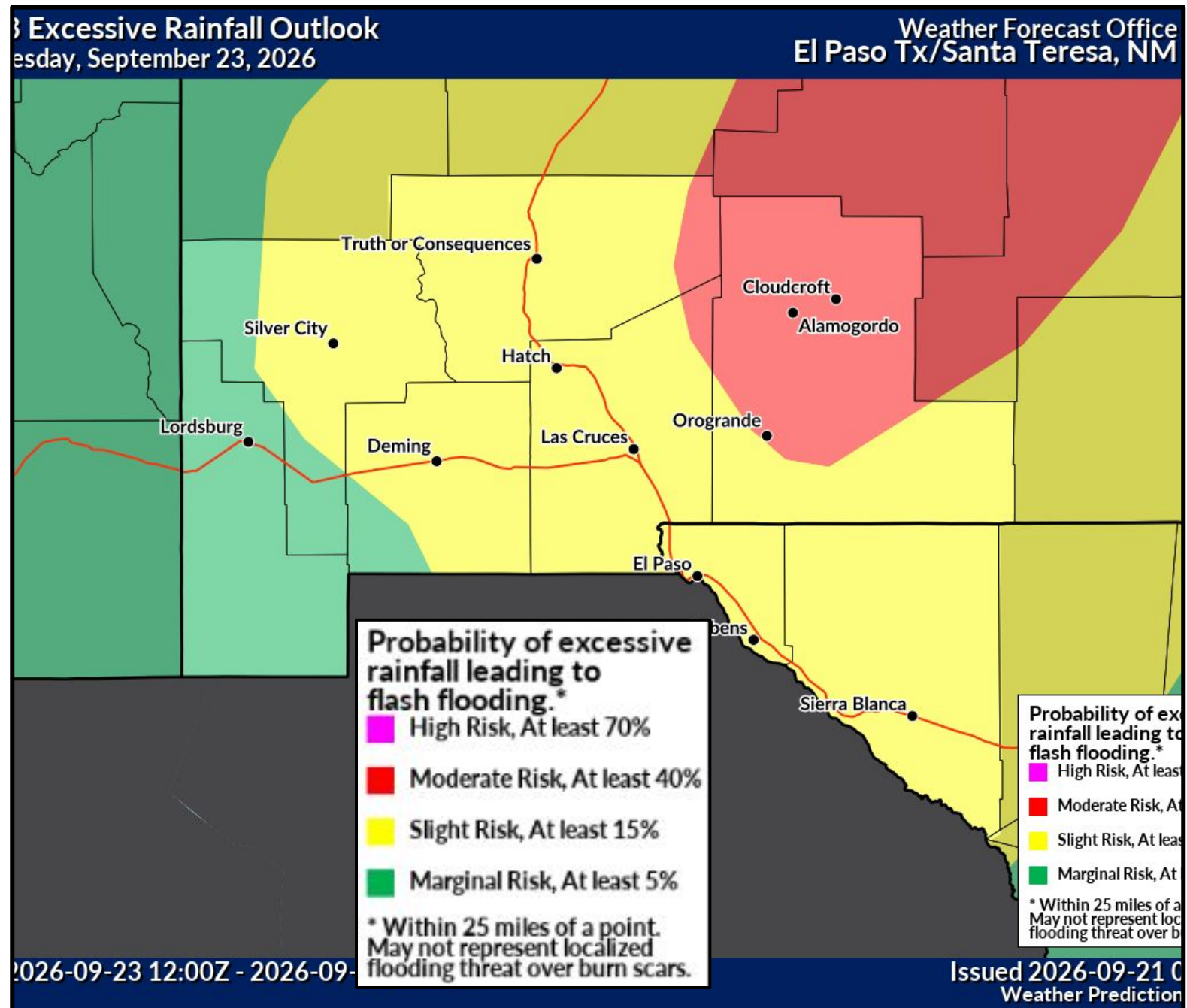
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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

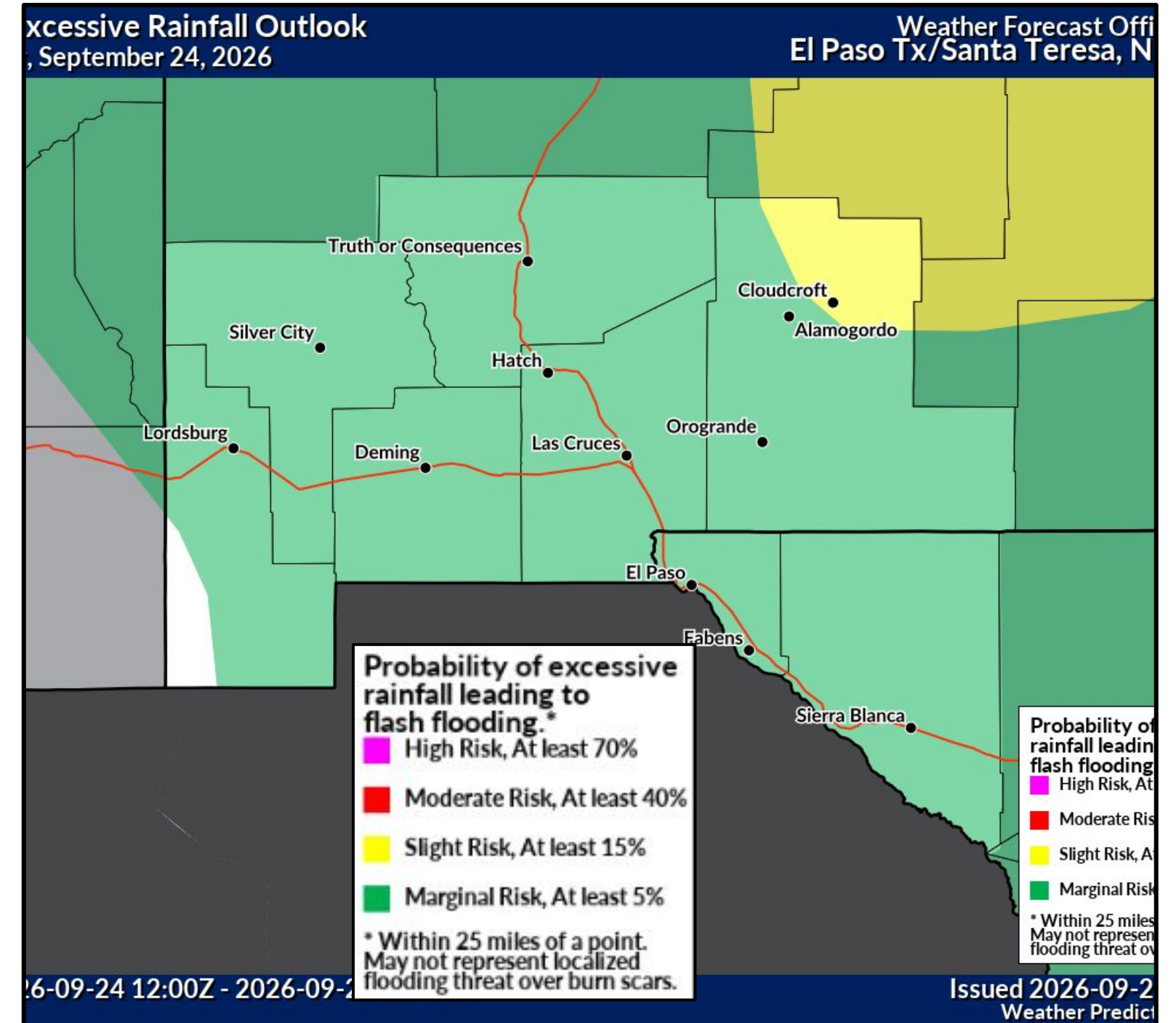
| El Paso, TX

Excessive Rainfall Outlook

WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



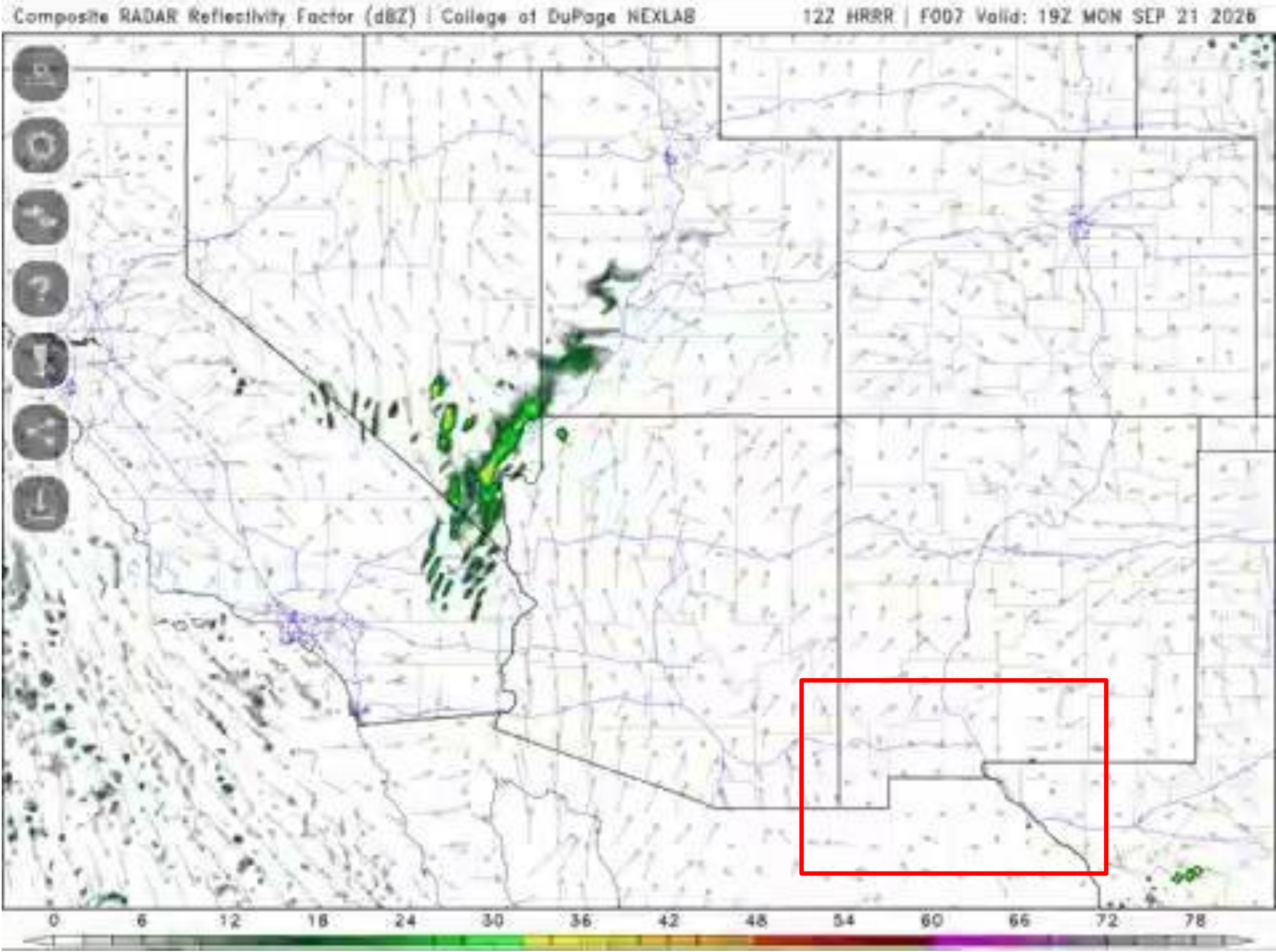
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September 21, 2026 | 1:20 PM

Model Simulated Radar Reflectivity (Tue PM- Wed AM)

September 21, 2026
1:20 PM



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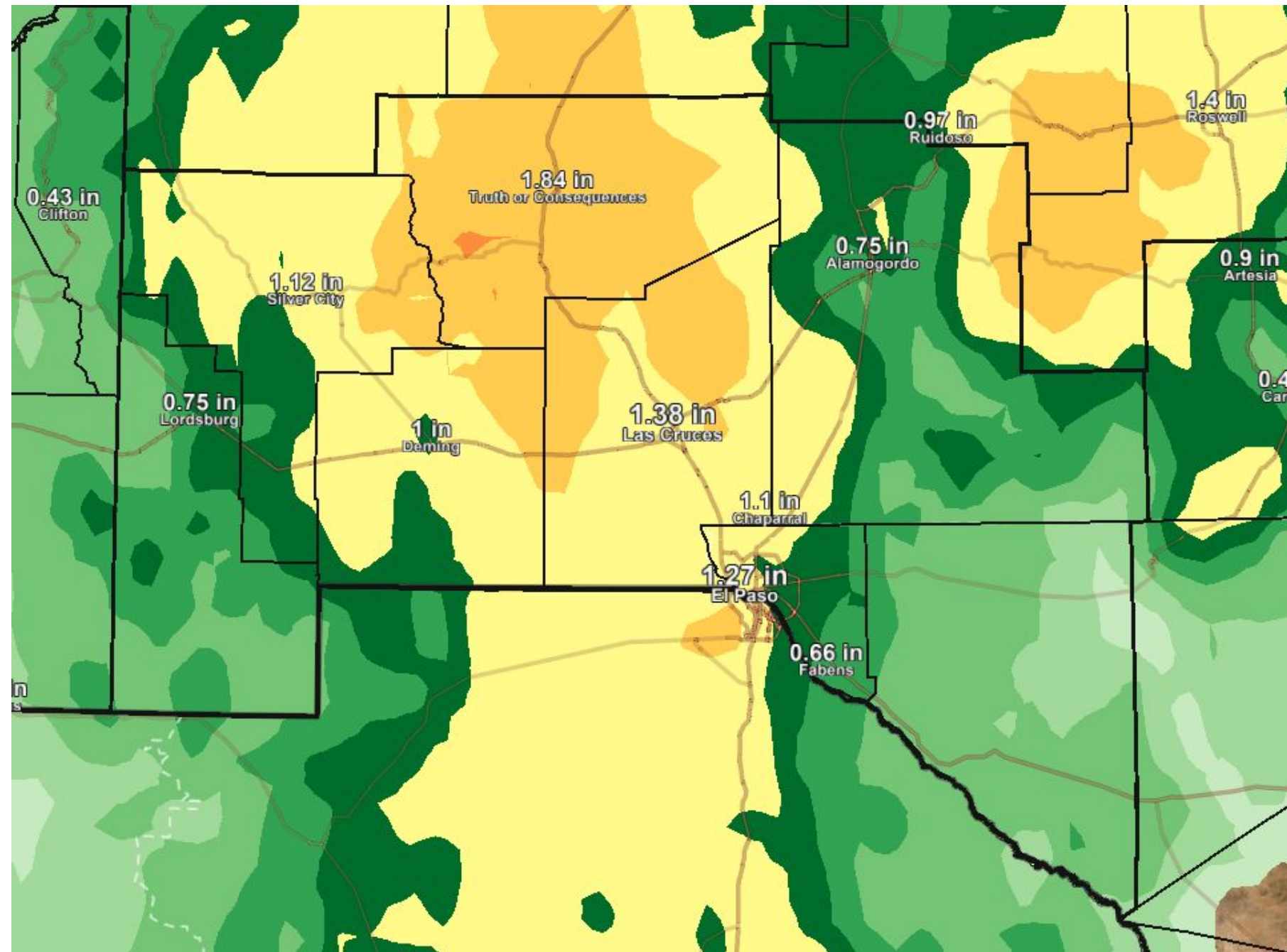


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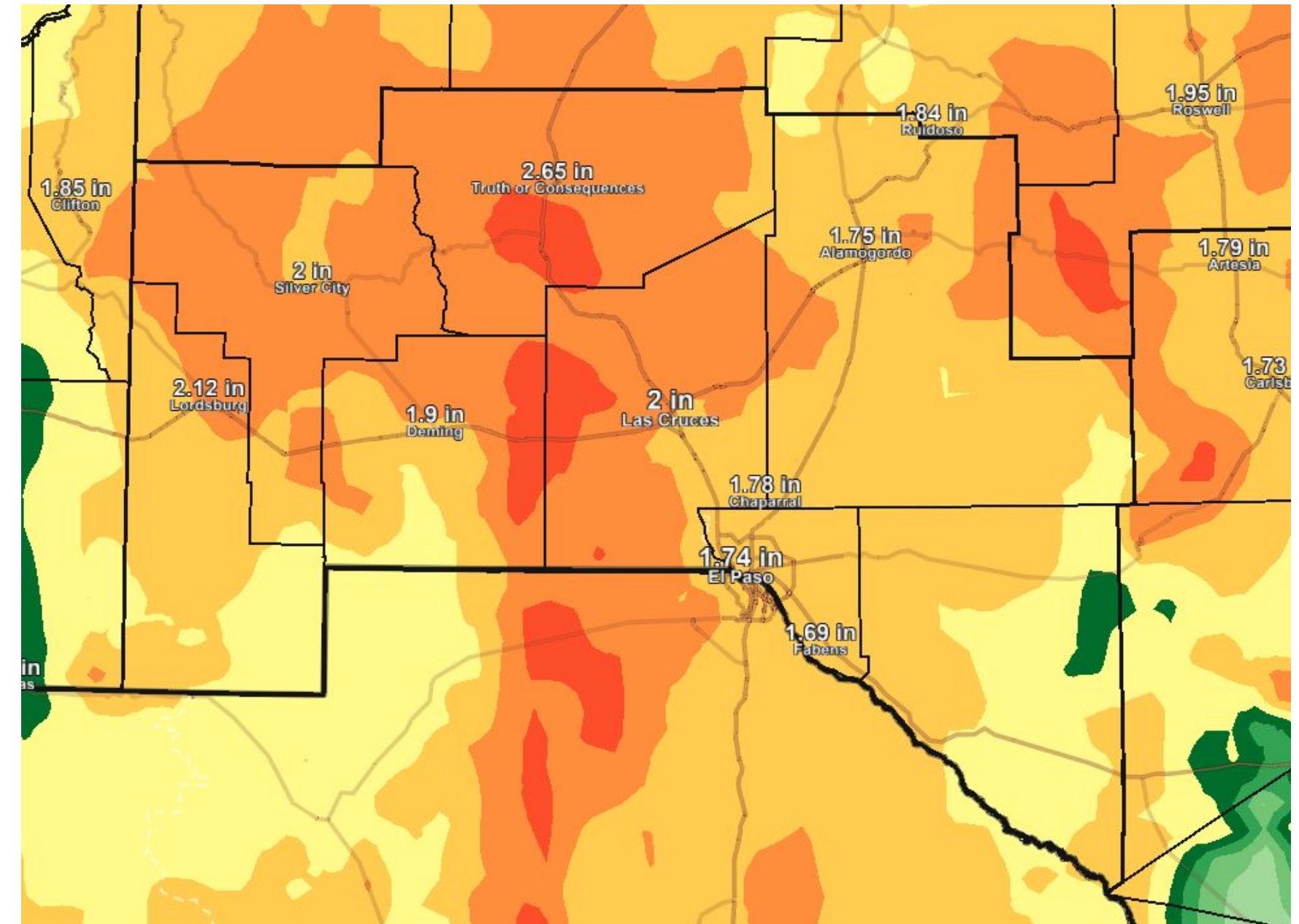
Rainfall Potential Tuesday 6 AM - Wednesday 6 AM

September 21, 2026
1:20 PM

Most Likely Rainfall



High-End Rainfall (Isolated areas will receive this)



Widespread 1-2"



Localized amounts 3-4"

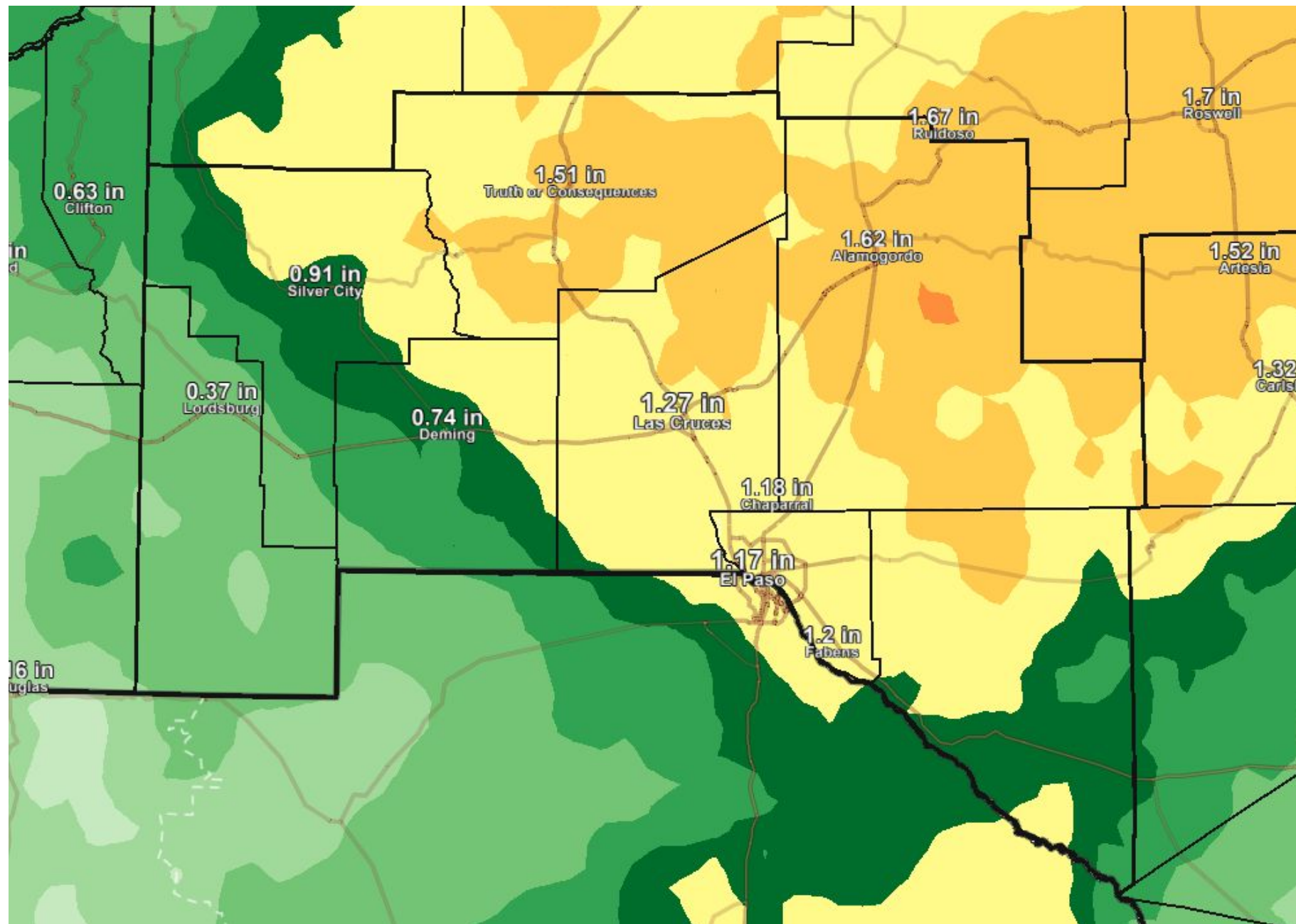


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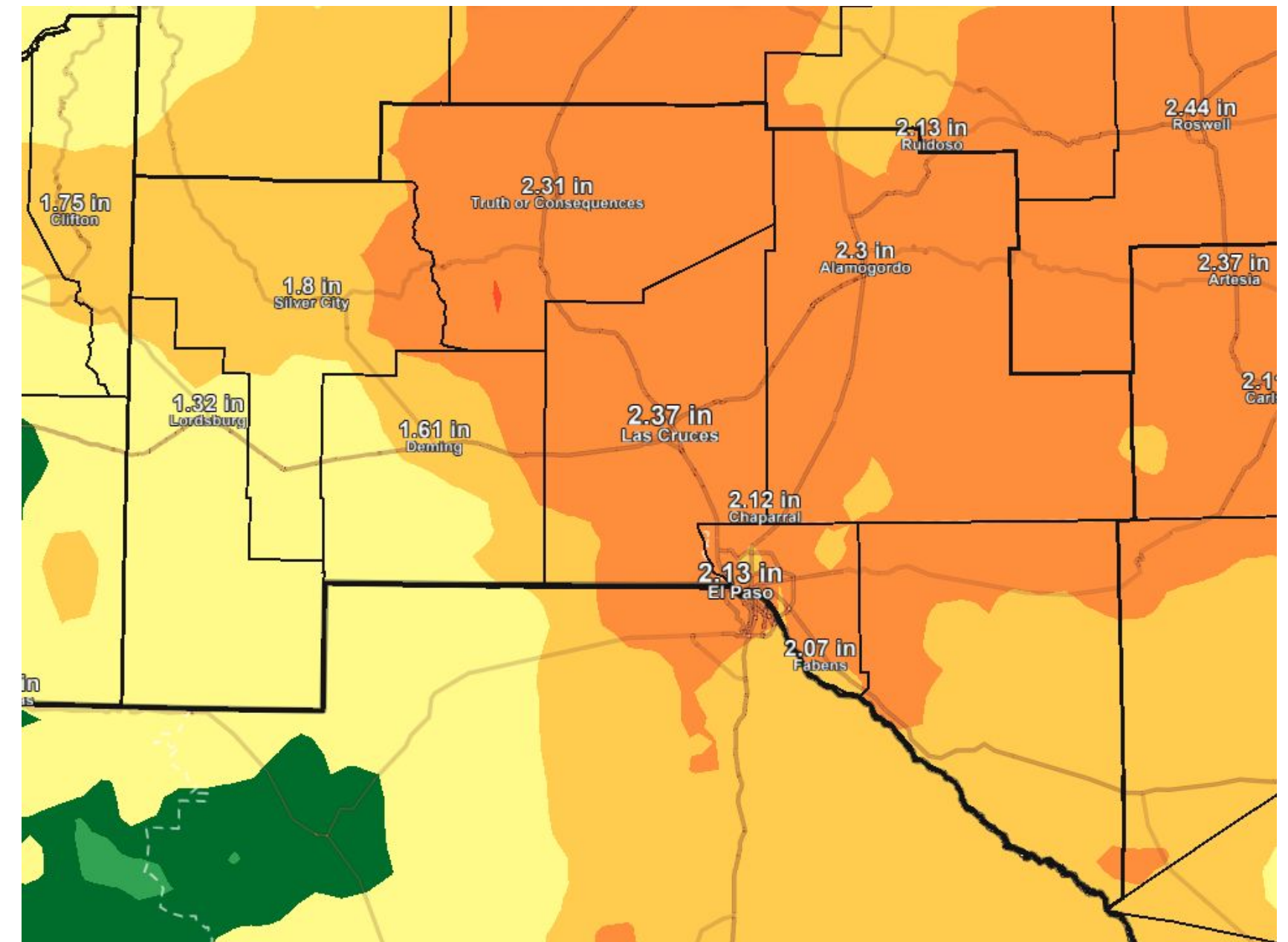


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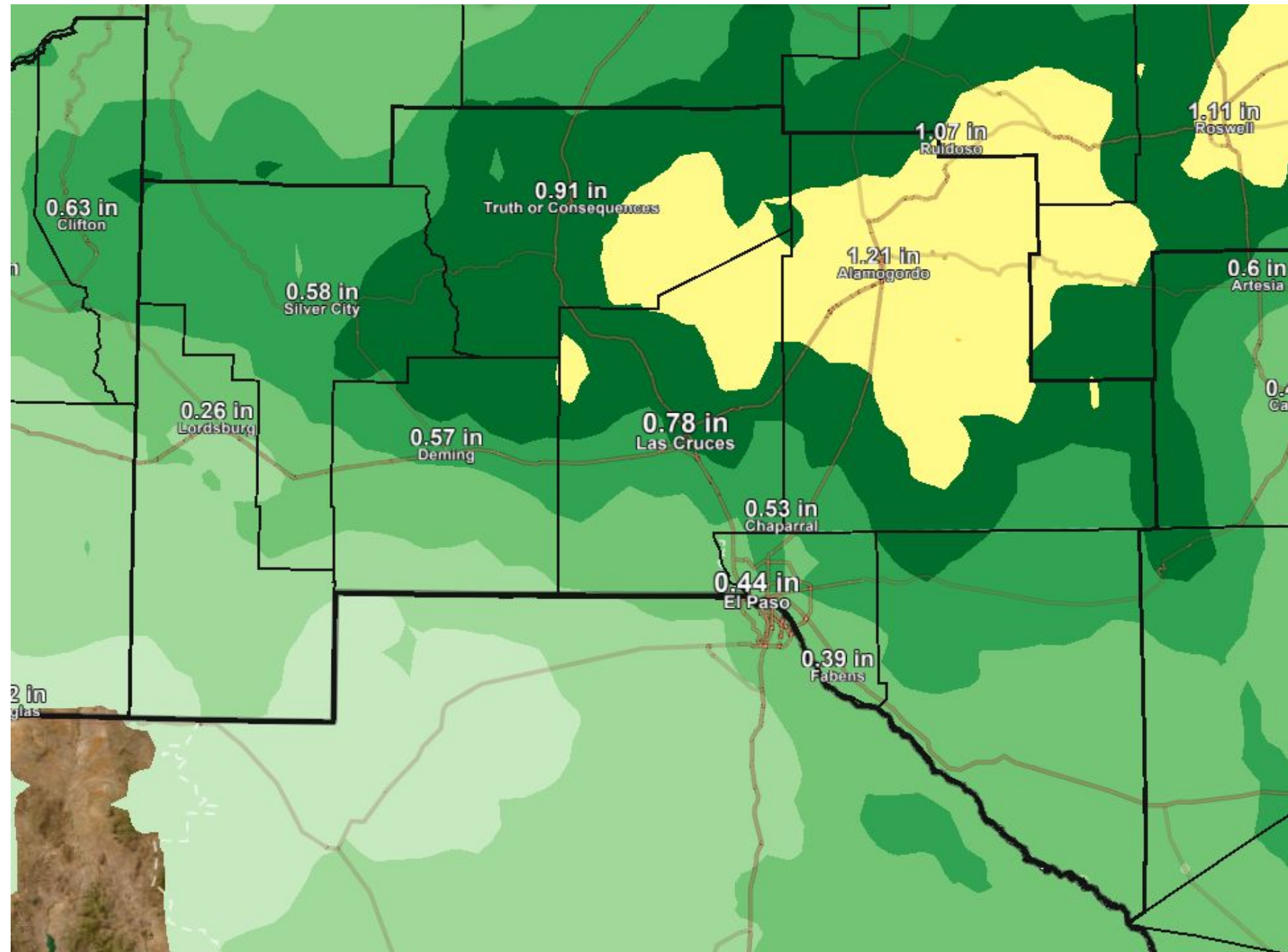
Localized amounts +2"



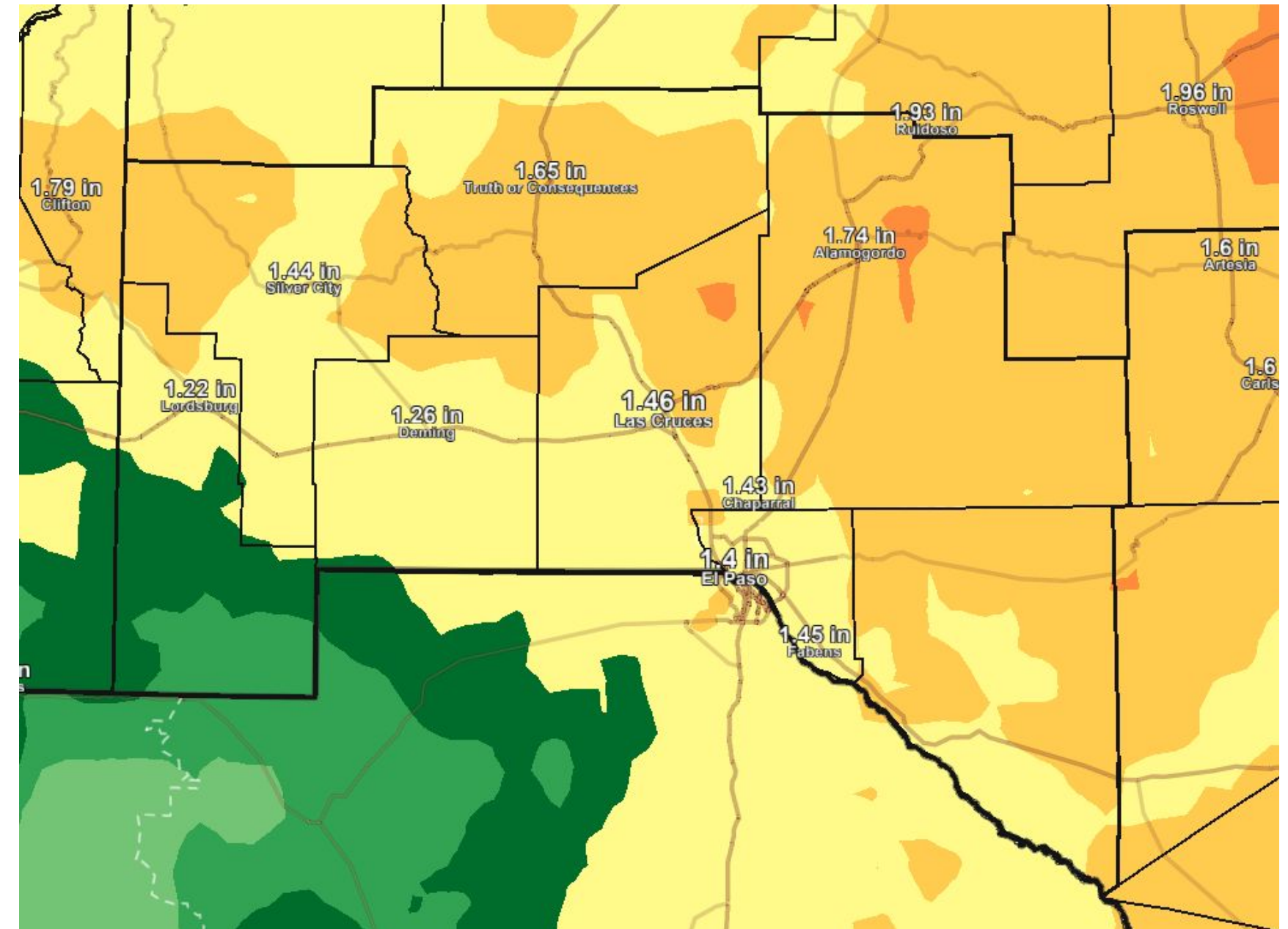
Rainfall Potential Thursday 6 AM - Friday 6 AM

September 21, 2026
1:20 PM

Most Likely Rainfall



High-End Rainfall (Isolated areas will receive this)



Widespread 0.5-1.5"



Localized amounts 2"



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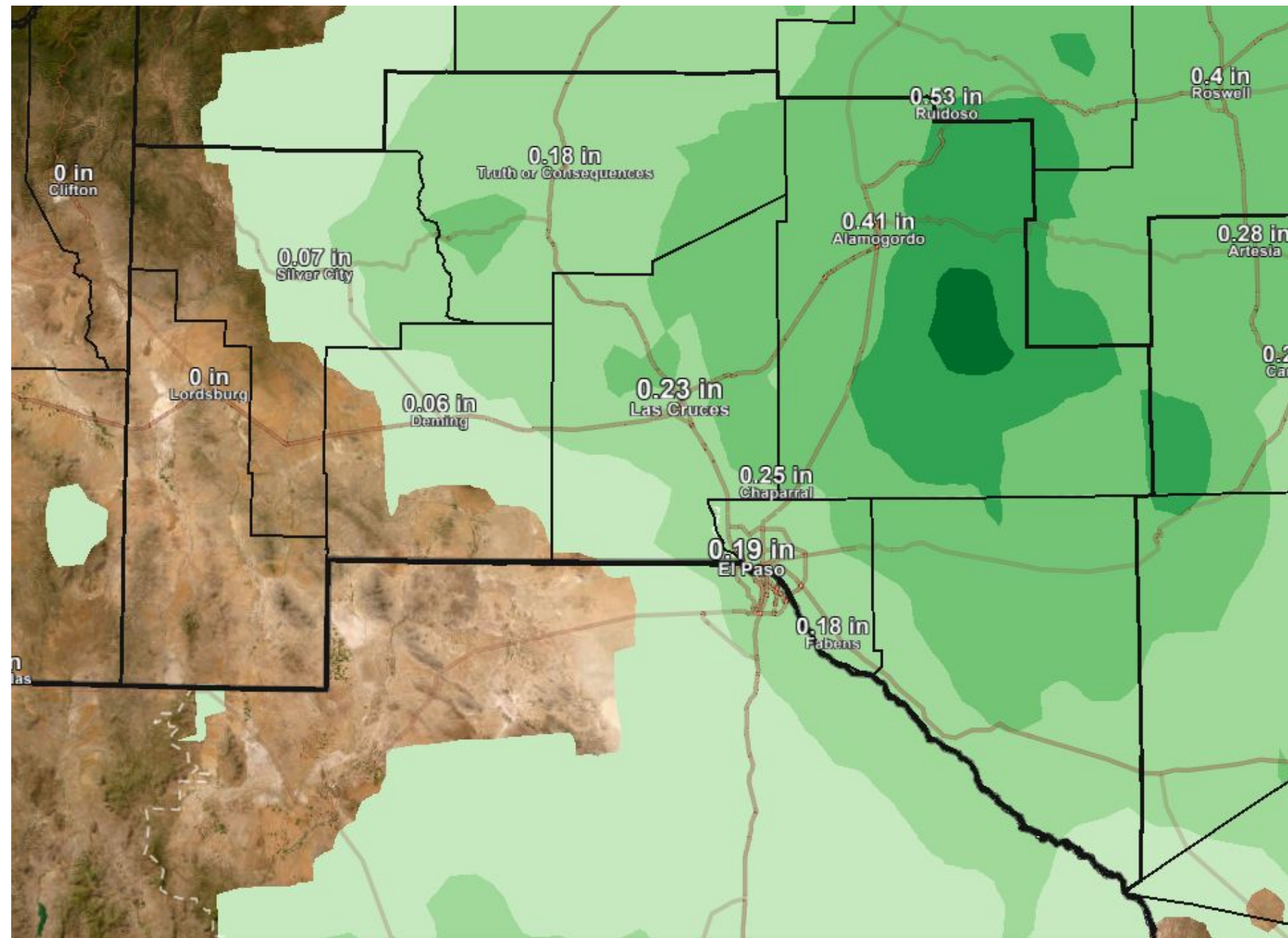


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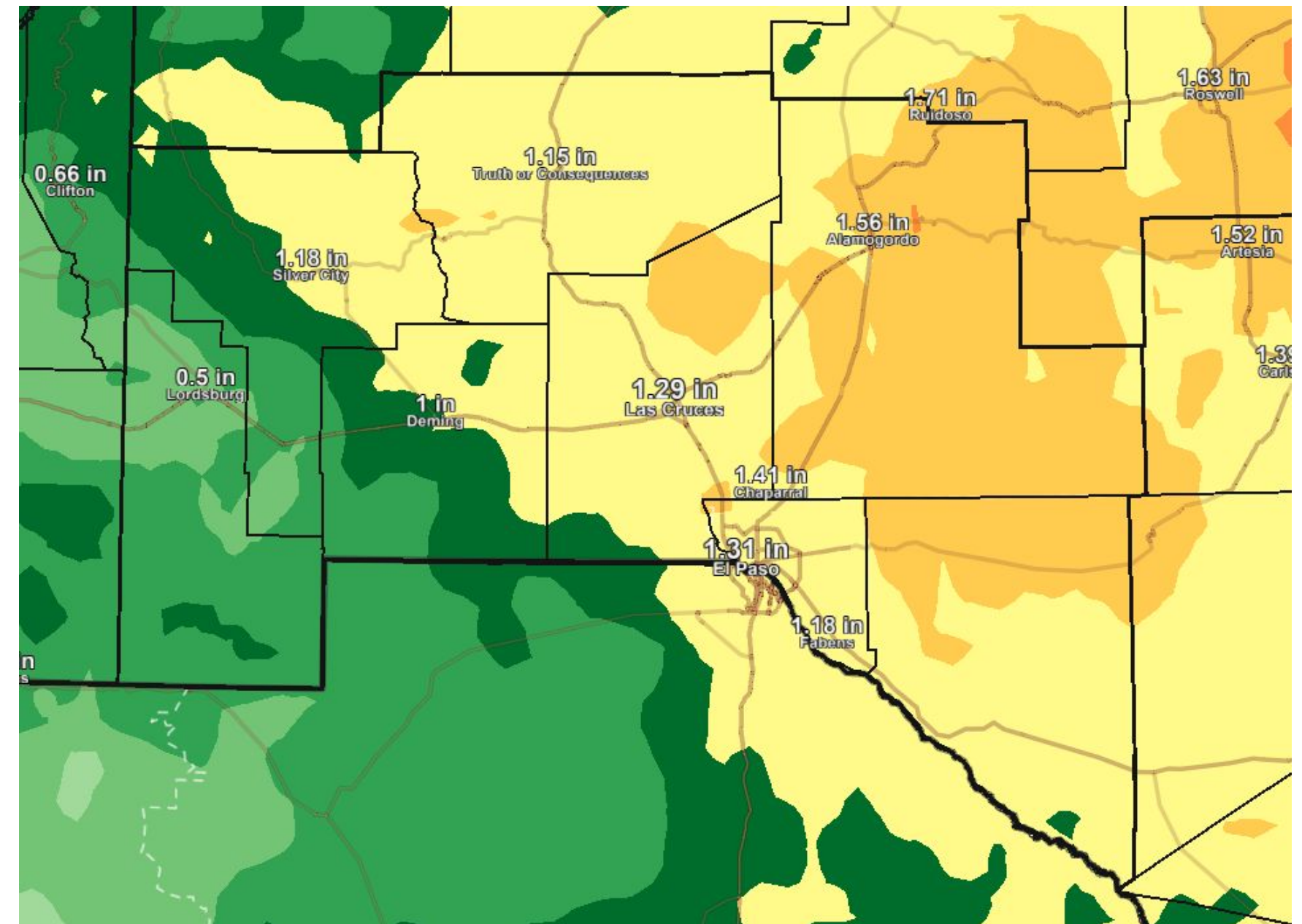
Rainfall Potential for Friday 6 AM - Saturday 6 AM

September 21, 2026
1:20 PM

Most Likely Rainfall



High-End Rainfall (Isolated areas will receive this)



Widespread 0.1-0.5"



Localized amounts of 1.5"



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Damage Threat Tag	Tornado Warnings	Severe Thunderstorm Warnings	Flash Flood Warnings
Base <i>No Damage Threat Tag</i>	Weak, short-lived tornado 	60 mph wind <i>and/or</i> 1" hail (U.S. quarter)	Minor flash flooding
Considerable Damage Threat Tag	Strong, confirmed tornado 	70 mph wind <i>and/or</i> 1.75" hail (golf ball)	Significant flash flooding 
Catastrophic/Destructive Damage Threat Tag	Strong, confirmed tornado impacting a populated area 	80 mph wind <i>and/or</i> 2.75" hail (baseball) 	Devastating flash flooding 

All National Weather Service Severe Thunderstorm, Tornado, and Flash Flood Warnings contain Impact-Based Warning tags.



Vehicle Worksite Flood Hazards

Outdoor Worker Safety

Turn Around, Don't Drown! Avoid driving through flooded areas. Use extreme caution at night and when working near rivers, canals, or trenches.

- **Relocate workers and heavy vehicles** away from floodwater – fast-moving water can sweep them away.
- **Monitor floodwaters** for potential washouts – what looks like a shallow puddle may hide a deep sinkhole.
- **Implement safety protocols** including written safety plans and procedures, notification systems for reporting emergencies, and alternate or evacuation routes for blocked or flooded roads.
- **Assess ground conditions** to avoid placing heavy vehicles and equipment on saturated soil, which may cause unstable pavement.

weather.gov
osha.gov/flood



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