

STATE OF ALASKA
AMENDMENT TO DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, beginning on October 29 and continuing through November 1, 2021, an “atmospheric river” storm system, as defined by the National Weather Service, brought heavy rain, snow, and strong winds to much of Southcentral Alaska, but focused most of its moisture towards the Girdwood/Portage area within the Municipality of Anchorage, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough, including the City of Seward and the community of Cooper Landing; and, WHEREAS, I declared a condition of disaster emergency to exist in the Kenai Peninsula Borough on November 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, it is now evident that similar severe storm and flooding damage occurred in the Girdwood/Portage areas of the Municipality of Anchorage, a political subdivision within the State of Alaska, located adjacent to the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, several locations along the Alaska Railroad right-of-way between Indian and Portage, within the Municipality of Anchorage, were also heavily damaged by storm runoff, flooding, and erosion; and,

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage has requested to be added to the current disaster declaration to help them recover from this event; and

WHEREAS, the severity and magnitude of the emergency is beyond the timely and effective response and recovery capability of local resources, and repairs and emergency assistance are required.

NOW THEREFORE, on this 27th day of December, 2021, under authority granted by Alaska Statutes, Section 26.23.020(c), I hereby amend the declaration of disaster emergency issued November 30, 2021, to include the Municipality of Anchorage for public assistance for emergency response costs, and temporary and permanent repairs to public infrastructure, resulting from the October 29 – November 1, 2021 storm. All other provisions contained in the November 30, 2021 declaration apply to this amendment.

By:  _____

Mike Dunleavy
Governor



Governor Mike Dunleavy STATE OF ALASKA

December 27, 2021

The Honorable Peter Micciche
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Louise Stutes
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Micciche and Speaker Stutes:

This letter is to inform you that on December 27, 2021, I amended the State disaster declaration for the 2021 Southcentral Alaska Storm (AK 21-276) to include the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA). This amendment authorizes state disaster funds be made available to include disaster public assistance, and necessary administrative and disaster management expenses, for eligible applicants within the MOA, including the Alaska Railroad (ARRC), resulting from the October 29 – November 1, 2021 storm.

Shortly after the storm, my staff at the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) became aware of significant flooding in the Girdwood and Portage areas, both within the MOA. Local officials reported that runoff erosion washed out the sole access road to Girdwood's only solid waste transfer and wastewater facility and an industrial park. Although initial damage estimates likely exceeded \$2 million, the MOA chose not to seek state disaster assistance and thus, were not included as an affected jurisdiction in the November 30, 2021 state declaration. The state declaration, as written, only includes eligible applicants, including those portions of the ARRC, within the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

DHS&EM has since received a request for the MOA to be included in the AK 21-276 state declaration. In their request letter, dated December 21, 2021, the MOA estimates the storm and flooding in Girdwood has caused no less than \$700,000 in emergency/temporary repairs, and, another \$1.5 - \$2.5 million in permanent repairs. Also, several locations along the ARRC tracks and right-of-way between Indian and Portage, also within the boundaries of the MOA, were damaged by the storm. Thus, the response and recovery costs within the MOA jurisdiction likely exceeds \$2.3 million. This disaster assistance may be accomplished by an amendment to the state declaration for the 2021 Southcentral Alaska Storm.

I intend to seek federal disaster assistance for the 2021 Southcentral Alaska Storm, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved my request for a time extension to seek this assistance to December 31, 2021. If successful, a federal declaration could result in significant cost savings to the state because the federal cost share would be 75 percent leaving the remaining 25 percent as the state share funded through the Disaster Relief Fund.

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This week, DHS&EM is conducting a preliminary damage assessment with FEMA to ensure the eligible costs from this disaster exceed the statewide and countywide per capita thresholds under Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Sections §206.48(a)(1).

With the inclusion of MOA damages, the total estimated statewide disaster costs would exceed \$5.36 million which far exceeds the minimum statewide per capita threshold required by the Stafford Act of \$1,195,427.30, calculated by multiplying 733,391 Alaska residents (2020 Census) by the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 per capita indicator of \$1.63.

As the total estimated disaster-related response and recovery costs have not been fully quantified, I will continue to limit expenditures for this disaster to \$1 million from the Disaster Relief Fund pursuant to Alaska Statute (AS) 26.23.020(i) and (k), and per AS 26.23.025(a) this letter serves as the initial finance plan. Once the full extent of damages have been determined and subject to a determination by the President on supplemental federal assistance, I will provide a revised finance plan for the 2021 Southcentral Alaska Storm disaster. The current balance of the Disaster Relief Fund is \$5,435,998.60 and a supplemental appropriation is not required at this time.

A copy of the disaster declaration amendment is included for your information.

Sincerely,



Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure: Disaster Declaration Amendment

cc: The Honorable Click Bishop, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Bert Stedman, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Neal Foster, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Kelly Merrick, Finance Committee Co-Chair, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Shelley Hughes, District F, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Lora Reinbold, District G, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Bill Wielechowski, District H, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Elvi Gray-Jackson, District I, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Tom Begich, District J, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Mia Costello, District K, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Natasha von Imhof, District L, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Josh Revak, District M, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Roger Holland, District N, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Gary Stevens, District P, Alaska State Senate

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The Honorable Cathy Tilton, District 12, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Ken McCarty, District 13, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable David Nelson, District 15, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Ivy Spohnholz, District 16, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Andy Josephson, District 17, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Harriet Drummond, District 18, Alaska State House of
Representatives
The Honorable Geran Tarr, District 19, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Zack Fields, District 20, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Matt Claman, District 21, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Sara Rasmussen, District 22, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Chris Tuck, District 23, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Tom McKay, District 24, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Calvin Schrage, District 25, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Laddie Shaw, District 26, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Liz Snyder, District 27, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable James Kaufman, District 28, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Benjamin Carpenter, District 29, Alaska State House of
Representatives
The Honorable Ronald Gillham, District 30, Alaska State House of Representatives
The Honorable Sarah Vance, District 31, Alaska State House of Representatives
Neil Steininger, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Akis Gialopsos, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor