

**STATE OF ALASKA  
DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2018, a major earthquake, measured at magnitude 7.0, produced strong seismic shaking that caused widespread and severe damage, primarily within the Municipality of Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and Kenai Peninsula Borough; and,

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and Kenai Peninsula Borough are political subdivisions of the State of Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough have each issued local declarations of disaster emergency in response to this event; and,

WHEREAS, the following conditions exist as a result of this disaster: widespread and severe damage to major highways and important community roads, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure; undermining of road embankments and railroad tracks; widespread power, water, and communication disruption; structural collapse and resulting fires to several community buildings; and, severe damage to private homes and personal property, and,

WHEREAS, these conditions required local emergency protective measures to protect life and property, including activation and staffing of emergency operations centers; emergency debris clearance of roads and railroad tracks to protect critical infrastructure and maintain access; placement of road barricades to protect roads and bridges; operation of mass shelters for affected residents; school, business, and government office closures; 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; and,

WHEREAS, there are insufficient regularly appropriated funds in the communities impacted by this event to cover these requirements; and,

WHEREAS, normal environmental permitting processes would likely impede or substantially delay the urgent repairs to damaged transportation infrastructure and suspension of State environmental permitting requirements to allow emergency work is a reasonable and appropriate measure.

THEREFORE, on this 2nd day of December 2018, under authority granted by Alaska Statute 26.23.020(c), I hereby declare that a condition of disaster emergency exists in the Municipality of Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and Kenai Peninsula Borough and this condition is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a disaster declaration in order to provide assistance. I am suspending the normal environmental permitting processes that would likely impede or substantially delay urgently required emergency actions and suspending the State environmental permitting requirements in order to enhance public safety and the protection of the public interests and infrastructure.

FURTHER, the Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is hereby authorized to utilize funds made available for these purposes, which are considered necessary for disaster assistance to include disaster public assistance, individual assistance, temporary housing, and necessary administrative and disaster management expenses. State funds are proposed to be spent under AS 26.23.020(i) and (k) and AS 26.23.050. The Commissioner of DMVA or her designee is the designated State Coordinator; and is further authorized to task, as necessary, the state departments and agencies in accordance with the State Emergency Operations Plan and is further authorized to exercise, as necessary, the provisions provided under Alaska Statutes, Section 26.23.020(g), (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (9) and (10).

FURTHER, I specifically order the suspension of those provisions of Alaska Statutes and regulations relating to any requirement for the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to (a) obtain a lease from another state agency prior to entry upon the land; (b) obtain a permit, including land use permits and right-of-way permits, from another state agency prior to entry upon land; (c) obtain water use permits or rights, including temporary rights, from another state agency prior to utilizing such resources; (d) obtain fish habitat permits or special area permits from another state agency; (e) obtain wastewater disposal permits from another state agency; (f) obtain Section 106 Reviews pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 from another state agency; provided that the foregoing suspensions do not apply to any specific provision the suspension of which would create a violation of federal law or a violation of a requirement for the provision of federal emergency funding, and the foregoing suspensions may be supplemented by my further order to the Commissioner of DMVA and the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

By:   
Bill Walker  
Governor