



City and Borough of Juneau  
City & Borough Manager's Office  
155 Heritage Way  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Telephone: 907-586-5240 | Facsimile: 907-586-5385

TO: Deputy Mayor Smith and Committee of the Whole  
FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager  
DATE: May 8, 2025  
RE: GLOF Inundation Maps and HESCO Barrier Installation Phase 1A and 1B

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On May 8<sup>th</sup>, we shared new glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) inundation maps that have been under development by our consultant, Michael Baker International (MBI), in partnership with technical experts. Additionally, staff developed and published a new website containing answers to what we believe will be frequently asked questions and other related information. Members of the local media were given opportunities to preview the maps and ask questions in an effort to ensure as much public communication as possible on this important topic.

### **Review of Maps**

One purpose of the meeting today is to formally share these maps and related information with the Assembly, and for the Assembly and public to hear from our technical experts. In addition to the information in today's packet and what you'll hear today, we have a 45-minute recorded webinar on our new website that goes into further technical detail for those who would like to dive deeper into those details.

### **Immediate Possible Next Steps**

The maps quickly illustrate the need to continue installing barriers to protect against future flood events. Staff is nearing completion of Phase 1 of the HESCO barrier installation project. Budget and materials remain to extend from the current terminus (6200 Rivercourt Way) to Egan Drive at Brotherhood Bridge. In the case of a GLOF that exceeds the 2024 event, this extension would protect hundreds of millions of dollars of public infrastructure, in addition to residences and commercial properties. However, we would need to make a decision quickly and wrestle with the fairness issue of these protected properties being outside of the LID.

### **Fairness**

The expenditures associated with the LID will exclusively include Phase 1. At this point we are over \$2M under budget for Phase 1. This will result in lower assessments for each household in the LID (recall the LID assessed 40% of actual project cost among 466 properties), barring unknown additional expenses to the project (i.e., pending litigation). We do not have time to care for an LID for this short stretch of property. Furthermore, it principally protects public infrastructure. However, the inundation maps include hundreds of new properties that will be protected by the HESCO barriers – and even more that will be protected by long term mitigation. There will be plenty of opportunity for spending future public dollars on long- and short-term mitigation. Staff, the Assembly, and the community need to spend brain power problem solving how to share this burden appropriately across all CBJ taxpayers and benefited properties. This could look like more LIDs, or it could look like a special tax district with a flood mill levy – or some other mechanism not yet discussed. At some point we will need to have faith in CBJ residents to support a project that protects their neighbors when they may have already benefited from this proposed extension.

### **Recommendation**

Discuss appetite for extending the scope of HESCO Barrier Installation Phase 1. If there is appetite to extend HESCO barriers, give staff direction to proceed with Phase 1A and collect more information on Phase 1B, including outreach to affected properties.