

Presented by: The Manager
Presented: 10/21/2024
Drafted by: Law Department

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 3073

**A Resolution of the City and Borough of Juneau Extending the Local
Emergency Declaration in Response to the August 2024 Glacier
Outburst Flood and a Request for State and Federal Assistance.**

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau (the “City and Borough”) is a political subdivision of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a side basin (Suicide Basin or K’óox Kaadí Basin) of the Mendenhall Glacier above Juneau, Alaska, has released outburst floods (also known as jökulhlaups) since 2011, with record flood events in August 2023 and August 2024; and

WHEREAS, the August 2024 glacier outburst flood caused unprecedented damage to public infrastructure and private property, triggering the assistance of State agencies and the Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Alaska issued a State disaster declaration on August 12, 2024, and the City and Borough received a federal disaster declaration on October 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the following conditions exist: the extent of the August 2024 flooding is unprecedented; hundreds of homes were severely impacted by flooding, including homes outside anticipated flood areas; hundreds of vehicles were flooded; there were countless hazardous material spills causing portions of the Mendenhall River and floodwaters to smell like petroleum; 43 people sought refuge in an emergency shelter and countless others evacuated to other locations; public utilities and infrastructure were severely damaged; and emergency response costs are significant; and

WHEREAS, the emergency is ongoing, as the basin continues to fill, placing public infrastructure and private property at risk due to a possible second 2024 release and an anticipated summer 2025 release; and

38 WHEREAS, the City and Borough has appropriated funds for expanded inundation
39 maps and hydrological modeling of the Mendenhall River as well as local matching funds for
40 the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) glacier outburst flooding investigation study; and

41 WHEREAS, the City and Borough has executed an agreement with the USACE for
42 advance measure assistance in the form of sandbags and HESCO barriers; and

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44 WHEREAS, the Assembly has approved the placement of HESCO barriers to protect
45 life and property; and

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47 WHEREAS, the City and Borough Manager is the chief administrative officer who
48 reports to the Assembly (CBJ Charter 4.1 & 4.5); and

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50 WHEREAS, the governing body of the City and Borough is the Assembly, which has
51 legislative and policy-making powers (CBJ Charter 3.1), and the City and Borough Mayor is
52 the presiding officer with special powers in emergencies; and

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54 WHEREAS, pursuant to CBJC 03.25.040(a) and A.S. 26.23.140, the declaration of the
55 existence of a local emergency may be made by the City and Borough Manager and
56 confirmed by the City and Borough Assembly; and

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58 WHEREAS, the Assembly authorizes the Manager to implement orders necessary to
59 protect the health and safety of the residents of the City and Borough; and

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61 WHEREAS, the Assembly further authorizes the Manager to allow emergency
62 permitting and waivers under Title 19, Title 49, and Title 75 as it is reasonable and
63 necessary to protect life and property, upon balancing the public health, safety, and welfare;
64 and

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66 WHEREAS, the Assembly requests the Governor of the State of Alaska direct State
67 officials to allow emergency permitting and waivers to State laws for people, businesses, and
68 residences who need to take reasonable actions to protect life and property.

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70 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF
71 JUNEAU, ALASKA:

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73 **Section 1. Local Emergency Declaration.** The City and Borough Manager and
74 Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau declare a disaster emergency to exist within
75 the City and Borough of Juneau per CBJ Charter 3.12(c), CBJC 03.25.040(a), A.S. 26.23.140.
76 A copy of this Resolution shall be filed promptly with the Alaska Division of Homeland
77 Security and Emergency Management.

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Section 2. Reasonable and Necessary Emergency Orders. Consistent with CBJC 03.25.040(6), CBJC 03.25.090, and A.S. 29.23.190, the Assembly authorizes the Manager to implement any reasonable emergency orders necessary to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the residents of the City and Borough of Juneau including emergency permitting and waivers under Title 19 and Title 49 as it is reasonable and necessary to protect life and property, upon balancing the public health, safety, and welfare.

Section 3. Request for State and Federal Assistance. The City and Borough of Juneau requests that the Governor of the State of Alaska provide continued State public assistance and individual assistance as may be available, assistance with emergency permitting within and near Mendenhall River, and to request additional assistance from the federal government.

Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption. Because of the ongoing nature of the emergency, this declaration of local emergency shall remain in effect for 180 days.

Adopted this 21st day of October 2024.

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Katie Koester, City Manager

Attest:

Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk