



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

23-01

December Extreme Weather and Flooding

WHEREAS, a series of atmospheric river events struck Washington State between December 18, 2022, and December 28, 2022, producing straight-line winds, ice, extreme cold temperatures and heavy rainfall. This, coupled with extreme tidal and wave actions along coastal shorelines, resulted in coastal flooding, saturated soils, and landslides in Chelan, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Okanogan, Pacific, Pierce, Snohomish, Stevens and Whatcom counties; and

WHEREAS, these storms caused significant coastal flooding to homes and businesses, road damage, temporary road closures and detours, and extensive damage to public utilities and electrical power systems, and

WHEREAS, damage to roadways caused by the storms resulted in temporary road closures limiting access to and complicating the provision of response and recovery efforts by emergency responders, businesses, and utilities to address the aftermath of these storms, requiring Washington's Secretary of Transportation to commence work immediately to repair affected roadways through the implementation of emergency procurement procedures to alleviate impacts to public safety; and

WHEREAS, state agencies and local jurisdictions are coordinating resources to address damages to residences, public utilities, roadways and to assess damage caused by the storms, and implement damage repairs; and

WHEREAS, storm damages, including the cost of repairs and ongoing impacts, currently exceed \$3 million and the effects of the storms continue to impact the life and health of the people as well as the property and infrastructure of Washington State, all of which is a public disaster that affects life, health, property, or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department has been monitoring and coordinating supporting actions through the State Emergency Operations Center, implementing emergency response procedures, and is coordinating resources to support local officials in alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and is continuing to assess the magnitude of the event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay R. Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation and under Chapters 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State

of Emergency exists in Chelan, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Okanogan, Pacific, Pierce, Snohomish, Stevens and Whatcom counties in the state of Washington, and direct the plans and procedures in the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented. State agencies and departments are directed to utilize state resources in accordance with the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the event.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 31st day of January, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty-three at Olympia, Washington.

By:

_____/s/_____
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

_____/s/_____
Secretary of State