

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
Serial No. 4050

**A Resolution of the City and Borough of Juneau Declaring a Local
Emergency in Response to the 2026 Glacier Outburst Flood and a
Request for State 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, 2024, and 2025; causing repeated damage to public and private infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the August 2023, 2024, and 2025 glacier outburst floods were unprecedented in nature; and

WHEREAS, the August 2023 glacier outburst flood resulted in severe riverbank erosion compromising residences, and structural damage and collapse of homes; and

WHEREAS, the August 2024 glacier outburst flood resulted in flooding of homes, including homes outside anticipated flood areas; flooding of vehicles; 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; and public utilities and infrastructure were severely damaged; and

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

WHEREAS, the City and Borough has operated under an ongoing emergency since August 2024 as flood events of this scale have caused riverbank collapse, major flooding, residential evacuations, property losses, damage to public utilities and infrastructure, and hazardous material releases; and

WHEREAS, both the City and Borough of Juneau and the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) issued disaster declarations on August 8, 2025, to allow for timely protective actions, including the deployment of state resources and pre-positioning of equipment, emergency permitting, public alerts, and interagency coordination; and

WHEREAS, the Governor issued a preemptive disaster declaration on August 10, 2025, to allow for timely protective actions, including the deployment of state resources and pre-positioning of equipment, emergency permitting, public alerts, and interagency coordination; and

WHEREAS, on August 13, 2025, the 2025 glacial outburst flood occurred at a new historic rate of 49,000 cubic feet per second; and

WHEREAS, due to emergency placement of flood barriers, the CBJ was able to protect hundreds of homes and City infrastructure in the Mendenhall Valley; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough is committed to proactive, coordinated flood preparation and response which includes working closely with CCTHITA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Weather Service, and the University of Alaska Southeast in anticipation of 2026 outburst floods; and

WHEREAS, the immediate repair and fortification of Phase 1 and the new installation of Phase 2 of the HESCO barriers to an anticipated level of 62,500 cubic feet per second is necessary to protect life and property along the entirety of the river in anticipation of the 2026 GLOF; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough is pursuing both mid- and long-term solutions with all due diligence, but anticipates operating under emergency declarations until the threat to life, safety, and property is mitigated; and

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

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

81 WHEREAS, CBJ Charter 3.12(c) allows for the Assembly to declare an emergency and
82 CBJC 03.25.040(a) authorizes the City Manager to declare an emergency, subject to
83 confirmation by the Assembly; and
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85 WHEREAS, the Assembly authorizes the Manager to implement orders necessary to
86 protect the health and safety of the residents of the City and Borough.
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88 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:
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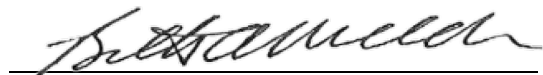
90 **Section 1. Local Emergency Declaration.** The City and Borough Manager and
91 Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau **declare a disaster emergency** to exist
92 within the City and Borough of Juneau per CBJ Charter 3.12(c), CBJC 03.25.040(a), and
93 A.S. 26.23.140. A copy of this Resolution shall be filed promptly with the Alaska Division of
94 Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

95 **Section 2. Reasonable and Necessary Emergency Orders.** Consistent with
96 CBJC 03.25.040(6), CBJC 03.25.090, and A.S. 29.23.190, the Assembly authorizes the
97 Manager to take and implement any and all reasonable emergency actions and orders
98 necessary to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the residents of the City and Borough of
99 Juneau.

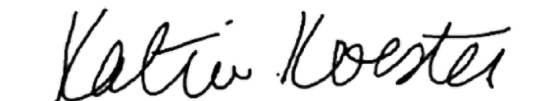
100 **Section 3. Request for State Assistance.** The City and Borough of Juneau
101 requests that the Governor of the State of Alaska provide continued state public assistance
102 and individual assistance as may be available, assistance with emergency permitting within
103 and near Mendenhall River.

104 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after
105 its adoption. Because of the ongoing nature of the emergency, this declaration of local
106 emergency shall remain in effect for 180 days.
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108 Adopted this 18 day of June, 2026.
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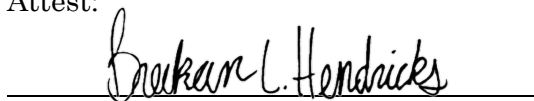
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112 Beth A. Weldon, Mayor
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116 Katie Koester, City Manager
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117 Attest:

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120 Breckan L. Hendricks, Municipal Clerk