

Presented by: The Manager
Introduction: 01/12/2026
Drafted by: Law Department

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
Serial No. 4033

**A Resolution of the City and Borough of Juneau Declaring a Local
Emergency in Response to the 2025 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, both the August 2024 and 2025 glacier outburst floods were unprecedented in nature; 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

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WHEREAS, as of August 8, 2025, monitoring and hydrologic data confirmed that the volume of water currently impounded in Suicide Basin reached or exceeded the threshold necessary to produce a flood of historic record on the Mendenhall River, creating a severe and imminent threat to life, property, and critical infrastructure in the Mendenhall Valley; and

WHEREAS, both the City Manager 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 pre-emptive 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 rise of 16.65 feet; and

WHEREAS, the immediate repair and installation of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the HESCO barriers project is necessary to further protect property and life along the entirety of the river; 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

WHEREAS, CBJ Charter 3.12(c) allows for the Assembly to declare an emergency without 24-hour notice; and CBJC 03.25.040(a) and AS 26.23.140 authorize the City Manager to declare an emergency, subject to confirmation by the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough is committed to proactive, coordinated flood preparation and response; this 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

81 WHEREAS, collaboration with the federal delegation and the U.S. Army Corps of
82 Engineers is essential to develop both an interim and enduring solution for effective flood
83 mitigation; and
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85 WHEREAS, state assistance is needed to supplement local efforts to protect life and
86 property, prepare for emergency operations, and reduce the potential severity of impacts
87 associated with this pending disaster; and
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89 WHEREAS, the Assembly authorizes the Manager to implement orders necessary to
90 protect the health and safety of the residents of the City and Borough.
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92 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:
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94 **Section 1. Local Emergency Declaration.** The City and Borough Manager and
95 Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau declare a disaster emergency to exist within
96 the City and Borough of Juneau per CBJ Charter 3.12(c), CBJC 03.25.040(a), and A.S.
97 26.23.140. A copy of this Resolution shall be filed promptly with the Alaska Division of
98 Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
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100 **Section 2. Reasonable and Necessary Emergency Orders.** Consistent with
101 CBJC 03.25.040(6), CBJC 03.25.090, and A.S. 29.23.190, the Assembly authorizes the
102 Manager to implement any reasonable emergency orders necessary to protect the health,
103 safety, or welfare of the residents of the City and Borough of Juneau including emergency
104 permitting and waivers under Title 19, Title 49, and Title 75 as it is reasonable and
105 necessary to protect life and property, upon balancing the public health, safety, and
106 welfare.
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108 **Section 3. Request for State Assistance.** The City and Borough of Juneau
109 requests that the Governor of the State of Alaska provide continued state public assistance
110 and individual assistance as may be available, assistance with emergency permitting within
111 and near Mendenhall River.
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113 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after
114 its adoption. Because of the ongoing nature of the emergency, this declaration of local
115 emergency shall remain in effect for 180 days.
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117 Adopted this 12 day of January, 2026.
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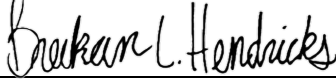


Beth A. Weldon, Mayor



Katie Koester, City Manager

Attest:



Breckan L. Hendricks, Municipal Clerk