

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
907-465-3500



550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-7450

Governor Mike Dunleavy

STATE OF ALASKA

September 19, 2024

Colonel Jeff Palazzini
District Commander
Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

Dear Colonel Palazzini,

The intent of this letter is to request emergency management planning assistance from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) requests support from the Alaska District to provide technical assistance related to the development and deployment of an Emergency Management Plan for flood fighting in response to glacial outburst flood risk.

The Mendenhall Valley is the primary residential concentration for Alaska's Capital, Juneau, Alaska. The area is currently at significant and ongoing risk of flooding due to annual glacial lake outbursts, also known as Jökulhlaups (pronounced "Yah-cuh-laups"). Jökulhlaups occur when a glacial dammed lake drains rapidly, releasing a surge of water downstream. These outburst floods pose a major threat to people and infrastructure in the region. The first glacial outburst event was observed in 2009, and the surrounding community has been dealing with subsequent Jökulhlaups almost annually. The community has experienced 14 of its top 20 recorded floods from these events since 2011. There was a record (at the time) flood of almost 15 feet flood stage in 2023. The 2024 event broke all previous records again at almost 16 feet flood stage. It resulted in rescues, substantial bank erosion, damage to public facilities, and the flooding of approximately 290 homes. I declared State disasters for both the 2023 and 2024 floods, and recovery is ongoing.

The high-water levels Juneau experienced over the last two years far exceeded what was previously thought to be the 200-year annual flood event. As the Mendenhall Glacier continues to recede, it is likely that the community of Juneau will be facing these events annually.

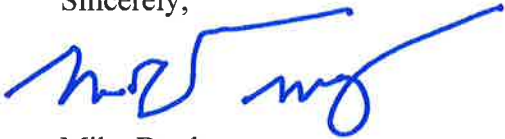
The CBJ and the State have been working closely with the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska on response and recovery, as over 30 tribal households were affected by the flooding. We would like the USACE to support Tlingit and Haida and the CBJ in the development of a comprehensive Emergency Management plan that will be used to mitigate

Colonel Palazzini
September 19, 2024
Page 2 of 2

the damage and potential loss of life that may occur because of these glacial lake outburst flood events.

The CBJ contact coordinating this request is City Manager Katie Koester, available at katie.koester@juneau.gov or 907-586-5240.

Sincerely,



Mike Dunleavy
Governor

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate
The Honorable Mary Peltola, United States House of Representatives
Richard Peterson, President, Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Katie Koester, City Manager, City and Borough of Juneau