

STATE OF ALASKA  
DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, a landslide occurred in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough of Alaska on August 25, 2024, resulting in loss of life, injury, residential and infrastructure damage, evacuations, and sheltering; and

WHEREAS, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and multiple State and local agencies engaged in search and rescue, emergency response, and debris clearing operations, and the response is ongoing; and

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2024, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and City of Ketchikan declared a local disaster emergency and requested State assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and City of Ketchikan are political subdivisions of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the following conditions exist as a result of the landslide: destruction of residential homes, damage to utility and other public infrastructure, search and rescue operations, sheltering operations, emergency response, road closures, and debris removal; and

WHEREAS, the severity and magnitude of this emergency are beyond the timely and effective response and recovery capability of local resources, and there are insufficient regularly appropriated local funds to cover requirements; and

THEREFORE, on August 25, 2024, under authority granted by Alaska Statute 26.23.020(c), I hereby declare that a condition of disaster emergency exists in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, and conditions are of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a disaster declaration to assist the residents of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

FURTHER, the Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is now authorized to utilize funds made available for these purposes, which are considered necessary for disaster assistance, including individual and public assistance, temporary housing, and essential administrative and disaster management expenses. State funds are proposed to be spent under AS 26.23.020(i) and (k) and AS 26.23.050. The Commissioner of DMVA, or his designee, is the designated State Coordinator and is further authorized to task, as necessary, State departments and agencies in accordance with the State Emergency Operations Plan and is further authorized to exercise, as necessary, the provisions provided under Alaska Statutes 26.23.020(g)(1), (2), (3), (5), (6), (7), (9), and (10).


FURTHER, for the duration of this proclamation and under authority of AS 26.23.020(g)(1) and (7), I specifically order the suspension of those provisions of Alaska Statutes and regulations relating to any requirement to (a) obtain a lease from another State agency prior to entry upon the land; (b) obtain a permit, including land use permits and right of way permits, from another State agency prior to entry upon land; (c) obtain Water Use Permits or rights, including temporary rights, from another State agency before utilizing such resources; (d) obtain Fish Habitat

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Permits or Special Area Permits from another State agency; (e) obtain Wastewater Disposal Permits from another State agency; (f) obtain Section 106 Reviews according to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 from another State agency, provided that the foregoing suspensions do not apply to any specific provision the suspension of which would create a violation of federal law or a violation of a requirement for the provision of federal emergency funding, and the foregoing suspensions may be supplemented by my further order to the Commissioner of DMVA and the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

By:   
Mike Dunleavy  
Governor