



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

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**MIKE NAVARRE
BOROUGH MAYOR**

LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION

WHEREAS, beginning on Saturday, September 15, 2012 the eastern Kenai Peninsula Borough including the City of Seward, Moose Point, and other areas experienced unseasonably heavy rainfall which resulted in flooding throughout these areas, threatening life and property; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at approximately 3:15 p.m. the Box Canyon water diversion structure was compromised due to the rainfall, which has resulted in significant flood damage to Old Exit Glacier Road and other roads in the vicinity; and

WHEREAS, three bridges in the Old Mill Subdivision, the Bruno Bridge crossing Kwechak Creek, and numerous other bridges have been damaged in an amount to be determined, causing the Old Mill Subdivision and numerous other homes to become inaccessible by road; and

WHEREAS, the approaches to the Bear Creek Fire Department were underwater and damaged on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 shortly after most fire department equipment was moved to a different location; and

WHEREAS, as of September 20, 2012 at 12:36 p.m. Nash Road was closed at mile 2 due to road erosion and a landslide, Seward Highway milepost 3.5 was limited to one way traffic and Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) crews were working on a possible breach to alleviate water on the highway, and Lowell Point Road, Exit Glacier Road and Dieckgraeff Road were all closed due to flooding; and

WHEREAS, as of 3:15 p.m. Thursday, September 20, 2012 the Upper Kwechak levee has an 80-foot breach about midway up the levee which is threatening subdivisions near Bear Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough opened Seward High School as an evacuation center; and

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2012 the Borough received a Declaration of Disaster Request from the City of Seward indicating that the damages caused by the flooding is difficult to establish because the storm is continuing and much of the damage is submerged, but that clearly the damage that is visible will exceed the recovery and financial capabilities of the city, and that

the city will be asking for the borough's support in requesting a state disaster declaration upon ratification by the city council; and

WHEREAS, in the central area and west side of the Kenai Peninsula heavy rain in the Kenai River Basin is causing the Kenai River to approach flood stage at Cooper Landing on September 20, 2012; and

WHEREAS, landslides are occurring on large slopes along the Kenai River due to the heavy rainfall and flooding; and

WHEREAS, Tall Tree bridge and Tall Tree Road near Anchor Point are both closed due to flood damage, leaving approximately 60 people inaccessible by road; and

WHEREAS, Stariski Creek, Slikok Creek, and Anchor River have overtopped their banks; and

WHEREAS, Kalifornsky Beach road at mile 11 has completely washed out and is closed; and

WHEREAS, water levels are rising from Cooper Landing to numerous areas throughout the western side of the Kenai Peninsula with reports received of flooding and bluff erosion on public and private property; and

WHEREAS, on the west side of Cook Inlet, Tyonek has been without electrical power since 10:30 a.m. September 20, 2012 and roads are eroding, outlying areas north of Beluga have lost power and phones, a flyover by a private pilot reports a foot or more of standing water near residences in the area north of Beluga; and

WHEREAS, flooding throughout the Kenai Peninsula Borough is threatening life and property in many areas; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has activated its emergency response plan throughout the borough to provide emergency assistance by establishing the Seward evacuation shelter, hiring heavy equipment contractors to minimize damage to public infrastructure, monitoring conditions, coordinating emergency responses as needed, disseminating public information, and providing other basic resources; and

WHEREAS, as a second-class borough the Borough does not have the authority to provide financial support to the cities or private parties, or to repair or replace their damaged facilities or infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Borough continues to provide resources as needed but the damages exceed the capabilities and authority of the Borough;

NOW THEREFORE, as Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough I hereby declare a Disaster Emergency per AS 26.23.140 to exist in the Kenai Peninsula Borough in the following areas of the Borough: the cities of Kenai, Soldotna, Homer, Seward, and Kachemak City, and areas surrounding each city, the communities of Tyonek, Beluga, Nikiski, Salamatoff, Sterling, Cooper

Landing, Bear Creek, Kasilof, Ninilchik, Nanwalek, Anchor Point, and other areas determined to have been damaged by the major rainstorms and flooding described above.

FURTHERMORE, it is hereby respectfully requested that the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, declare a disaster emergency to exist as described in AS 26.23.020 and provide disaster assistance to the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City of Seward, and to the other cities that have responded to this disaster. The Borough specifically requests public assistance for the emergency response measures along with temporary and permanent repairs to public facilities, technical assistance to evaluate damages to both public and individual homeowners, individual assistance for home and business owners as is applicable, and public health water quality testing and safe drinking kits for at least 3,000 residential structures.

Signed Mike Navarre
Mike Navarre, Mayor

Date 9/21/12

Attest

John Blankenship
John Blankenship
Borough Clerk

