



PROCLAMATION BY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

20-02

WHEREAS, starting on January 20, 2020, a severe winter storm event began impacting Washington State, producing high winds, heavy snowfall, ice accumulation, and extreme rainfall resulting in major flooding, saturated soils, landslides, stream bank and slope erosion, fallen tree limbs, broken and uprooted trees, and flying debris; and

WHEREAS, these storms caused injuries, significant power outages, evacuations, road damage, temporary road closures and detours, rail line closures, and extensive damage to homes, businesses, public utilities, public facilities, electrical power systems, infrastructure, and property in Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom Counties; and

WHEREAS, damage to roadways, estimated at greater than \$3 million, caused by the storms resulted in temporary road closures limiting access to and complicating the provision of response and recovery efforts by emergency responders, businesses, and utilities to address the aftermath of these storms, requiring the Washington State Department of Transportation to commence work immediately to repair affected roadways through the implementation of emergency procurement procedures to alleviate impacts to public safety; and

WHEREAS, state agencies and local jurisdictions are coordinating resources to address damaged and blocked roadways, assess damage caused by the storms, and implement damage repairs; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service predicts this storm event to continue with snow and heavy rain at least through February 8, 2020. The storm incident's damage and its effects will continue to impact the life and health of impacted individuals, as well as the property and infrastructure of Washington State well after the event ends, all of which is a public disaster that affects life, health, property, or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department is monitoring and coordinating supporting actions through the State Emergency Operations Center, implementing emergency response procedures, and is coordinating resources to support local officials in alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and is continuing to assess the magnitude of the event.

WHEREAS, Governor Jay R. Inslee is currently outside the state of Washington and I am therefore the acting Governor pursuant to RCW 43.06.040.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Cyrus Habib, Lieutenant Governor of the state of Washington, pursuant to my authority under RCW 43.06.040, as a result of the above-noted situation and under Chapters 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists in Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania,

Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom Counties in the state of Washington, and direct the plans and procedures in the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented. State agencies and departments are directed to utilize state resources in accordance with the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the event.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 5th day of February, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Cyrus Habib, Lieutenant Governor

BY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State