



## Office of the Borough Mayor

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Charlie Pierce  
Borough Mayor

### **DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**

**August 29, 2019**

**WHEREAS**, much of the State of Alaska, including the Kenai Peninsula Borough, has experienced record high temperatures and a lack of precipitation during the summer of 2019 which has caused some public water supplies to be depleted; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of little to no rain this summer and light snowfall last winter the Native Village of Nanwalek's water supply is expected to be fully depleted by Friday, August 30, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Nanwalek has taken steps to conserve water and obtain bottled water but that supply is rapidly diminishing; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 27, 2019 the Nanwalek IRA Council declared a State of Emergency due to the impending lack of water for the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Seldovia issued a Proclamation of Emergency Disaster Declaration for Public Water Source Depletion on August 28, 2019 due to its rapidly diminishing water supply with no foreseen renewable source of water available in the immediate future; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Seldovia has issued water conservation notices and taken preventive measures to limit water usage and conserve water; and

**WHEREAS**; the city's public water system is supplied from an upper dam and reservoir that normally provides roughly 28 to 30 days of water for the city, but with the already depleted supply remaining, the projected dry weather forecast, and current usage rates, it is anticipated that the city's public water system will continue to dissipate until depletion in the immediate future; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Seldovia has declared that this emergency exceeds the financial capabilities of the City of Seldovia; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Seldovia has requested support and assistance from the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the State of Alaska to help it mitigate the public water source depletion disaster in the form of public assistance, resources for both individuals and the public, and other emergency resources to help the city in its response and recovery from this event; and

**WHEREAS**, as a second class borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough does not have the authority to provide the response assistance requested to cities in the borough; and

**WHEREAS**, immediate action is necessary to respond to and alleviate the damage and suffering from this drought; and

**WHEREAS**, the severity and magnitude of the droughts in the City of Seldovia and the Native Village of Nanwalek is beyond the effective response capabilities of local resources;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I declare a Disaster Emergency per AS 26.23.140 to exist in the Kenai Peninsula Borough in the Native Village of Nanwalek and the City of Seldovia and as such do hereby activate the emergency response plan of the Kenai Peninsula Borough in order to monitor the disaster and seek assistance from the State of Alaska.

**FURTHERMORE**, the Kenai Peninsula Borough requests that the Governor of the State of Alaska declare a disaster emergency to exist as described in AS 26.23 and provide disaster assistance to the Native Village of Nanwalek and the City of Seldovia in their response and recovery from this event, to provide individual assistance for affected property owners including homeowners and business owners with property damaged as a result of this drought, and to provide immediate damage assessment assistance, technical expertise, guidance, and resources to assist the both the Native Village of Nanwalek and the City of Seldovia in responding to this disaster.

**FURTHERMORE**, the Kenai Peninsula Borough requests that the Governor of the State of Alaska direct State agencies with direct ownership or responsibility in the provision of water, engineering, mapping, permitting, and other processes, to convene as soon as possible to develop a plan to provide local assistance regarding the provision of water to the Native Village of Nanwalek and the City of Seldovia.

DATED this 29th day of August, 2019.



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Charlie Pierce  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



Jonni Blankenship  
Borough Clerk

