



## Office of the Borough Mayor

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Charlie Pierce  
Borough Mayor

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

**May 13, 2022**

**WHEREAS,** on May 7, 2022, a landslide with debris volume estimated to be 300 feet long and 300 feet wide, came down the steep slopes of Bear Mountain, just south of the city of Seward (City), and buried Lowell Point Road; and

**WHEREAS,** the landslide occurred within the city of Seward on a portion of Lowell Point Road under the jurisdiction or management authority of the City; and

**WHEREAS,** on May 12, 2022, the passed City of Seward Resolution 2022-068 declaring a state of emergency in the city of Seward due the landslide on Lowell Point Road and requested assistance; and

**WHEREAS,** the City is clearing an estimated 40,000 cubic yards of debris that could take three weeks to clear the roadway; and

**WHEREAS,** Lowell Point Road is the only road access to and from the Lowell Point community; and

**WHEREAS,** the residents and businesses within the Lowell Point community will not have road access until the clearing work is complete; and

**WHEREAS,** there are public health, environmental, safety, and economic injury concerns that will affect the life and welfare of the Lowell Point community due to sanitation, solid waste disposal, and emergency medical transport issues caused by the landslide and lack of road access; and

**WHEREAS,** proper solid waste disposal is an essential borough service and affects the life, health, welfare and property of residents of the borough; and

**WHEREAS,** the City's resolution 2022-068 requested that the Kenai Peninsula Borough declare a disaster emergency and provide borough assistance to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, as a second class borough the Kenai Peninsula Borough does not have the authority to provide financial support to the cities in the borough to repair or replace their damaged facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kenai Peninsula Borough expects to assist with incident management and basic resources to monitor conditions, to coordinate emergency actions and repairs as needed, but does not have sufficient resources to assist the City of Seward and other agencies and residents expected to be affected by this disaster;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I declare a Disaster Emergency per AS 26.23.140 to exist in the Seward-Lowell Point area in the Kenai Peninsula Borough outside the City of Seward that will be affected by lack of road access and inability to provide for solid waste disposal and sanitation, and as such I have activated the emergency response plan of the Kenai Peninsula Borough in order to address the speedy recovery from the substantial damages which are expected to exceed the resources and capacity of the Kenai Peninsula Borough to recover.

**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 Kenai Peninsula Borough and the City of Seward in the response and recovery expected from this event, and to provide immediate damage assessment assistance, technical expertise, guidance, and resources to expedite recovery and mitigation.

**FURTHERMORE**, the Kenai Peninsula Borough requests that the Governor of the State of Alaska direct State agencies with direct ownership or responsibility in the mapping, debris location, debris removal, permitting, reconstruction and other processes, to assist and expedite assistance that would result in a plan to coordinate work for clearing debris and mitigating current and future damages at all levels of government.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

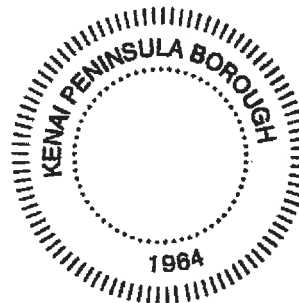


Charlie Pierce  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



John Blankenship, MMC  
Borough Clerk



**CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION 2022-068**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD,  
ALASKA, DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF  
SEWARD DUE TO A LANDSLIDE ON LOWELL POINT ROAD AND  
REQUESTING ASSISTANCE**

**WHEREAS**, on May 7, 2022, at approximately 7:40 pm, the City of Seward experienced a very large landslide on Lowell Point Road that resulted in the Lowell Point community being cut off from road access to Seward; and

**WHEREAS**, fortunately, there were no injuries reported; and

**WHEREAS**, estimates indicate the landslide is more than 200 feet high and 300 feet wide, containing over 40,000 cubic yards of debris; and

**WHEREAS**, Lowell Point Road is a critical infrastructure for the City of Seward and the residents of the Lowell Point community; and

**WHEREAS**, city wastewater and electric lines are in Lowell Point Road; and

**WHEREAS**, until the landslide site becomes stabilized, the extent of potential damage to the road and infrastructure, and cost estimates for removing debris remains unknown; and

**WHEREAS**, the city manager declared an emergency on May 7, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, consent by the City Council must be obtained if the declaration of disaster is continued or renewed for a period in excess of seven days; and

**WHEREAS**, the city found finds that an emergency exists due to the landslide with the public due to road closures, financial injury to the Seward and Lowell Point local businesses, and the continued threat to persons and property from these conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Seward hereby requests financial assistance as the costs of this unexpected event are far beyond the City's expertise and funding availability.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA that:**

**Section 1.** A disaster emergency per AS 26.23.140; is declared to exist within the City of Seward.

**Section 2.** It is requested that the Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor declare that a disaster



**CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION 2022-068**

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emergency exists as described in AS 26.23 and provides borough assistance to the City of Seward in its response and recovery from this event.

**Section 3.** Further, it is requested that if the borough exceeds its ability to assist the City of Seward, they request appropriate support from State agencies and that the Governor of the State of Alaska be requested to declare a disaster emergency as provided for in AS 26.23.020.

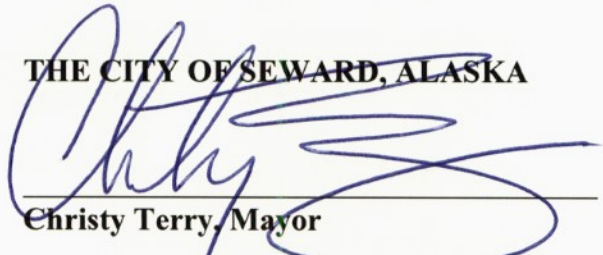
**Section 4.** If the Governor of the State of Alaska cannot adequately support the response and recovery needed by the City of Seward, it is requested that the Governor request appropriate support from the President or appropriate federal agencies.

**Section 5.** The City Manager's Declaration of Emergency which went into effect on May 7, 2022, is hereby extended by the City Council of the City of Seward, beginning May 12, 2022, and shall remain in effect until recovery efforts have concluded.

**Section 6.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of Seward, Alaska, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

**THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA**

  
Christy Terry, Mayor

AYES: Calhoon, McClure, Casagrande, DeMoss, Osenga, Terry  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Wells  
ABSTAIN: None

**ATTEST:**

  
Brenda J. Ballou, MMC  
City Clerk

(City Seal)



## City Council Agenda Statement



Meeting Date: May 12, 2022

To: City Council

From: Janette Bower, City Manager

Agenda Item: Resolution 2022-068: Declaring A State of Emergency in the City of Seward Due to a Landslide on Lowell Point Road and Requesting Assistance

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### **Background and justification:**

On May 7, 2022, at approximately 7:40 pm, the City of Seward experienced a very large landslide on Lowell Point Road that resulted in the Lowell Point community being cut off from road access to Seward. The landslide is estimated at more than 200 feet high and 300 feet wide, containing over 40,000 cubic yards of debris.

Lowell Point Road is a critical infrastructure for the City of Seward and the residents of the Lowell Point community. The City's wastewater and electric lines are in Lowell Point road.

On Saturday, May 7, 2022, the city manager declared on emergency. Consent by the City Council must be obtained if the declaration of disaster is continued or renewed for a period in excess of seven days.

The resolution formally declares an emergency by the city council and requests the Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor declare that a disaster emergency exists as described in AS 26.23 and provides borough assistance to the City of Seward in its response and recovery from this event. The resolution also requests the Kenai Peninsula Borough request the Governor to declare a disaster emergency. The city manager has been informed that the Governor is standing by to receive the request and supports the request.