



Kenai Peninsula Borough

Office of Emergency Management

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wayne Ogle, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor 

FROM: Dan Nelson, OEM Senior Manager 

DATE: December 4, 2018

RE: Request to Extend Disaster Emergency Declaration Issued December 4, 2018 Regarding the 7.0 Magnitude Earthquake of November 30, 2018

The administration respectfully requests that the assembly extend the Mayor's Disaster Emergency Declaration for the Kenai Peninsula Borough issued on December 4, 2018, through Friday, June 7, 2019. Per AS 26.23.140 a local disaster emergency may not be continued or renewed more than seven days except with the consent of the governing body. The declaration of a local disaster emergency activates the response and recovery aspects of the applicable local inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency plans.

Borough and School District personnel are continuing to assess damages to facilities throughout the borough caused by the earthquake and aftershocks. It is expected that assessment, repair and recovery of these facilities may continue for at least another six months. Extending the December 4, 2018 Disaster Emergency Declaration through June 7, 2019 would enable the borough to continue providing these services.

Your approval would be appreciated.



Office of the Borough Mayor

144 N. Binklev Street, Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • (907) 714-2150 • (907) 714-

Charlie Pierce
Borough Mayor

DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

December 4, 2018

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2018, the entire Kenai Peninsula Borough experienced a magnitude 7.0 earthquake with an epicenter about 7.0 miles north northwest of Anchorage, Alaska causing widespread damage in the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, a tsunami warning was issued after the quake that resulted in the need to evacuate the coastal areas of the Borough to preserve immediate life safety including the cities of Homer, Seward, and Seldovia, and the unincorporated communities of Lowell Point, Nanwalek, and Port Graham; and

WHEREAS, emergency evacuations also occurred in Borough-owned schools including Seward Elementary, Seward Middle School, Homer Middle School, West Homer Elementary School, Nanwalek School, and Port Graham School where students moved to higher ground; and

WHEREAS, state-owned roads including the Kenai Spur Highway near Nikiski experienced cracks in the road as a result of the initial quake; and

WHEREAS, obvious damage to publicly-owned infrastructure occurred at Hope School, Tyonek School, Nikiski Middle/High School, Kenai Central High School, and Nikiski Fire Stations 1 and 2; and

WHEREAS, based on past seismic events it is expected that additional damage occurred at other public facilities that further structural assessment will reveal; and

WHEREAS, aftershocks have continued after the initial quake including several over magnitude 4.0 that may cause or reveal further damage to public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, there is expected to be damage to privately-owned buildings and infrastructure that has not yet been reported to Borough officials; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough is a second-class borough of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, as a second class borough the Kenai Peninsula Borough does not have the authority to provide financial support to private parties or to the cities in the borough to repair or replace damaged facilities in the cities other than borough-owned facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough continues to assess damage to public infrastructure and monitors conditions for any further potential emergency actions and repairs as needed but does not have the authority or sufficient funds or resources to repair all of the damages caused by this earthquake and subsequent aftershocks; and

NOW THEREFORE, I declare a Disaster Emergency per AS 26.23.140 to exist in areas throughout the Kenai Peninsula Borough, including without limitation borough-owned facilities within and outside the cities and private property that was damaged by the earthquake and aftershocks, and as such I have activated the emergency operations plan of the Kenai Peninsula Borough in order to address the speedy recovery from the substantial damages which exceed the resources and capacity of the Kenai Peninsula Borough to provide or 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 in the response and recovery from this event, to provide individual assistance for the affected property owners including homeowners and business owners with property damaged as a result of this event; and to provide immediate damage assessment assistance, technical expertise, guidance, and resources to better understand the engineering and repair options.

DATED this 4th day of December 2018.



Charlie Pierce
Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



John Blankenship
Borough Clerk

