



## Office of the Borough Mayor

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Charlie Pierce  
Borough Mayor

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

**December 6, 2019**

**WHEREAS**, commencing on November 27, 2019, and continuing as of this date, numerous areas of the Kenai Peninsula Borough outside of the cities and in the City of Seldovia sustained severe damage caused by an ongoing storm weather event including high winds reaching speeds greater than 60 mph in the area south of Kachemak Bay, heavy snowfall and icy conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, this storm has caused many large trees to fall, impacted many power lines, caused the loss of backup power generation, the loss of power for up to six days in some areas, and has damaged private and public property; and

**WHEREAS**, starting December 2, 2019 heavy snow fell throughout the central areas of the borough causing widespread power outages with many areas without power for periods lasting from many hours to several days; and

**WHEREAS**, there is also an imminent threat of flooding and related widespread and severe damage due to heavy rain predicted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in areas of the borough beginning December 6, 2019 and continuing into December 10, 2019, which is expected to combine with melting snow, and freezing levels are expected to rise from sea level to 3,000 to 4,000 feet; and

**WHEREAS**, this rainstorm is expected to cause more power line damages and other property damage due to trees falling, the freezing levels and slick conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the National Weather Service another storm is expected hit many areas of the borough with high winds from the east beginning approximately Monday, December 9, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 6, 2019, the Kenai Peninsula Borough received a disaster emergency declaration from the City of Seldovia, requesting that the Kenai Peninsula Borough and State of Alaska provide support and assistance to help the City of Seldovia mitigate current damages due to the gale force winds and to mitigate damage from the imminent threat of the upcoming weather system; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Seldovia's disaster declaration states that the current damage and continuation of the imminent threat of damages from the upcoming weather system exceeds the City's resources and financial ability to provide repairs; and

**WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough is a second class borough of the State of Alaska, and as such lacks the authority to provide financial support to the cities or individuals in the borough to repair or replace their damaged facilities; and


**WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough continues to provide incident management and basic resources to monitor conditions, to coordinate emergency actions and repairs as needed, but certifies that it does not have sufficient funds or resources to repair the damages caused by this storm in the areas of the borough outside of the cities or to assist the City of Seldovia, and other agencies and residents affected by this disaster; and

**NOW THEREFORE,** I declare a Disaster Emergency per AS 26.23.140 to exist in areas throughout the Kenai Peninsula Borough outside of the cities and inside the City of Seldovia that are determined to have been damaged by the storm system that began on or about November 27, 2019, and as such I have activated the emergency response plan of the Kenai Peninsula Borough to address the speedy recovery from the substantial damages which 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 public assistance to the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the City of Seldovia in the form of public assistance in the 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 storm, and to provide immediate damage assessment assistance, technical expertise, guidance, and resources

**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 convene as soon as possible to develop a plan to address response and recovery from this disaster, and waiving state and University of Alaska fees for gravel removed as part of the response to this disaster as may be applicable.

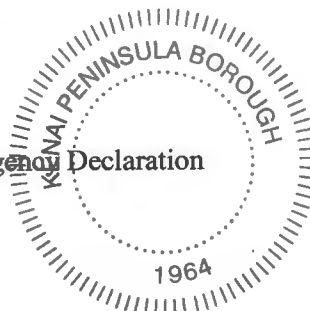
Dated this 6 day of December, 2019.

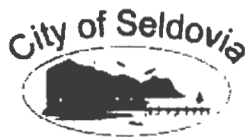
  
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Charlie Pierce  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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John Blankenship  
Borough Clerk

Kenai Peninsula Borough Disaster Emergency Declaration  
December 6, 2019  
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**CITY OF SELDOVIA  
DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION  
November 27, 2019**

WHEREAS, a strong Southeastern storm system with heavy rain, snow, and gale force winds moved through Southcentral Alaska on Wednesday November, 27, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seldovia and the surrounding area experienced heavy rains and strong gale force winds beginning on the morning of Wednesday, November 27, 2019 that increased throughout the day; and

WHEREAS, a power outage occurred in the City of Seldovia and surrounding areas on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 27, 2019 from damaged power lines due to multiple treefalls and power pole breakages from the Southeastern storm system; and

WHEREAS, treefall damage to power lines was so significant that the City of Seldovia and the surrounding area lost back up power generation on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 27, 2019 which continued into the following day; and

WHEREAS, multiple areas in the City of Seldovia and in the surrounding area outside of the city remained without power for over four days with some areas remaining without power for a total of six days; and

WHEREAS, the villages of Port Graham and Nanwalek near Seldovia and their surrounding areas lost power on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 27, 2019 due to treefall on power lines and the loss of generation in Seldovia; and

WHEREAS, the Seldovia Small Boat Harbor and the Jakolof Bay Dock sustained a significant amount of damage due to gale force winds and access between Seldovia and Jakolof Bay and its dock was lost due to the extreme treefall of dozens of trees on Jakolof Bay Road; and

WHEREAS, access to the Seldovia Airport was temporarily lost due to treefall; and

WHEREAS, access to city streets in the City of Seldovia and the Susan B. English School playground and parking lot was and continues to be limited due to treefall; and

WHEREAS, several homes in Seldovia sustained significant damage and loss due to treefall, reparations will not be immediate or monetarily insignificant; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued a gale warning Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 through the early morning of Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with a heavy freezing spray warning in effect through early Saturday morning; and

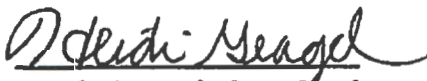
WHEREAS, the continuation of the imminent threat of the upcoming weather system and current damage and treefall removal from the November 27, 2019 storm system exceeds the resources and financial capabilities of the City of Seldovia.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City of Seldovia declares a Local Disaster Emergency per AS 26.23.140 to exist in the City of Seldovia, effective November 27, 2019.

FURTHERMORE, support and assistance is requested from the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the State of Alaska to help the City of Seldovia mitigate current damage in loss due to gale force winds and significant treefall and to mitigate damage produced from the imminent threat of the upcoming weather system 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.

FURTHER, the City of Seldovia designates the City Manager, Cassidi Cameron, as the Local Disaster Emergency Authority during this event and authorizes the City Manager to take necessary measures on behalf of the City of Seldovia in order to effectively respond and mitigate this local disaster.

Signed this 06<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019.

  
Heidi Geagel, City Clerk

  
Dean Lent, Mayor

