

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING 2025-16 AGENDA

August 15, 2025 at 12:00 PM

Zoom Webinar Only

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/91515424903> or 1-253-215-8782 Webinar ID: 915 1542 4903

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. AGENDA TOPICS

- 1. Resolution 4027: A Resolution of the City and Borough of Juneau Declaring a Local Emergency in Response to the 2025 Glacier Outburst Flood and a Request for State Assistance.**

CBJ [Charter 3.12\(c\)](#) authorizes the Assembly to call a special meeting to affirm the Manager's disaster declaration which was issued on August 8, 2025. Resolution 4027 affirms the declaration of a local disaster emergency and requests state assistance. Governor Dunleavy has preemptively issued a state disaster declaration to ensure that the CBJ has access to all necessary resources. The flooding from the glacier outburst flood started August 12, 2025, and is once again unprecedented.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this Resolution.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

E. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

F. ADJOURNMENT

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, e-mail: city.clerk@juneau.gov.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
Serial No. 4027

**A Resolution of the City and Borough of Juneau Declaring a Local
Emergency in Response to the 2025 Glacier Outburst Flood and a
Request for State Assistance.**

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau (the “City and Borough”) is a political subdivision of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a side basin (Suicide Basin or K’óox K̄aadí Basin) of the Mendenhall Glacier above Juneau, Alaska, has released outburst floods (also known as jökulhlaups) since 2011, with record flood events in August 2023, 2024, and 2025; causing repeated damage to public and private infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the August 2024 glacier outburst flood was unprecedented and required the immediate assistance of State agencies and the Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the August 2024 glacier outburst flood resulted in flooding of homes, including homes outside anticipated flood areas; flooding of vehicles; countless hazardous material spills causing portions of the Mendenhall River and floodwaters to smell like petroleum; 43 people sought refuge in an emergency shelter and countless others evacuated to other locations; and public utilities and infrastructure were severely damaged; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Alaska issued a State disaster declaration on August 12, 2024, and the State received a federal disaster declaration for the designated areas of the City and Borough of Juneau on October 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough has operated under an ongoing emergency since August 2024; and

39 WHEREAS, benefited property owners and the Assembly have approved the creation
40 of a local improvement district to fund the placement of HESCO barriers as well as the
41 placement of HESCO barriers along the riverbank to protect life and property; and
42

43 WHEREAS, as of August 8, 2025, monitoring and hydrologic data confirmed that the
44 volume of water currently impounded in Suicide Basin reached or exceeded the threshold
45 necessary to produce a flood of historic record on the Mendenhall River, creating a severe
46 and imminent threat to life, property, and critical infrastructure in the Mendenhall Valley;
47 and
48

49 WHEREAS, past flood events of this scale have caused riverbank collapse, major
50 flooding, residential evacuations, property losses, damage to public utilities and
51 infrastructure, and hazardous material releases; and
52

53 WHEREAS, both the City Manager and Tlingit and Haida issued disaster declarations
54 on August 8, 2025, to allow for timely protective actions, including the deployment of state
55 resources and pre-positioning of equipment, emergency permitting, public alerts, and
56 interagency coordination; and
57

58 WHEREAS, the Governor issued a disaster declaration on August 10, 2025, to allow
59 for timely protective actions, including the deployment of state resources and pre-positioning
60 of equipment, emergency permitting, public alerts, and interagency coordination; and
61

62 WHEREAS, on August 13, 2025, the 2025 glacial outburst flood occurred at a new
63 historic rise of 16.65 feet, and damage assessment and response is ongoing;
64

65 WHEREAS, the City and Borough Manager is the chief administrative officer who
66 reports to the Assembly (CBJ Charter 4.1 & 4.5); and
67

68 WHEREAS, the governing body of the City and Borough is the Assembly, which has
69 legislative and policy-making powers (CBJ Charter 3.1), and the City and Borough Mayor is
70 the presiding officer with special powers in emergencies; and
71

72 WHEREAS, CBJ Charter 3.12(c) allows for the Assembly to declare an emergency
73 without 24-hour notice; and CBJC 03.25.040(a) and AS 26.23.140 authorize the City
74 Manager to declare an emergency, subject to confirmation by the Assembly; and
75

76 WHEREAS, State assistance is needed to supplement local efforts to protect life and
77 property, prepare for emergency operations, and reduce the potential severity of impacts
78 associated with this pending disaster; and

79 WHEREAS, continued Federal support will be needed for short term and long term
80 mitigation;
81

82 WHEREAS, the Assembly authorizes the Manager to implement orders necessary to
83 protect the health and safety of the residents of the City and Borough.
84

85 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:
86

87 **Section 1. Local Emergency Declaration.** The City and Borough Manager and
88 Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau declare a disaster emergency to exist within
89 the City and Borough of Juneau per CBJ Charter 3.12(c), CBJC 03.25.040(a), and A.S.
90 26.23.140. A copy of this Resolution shall be filed promptly with the Alaska Division of
91 Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
92

93 **Section 2. Reasonable and Necessary Emergency Orders.** Consistent with
94 CBJC 03.25.040(6), CBJC 03.25.090, and A.S. 29.23.190, the Assembly authorizes the
95 Manager to implement any reasonable emergency orders necessary to protect the health,
96 safety, or welfare of the residents of the City and Borough of Juneau including emergency
97 permitting and waivers under Title 19, Title 49, and Title 75 as it is reasonable and
98 necessary to protect life and property, upon balancing the public health, safety, and
99 welfare.
100

101 **Section 3. Request for State Assistance.** The City and Borough of Juneau
102 requests that the Governor of the State of Alaska provide continued State public assistance
103 and individual assistance as may be available, assistance with emergency permitting within
104 and near Mendenhall River.
105

106 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after
107 its adoption. Because of the ongoing nature of the emergency, this declaration of local
108 emergency shall remain in effect for 180 days.
109

110 Adopted this _____ day of July, 2025.
111
112
113
114

115 _____
Beth A. Weldon, Mayor
116
117
118 _____

119

Katie Koester, City Manager

120

121

122 Attest:

123

124

125 _____
Breckan L. Hendricks, Municipal Clerk



JOINT INFORMATION RELEASE
August 8, 2025

City & Borough of Juneau and Tlingit & Haida Issue Coordinated Disaster Declarations ahead of 2025 Glacial Lake Outburst

Juneau, Alaska - Today, the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) and the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) issued coordinated emergency disaster declarations in anticipation of a potentially imminent and record level glacial lake outburst flood, or jökulhlaup, from Suicide Basin/K'óox K̄aadí Basin above the Mendenhall Glacier.

The decision to issue declarations prior to an actual flood event is a proactive measure aimed at protecting life, property, and critical infrastructure in the Mendenhall Valley. Hydrologic monitoring confirms the volume of water currently impounded in the Basin has the potential to meet or exceed thresholds associated with historic flooding. CBJ and Tlingit & Haida are confident in the HESCO barrier flood mitigation system recently installed along the Mendenhall River, officials are emphasizing that no chances will be taken when it comes to public safety and emergency preparedness.

"Tlingit & Haida's first priority is always the safety and well-being of our people and our community," said Tlingit & Haida 1st Vice President Jackie Pata. "We know the trauma and hardship last year's flood brought to Juneau. By taking this proactive step together under a unified command, we are making sure every tool is in place before the water rises. Our shared commitment is to protect lives, safeguard homes, and stand united in readiness for whatever comes."

The proactive emergency declarations enable the mobilization of resources ahead of time, rather than after flooding begins. Based on current monitoring data from the National Weather Service, the volume of water impounded in Suicide Basin/K'óox K̄aadí Basin has already reached historic thresholds known to cause major flooding along the Mendenhall River.

"This year is different. We're not just responding—we're ready," said CBJ City Manager Katie Koester. "The HESCO barriers are in place, and we believe they will perform as designed, but our job is to plan for every scenario—especially in the face of what could be another historic flood event. This proactive emergency declaration gives us the tools to act swiftly and decisively."

In August 2024, an unprecedented flood from Suicide Basin overwhelmed homes and infrastructure—some well outside mapped flood zones. It triggered hazardous spills, emergency evacuations, and a major state and federal disaster response. That experience, officials say, shaped this year's aggressive and coordinated preparation.

The coordinated declarations allow for:

- **Pre-positioning of emergency response equipment and personnel**
- **Activation of expedited permitting for emergency riverbank work**
- **Enhanced interagency coordination and public alerts**
- **Requests for continued state and federal assistance and funding**
- **Implementation of any necessary emergency protective orders**

The declarations are effective immediately and will remain in place for 180 days. The CBJ Assembly and Tlingit & Haida Executive Council will ratify each government's respective declarations.

The incident Unified Command from CBJ and Tlingit & Haida urges residents in vulnerable areas to stay informed through official channels and to prepare for possible evacuation orders. Updated flood risk maps are available at JuneauFlood.com and emergency preparedness resources are available on the CBJ website at bit.ly/JuneauFloodReady. For questions on how to prepare for a potential flood, please contact floodresponse@juneau.gov.

###

For media inquiries, please contact

- CBJ Communications & Engagement Director Ashley Heimbigner at ashley.heimbigner@juneau.gov.
- Tlingit & Haida Communications Director Dixie Hutchinson at dhutchinson@tlingitandhaida.gov

**STATE OF ALASKA
DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, Suicide Basin, a side basin of the Mendenhall Glacier in the City and Borough of Juneau, has produced Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) annually since 2011 that have inundated and damaged Mendenhall Valley homes, roads, and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 and 2024, record-breaking GLOFs caused disastrous flooding in Juneau with the Mendenhall River cresting at nearly 16 feet, forcing evacuations and damaging over 300 homes; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service indicates a GLOF event in Juneau's Mendenhall Valley is imminent, with a threat of home and public infrastructure flooding; and

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2025, the City and Borough of Juneau and the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, both recognized as political subdivisions within the State of Alaska, issued a local disaster declaration for an imminent GLOF and requested state assistance; and

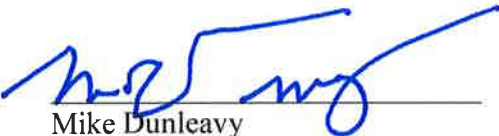
WHEREAS, inundation and damage from a GLOF in Juneau has the potential to exceed local capabilities and require a coordinated state response to protect public safety and critical infrastructure;

THEREFORE, on August 9, 2025, under authority granted by Alaska Statute (AS) 26.23.020(c), I hereby declare that a disaster is imminent and declare a condition of disaster emergency in the City and Borough of Juneau, which includes the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. The anticipated impacts of the disaster are of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a state disaster declaration to support local response efforts to protect residents, infrastructure, and essential services; and

FURTHER, the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is authorized to utilize funds made available for these purposes, which are considered necessary for disaster assistance to include disaster individual and public assistance, temporary housing, and necessary administrative and disaster management expenses. State funds are proposed to be spent under AS 26.23.020(i) and (k) and AS 26.23.050. The Adjutant General of DMVA, or his designee, is the designated State Coordinating Officer and is further authorized to task, as necessary, State departments and agencies in accordance with the State Emergency Operations Plan and is further authorized to exercise, as necessary, the provisions provided under AS 26.23.020(g)(1), (2), (3), (5), (6), (7) and (10).

FURTHER, for the duration of this proclamation and under authority of AS 26.23.020(g)(1) and (7), I specifically order the suspension of those provisions of Alaska Statutes and regulations

relating to any requirement to (a) obtain a lease from another State agency prior to entry upon the land; (b) obtain a permit, including land use permits and right of way permits, from another State agency prior to entry upon land; (c) obtain Water Use Permits or rights, including temporary rights, from another State agency prior to utilizing such resources; (d) obtain Fish Habitat Permits or Special Area Permits from another State agency; (e) obtain Wastewater Disposal Permits from another State agency; (f) obtain Section 106 Reviews pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 from another State agency, provided that the foregoing suspensions do not apply to any specific provision the suspension of which would create a violation of federal law or a violation of a requirement for the provision of federal emergency funding, and the foregoing suspensions may be supplemented by my further order to the Adjutant General of the DMVA and the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

By: 
Mike Dunleavy
Governor