



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

24-02

January Winter Storms

WHEREAS, a series of atmospheric river events struck Washington State between January 5, 2024, and January 29, 2024, producing straight-line winds, ice, extreme cold temperatures, and heavy rainfall. This, coupled with extreme tidal and wave actions along coastal shorelines, resulted in coastal flooding, saturated soils, and landslides in Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Grays Harbor, King, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanagan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties; and

WHEREAS, these storms caused significant coastal flooding to homes and businesses, road damage, temporary road closures and detours, and extensive damage to public utilities and electrical power systems; and

WHEREAS, damage to roadways caused by the storms resulted in temporary road closures, limiting access to and complicating the provision of response and recovery efforts by emergency responders, businesses, and utilities to address the aftermath of these storms, requiring Washington's Secretary of Transportation to commence work immediately to repair affected roadways through the implementation of emergency procurement procedures to alleviate impacts to public safety; and

WHEREAS, state agencies and local jurisdictions are coordinating resources to address damage to residences, public utilities, and roadways, to assess damage caused by the storms, and to implement damage repairs; and

WHEREAS, storm damage, including the cost of repairs and ongoing impacts, currently exceeds \$30 million and the effects of the storms continue to impact the life and health of the people as well as the property and infrastructure of Washington State, all of which is a public disaster that affects life, health, property, or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department has been monitoring and coordinating supporting actions through the State Emergency Operations Center, implementing emergency response procedures, and is coordinating resources to support local officials in alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and is continuing to assess the magnitude of the event.

