



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

17-03

WHEREAS, from January 30, 2017 through February 22, 2017, a series of severe winter storms struck Washington State, producing high winds, heavy snowfall, ice accumulation, and extreme rainfall resulting in major flooding, saturated soils, landslides, stream bank and slope erosion, fallen tree limbs, broken and uprooted trees, and flying debris; and

WHEREAS, throughout the State, these storms caused injuries, significant power outages, evacuations, road damage, temporary road closures and detours, rail line closures, ferry system and airline cancellations, and extensive damage to homes, businesses, public utilities, public facilities, electrical power systems, infrastructure, and property, in addition to creating sheltering needs for impacted individuals, threatening fragile and at-risk populations, and jeopardizing the health and safety of people with special medical needs; and

WHEREAS, damage to roadways, estimated at greater than \$10 million, 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 damaged and blocked roadways, assess damage caused by the storms, and implement damage repairs; and

WHEREAS, the storm damage and its effects 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 monitored and coordinated supporting actions through the State Emergency Operations Center, implemented 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.

