



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

21-03

WINTER WEATHER

WHEREAS, a series of severe winter storms struck Washington State beginning December 17, 2020, and that winter weather is expected to extend through February 2021, 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 disruptions, 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 populations with access and functional needs; and

WHEREAS, erosion, landslides, and flooding resulting from these storms has been exacerbated in some areas of the state due to major wildfire damage that occurred from July through September 2020 that left large areas of land burned clear of trees and other vegetation; and

WHEREAS, damage to roadways, estimated at greater than \$8.5 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, storm damages are currently in excess of \$20 million and their 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, 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.

