

City and Borough of Wrangell Disaster Declaration with Request for State Assistance

WHEREAS, commencing on July 2, 2016, due to reduced rainfall/snowpack and filtration system insufficiencies, the Wrangell Public Works Water Treatment Plant has been unable to meet the demand for treated water within the community; from July 2-19, the City and Borough of Wrangell has attempted to mitigate the effects by issuing water conservation measures throughout the community and discontinuing water service to all cruise ships, all Ports & Harbors facilities (for one day) and the Public Swimming Pool (for 2 days).

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Wrangell is a political subdivision within the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the following conditions exist as a result of the reduced ability to treat water: reduced capability to provide treated water to local homes, businesses, medical facilities, and public facilities; reduced capability to respond to local fires; inability to provide sufficient quantities of water to local fish processing plants. The fish processing plants have made drastic changes to their systems in order to operate under reduced water constraints. Any additional reduction will likely result in their inability to operate, causing a large economic impact to the processing plants and the community. Closure of local fish processing plants could result in a reduction of over 250 jobs.

WHEREAS, the severity and magnitude of the emergency is beyond the timely and effective response capability of local resources; the reduced water capabilities will require professional assistance for immediate measures to improve the capacity for treated water.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Borough Manager and Borough Assembly of Wrangell (at an emergency meeting held July 19, 2016) does declare a Disaster Emergency per AS 26.23.140 to exist in the City and Borough of Wrangell.

FURTHERMORE, it is requested that the Governor declare a Disaster Emergency to exist as described in AS 26.23 and provide State assistance to the City and Borough of Wrangell in its response and recovery from this event. The City and Borough of Wrangell specifically requests public disaster assistance to assist in evaluating the current conditions and determine repairs needed at the Borough's water treatment facility. The City and Borough has considered the following measures for immediate relief: improvements to specific filtration components of the existing facility, a modular filtration system, or a portable water treatment plant.

FURTHER, the undersigned certifies that the City and Borough of Wrangell has or will expend local resources in the amount of \$25,000 as a result of this disaster for which no State or Federal reimbursement will be requested.

SIGNED this 20th day of July, 2016

City and Borough Manager with approval of the City and Borough of Wrangell Assembly



7/20/16