

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Mark McCauley, Interim County Administrator

FROM: Willie Bence, Emergency Management Director

DATE: January 10, 2022

SUBJECT: Emergency Declaration Request for Winter Storm Event

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Beginning December 26th, 2021, abundant lowland snow and record low temperatures adversely impacted large parts of the Pacific Northwest. Impacts in Jefferson County have included dangerous travel conditions and temporary closures of government and private sector services. Wet, heavy snow near the end of the system damaged infrastructure and caused long-term power outages, specifically on the Toandos Peninsula where hundreds of residents were without power for days. Additionally, a fifty-mile stretch of Highway 101, between State Route 104 in Jefferson County and Hoodspoint in Mason County, was closed for multiple days due to downed trees and power lines, requiring a multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional response between Mason PUD, Jefferson PUD, and WSDOT.

ANALYSIS:

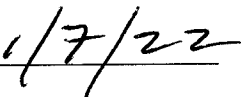
An Emergency Declaration may assist responding entities by giving them additional flexibility in their ability to procure necessary resources to respond to and recover from impacts from the storm.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the BOCC declare a State of Emergency regarding recent adverse winter weather activity.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, Interim County Administrator


Date

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON**

In the Matter of	}	Resolution No. ____ - 22
Declaration of Emergency	}	
Winter Storm Event	}	

WHEREAS, a severe weather event, beginning December 26th, 2021, has impacted residents of Jefferson County due to abundant lowland snow and record low temperatures, and

WHEREAS, impacts to life and safety of Jefferson County residents have included long-term power outages and closures of critical infrastructure for extended periods of time, and

WHEREAS, immediate preventative action and repair will be necessary to prevent further damage and to restore essential services, and

WHEREAS, persons and property may be threatened or damaged and access to property will continue to be impaired unless emergency efforts are taken by Jefferson County and other responding agencies to reduce the threat to life and property,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Jefferson County Commissioners hereby declare that a **state of emergency** exists.

1. The County is authorized to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat this emergency to protect the health and safety of persons and property in light of the exigencies of an emergency situation without regard to time consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law, with the exception of mandatory constitutional requirements.
2. This emergency authority will expire in fourteen (14) days from the date of the adoption of this resolution unless specifically authorized by the Board.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2022

SEAL:

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Heidi Eisenhour, Chair

Greg Brotherton, Member

Kate Dean, Member

ATTEST:

Carolyn Gallaway, Clerk of the Board