

**CITY OF CRAIG
MEMORANDUM**

To: Craig Mayor and City Council
From: Brian Templin, City Administrator
Date: November 28, 2023
RE: Disaster Declaration, Port St. Nicholas Road Landslides

On November 20th city staff was notified of a slide at the 62 pit and significant flooding based on slide material at approximately 4.2 mile on the PSN Road. Both of these areas were affected by slides in 2020. At least one residence received substantial damage from the flooding that resulted.

Shaan Seet worked on protecting one private property near 4.2 mile affected by the flooding.

City crews responded to the slide at the 62 pit at about 4:00 pm. With darkness and continuing storm conditions making the slide area unstable, staff blocked the road with the intent of beginning clearing operations the next day.

On November 21st city crews with the help of SE Roadbuilders and Shaan Seet (along with some private individuals) cleared the roadway at 62 pit and made sure that the road was passable at 4.2 mile.

The drainage structure at 4.2 mile was significantly damaged during the event and subsequent response and needs to be replaced.

The mayor has asked SE Roadbuilders to provide a quote and to do the work. Under the city's procurement policy this would likely require a competitive bid and would likely take some time. Mayor Smith has asked that we expedite this repair. An emergency declaration would allow the city to do single source procurement for this work.

The transmittal letter to the state also ask for a state disaster declaration to access disaster funds, but based on past experience it is unlikely that this disaster meets the criteria for the state to declare a disaster.

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 23-20 declaring a disaster from the November 2023 landslides and flooding and direct staff to submit the declaration to the State of Alaska for consideration.

**CITY OF CRAIG
RESOLUTION 23-20**

2023 Port St. Nicholas Landslide and Flooding Disaster Declaration

WHEREAS, in 24 hours between November 19th and November 20th, 2023, the Craig area received over 2” of rain and sustained high winds with regular gusts over 100 mph; and,

WHEREAS, in days prior to November 19th the Craig area received an unusually large amount of rain and regular high winds; and,

WHEREAS, areas of Prince of Wales are prone to landslide activity when weather conditions include substantial rainfall and high winds; and,

WHEREAS, on November 20th, the City of Craig was notified of slides at approximately 1.0 mile and 4.2 mile of the Port St. Nicholas Road; the city activated the Craig Emergency services to monitor flooding and landslides along the Port St. Nicholas Road. These slides blocked vehicular traffic, as well as areas of blocking culverts causing flooding and other damage at several areas along the Port St. Nicholas Road; and,

WHEREAS, the flooding and landslides directly and adversely impacted the Port St. Nicholas Road, causing closure the road, disruption of electric service, and adjacent private property damage; and,

WHEREAS, the Port St. Nicholas Road is owned and operated by the City of Craig; and,

WHEREAS, the response needed to reopen the road and provide public safety exceeds funds included in the current year’s budget; and,

WHEREAS, initial recovery work to temporarily reopen the Port St. Nicholas Road began on November 21, 2023 and continues as of the effective date of this resolution; and,

WHEREAS, restoring the road to its pre-event condition will require extensive site work to clear the road surface, drainages and drainage structures, including replacement of a primary culvert crossing the entire road; and,

WHEREAS, the city has authority to regulate the use and operation, maintain, and otherwise govern and manage activities along the Port St. Nicholas Road per Alaska Statutes 29.35.020.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor of the City of Craig, as the principal executive officer of the city, with support of the Craig City Council, now declares a disaster in response to damage caused by hazardous weather events, and the resulting landslides beginning October 20, 2023. As provided by AS 26.23.140, the intent of this declaration is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local or interjurisdictional disaster or

emergency plans, to allow for emergency procurement to replace damaged structures and roadways, and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under those plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Craig requests that the State of Alaska declare a disaster on Prince of Wales Island and make both public assistance and individual assistance funds available from the State Disaster Relief Fund in response to the flooding and landslide events of November 20, 2023 and any subsequent flooding or landslides related to weather events or current soil and hydraulic conditions based on the November 20, 2023 event.

APPROVED THIS 30th day of November, 2023.

Mayor Kasey Smith

ATTEST: Mary Salazar, City Clerk



November 30, 2023

State of Alaska Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)
PO Box 5750
JBER, Alaska 99505-5750

Email: seoc@alaska.gov

Dear SEOC staff,

At special Craig City Council meeting on November 30, 2023 the Craig City Council passed Craig Resolution 23-20, declaring a disaster for recent flooding and landslide events on Prince of Wales Island on November 20, 2023.

During the landslide and flooding events there was a slide on AK DOT roads between Klawock and the communities of Thorne Bay, Coffman Cove, Naukati, Kasaan, and Whale Pass. That slide was cleared fairly quickly. There was another slide on AK DOT road between Klawock and Hollis that resulted in a road closure overnight. A third major slide damaged the road accessing the Black Bear Hydro facilities. AK DOT responded to these landslides.

During the same storm event of November 19-20 there were two major slides and a number of flooding events along the Port St. Nicholas Road near Craig. The City of Craig responded to these slides and flood events on the Port St. Nicholas Road. The slides and flooding caused significant damage to the road and drainage structures along the road system resulting in overnight closures of some areas along the road. Road damage is still being assessed and stabilization work is ongoing. The Port St. Nicholas Road is outside of the City of Craig city limits, but the road easement and road facility is owned and operated by the City of Craig. A slide of material that damaged drainage resulted in significant damage to at least one residence.

It is also important to note that residential properties along the Port St. Nicholas Road were significantly impacted with some damage reported to homes and driveways. There are about 325 – 350 residents of this subdivision. This subdivision is outside of the Craig city limits and is not under the jurisdiction of the City of Craig.

Many of the outlying communities that were affected, including Port St. Nicholas residents are outside of organized municipalities within the unorganized borough and will not be covered by the City of Craig's (or any other municipal) disaster declaration.

We anticipate that the costs of the response, recovery, and reconstruction of damaged facilities within the area of the City of Craig Disaster Declaration will exceed budgeted amounts for this work. This does not include damage to state road systems; USFS roads and facilities; damage to

other community roads not in Craig's jurisdiction; and private property (both business and residential).

The City of Craig is requesting that the State of Alaska issue a state disaster declaration or other mechanism required and make funds available from the Alaska Disaster Relief Fund. While the city is most interested in a disaster declaration being declared for the areas covered by the city's disaster declaration, it would be appropriate for the State of Alaska to declare a disaster in the unorganized area on Prince of Wales Island affected by the flooding and landslide events as well.

The city specifically would like to access Public Assistance funds to help with response, recovery, and reconstruction costs related to the declared disaster. A larger declaration by the state would allow for other Public Assistance and Individual Assistance outside of the city's declared disaster area.

If you have any questions please contact me 907-826-3275. You can also reach me by cell phone at 907-401-0088 outside of normal business hours.

A copy of the city's disaster declaration is attached.

Sincerely,

Brian Templin
Craig City Administrator