



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 26-01

Title: Disaster Declaration Related to the December 2025 – January 2026 Winter Storm

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 38,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution, the governing body of Tlingit & Haida has the authority to enact resolutions, regulations, and statutes to safeguard and promote the peace, health, safety, and general welfare of the Tribe in conformance with applicable tribal or federal law; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida provides government services, including emergency and disaster response, within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida's jurisdiction includes the geographic area in and around Juneau, Alaska, a recognized community under the Tlingit & Haida Rules of Elections; and

WHEREAS, Juneau, Alaska and the Northern Southeast Alaska Panhandle experienced an extreme winter storm starting on December 27th, 2025, continuing into January 2026, resulting in record-level snowfall, prolonged extreme cold temperatures, and hazardous winter conditions (the "Dec. 2025 – Jan. 2026 Winter Storm"); and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented snowfall and extreme cold conditions have created dangerous travel conditions, threatened public safety, strained emergency response operations, hampered safe access to the residences of Tribal elders and disabled Tribal citizens, and caused significant impacts to public buildings and infrastructure, including Tlingit & Haida facilities; and

WHEREAS, the severity and duration of the Dec. 2025 – Jan. 2026 Winter Storm have exceeded the normal operational and emergency response capacities of Tlingit & Haida; and

WHEREAS, on December 29, 2025, President Richard J. Peterson activated the Tribal Emergency Operations Center (TEOC) to take immediate steps to support and coordinate emergency response actions; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida has been working in unified coordination with the City & Borough of Juneau (CBJ) to respond to ongoing impacts from the Dec. 2025 – Jan. 2026 Winter Storm; and

WHEREAS, The combined resources of Tlingit & Haida, CBJ, and partner agencies have been fully committed and, despite sustained coordinated efforts, are insufficient to meet ongoing and anticipated emergency needs; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida finds it necessary to seek federal, state, and local resources and to negotiate and enter into the necessary agreements with federal, state, and local authorities to make such funding available to Tlingit & Haida for preparedness, response, post response, and loss mitigation activities undertaken by Tlingit & Haida related to the Dec. 2025 – Jan. 2026 Winter Storm; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2026, Tlingit & Haida formally requested assistance from the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, including a State Disaster Declaration and State and Federal support for emergency response, public infrastructure protection, avalanche monitoring and mitigation, emergency protective measures, and sustained recovery operations; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida finds it necessary to formally declare a disaster to support coordinated response efforts, document emergency actions and expenditures, enable access to State and Federal assistance, and support preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities related to the Dec. 2025 – Jan. 2026 Winter Storm;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hereby declares a disaster in the community of Juneau, Alaska related to the Dec. 2025 – Jan. 2026 Winter Storm; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida activates its governmental emergency response plan and directs the assets and personnel of the Tribe in such a manner as to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tlingit & Haida, its citizens, employees, and neighboring general public within its jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida authorizes the President, or his designee, to request, negotiate, and accept State and Federal disaster assistance, including, but not limited to, emergency response resources, personnel, equipment, public infrastructure support, avalanche monitoring and mitigation assistance, emergency protective measures, and recovery funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida authorizes the President, or his designee, to negotiate and execute any mutual aid agreements, memorandums of understanding, or cooperative agreements with State, Federal, or local governments or other entities necessary to respond to and recover from the Dec. 2025 – Jan. 2026 Winter Storm;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, Tlingit & Haida will, as necessary, seek additional resources for preparedness, prevention, response, and post-response activities and claims.

ADOPTED this 6th day of January 2026, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 absence.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata