Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation

WHEREAS, the St. Clair County and Washington County areas received upwards of 10 inches of rain Monday July 25, 2022, through Wednesday, July 27, 2022, resulting in isolated flash flooding; and,

WHEREAS, the flash flooding resulted in road closures and localized evacuations in St. Clair County; and,

WHEREAS, after the excessive rainfall, the secondary dam at the Nashville Reservoir in Washington County failed and caused the flooding of multiple homes and the road closure of State Route 15; and,

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2022, the flooding continued in East St. Louis (St. Clair County) and resulted in life safety measures taken including evacuations of approximately 100 residents; and,

WHEREAS, shelters for the displaced residents are being established; and,

WHEREAS, East St. Louis, St. Clair County, Washington County and their residents continue to struggle to repair the damages and recover from the flash flooding incidents; and,

WHEREAS, based on reports received by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, local resources and capabilities have been exhausted and State resources are needed to respond to and recover from the effects of the flash flooding; and,

WHEREAS, the circumstances surrounding the flooding have resulted in the occurrence or threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property under Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act; and,

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Illinois that the State will be prepared to address any disasters and, therefore, it is necessary and appropriate to make additional State resources available to ensure that citizens of Illinois remain safe and secure; and,

WHEREAS, these conditions provide legal justification under Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act for the issuance of a proclamation of disaster; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Constitution, in Article V, Section 8, provides that “the Governor shall have the supreme executive power, and shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws.”
and states, in the Preamble, that a central purpose of the Illinois Constitution is "provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the people".

NOW, THEREFORE, in the interest of aiding the citizens of Illinois and the local governments responsible for ensuring public health and safety, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, hereby proclaim as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7, I find that a disaster exists within the State of Illinois and specifically declare St. Clair County and Washington County as disaster areas. The proclamation authorizes the exercise of all the emergency powers provided in Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7, including but not limited to those specific emergency powers set forth below.

Section 2. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is directed to implement the State Emergency Operations Plan to coordinate State resources to support local governments in disaster response and recovery operations.

Section 3. To aid with emergency purchases necessary for response and other emergency powers as authorized by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, the provisions of the Illinois Procurement Code that would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the disaster are suspended to the extent they are not required by federal law. If necessary, and in accordance with Section 7(1) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7(1), the Governor may take appropriate executive action to suspend additional statutes, orders, rules, and regulations.

Section 4. Pursuant to Section 7(3) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7(3), this proclamation activates the Governor's authority, as necessary, to transfer the direction, personnel or functions of State departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency response programs.

Section 5. All State agencies are directed to cooperate with the Governor, other State agencies and local authorities in the development and implementation of strategies and plans to respond to and recover from the impacts of the present disaster.

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Section 6. This proclamation can facilitate a request for Federal disaster assistance if a complete and comprehensive assessment of damage indicates that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments.

Section 7. This proclamation shall be effective immediately and remain in effect for 30 days.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield, this 22nd day of July in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-two and of the State of Illinois two hundred and four.

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

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