



POHNPEI STATE GOVERNMENT
KOLONIA, POHNPEI FM 96941
TEL: (691) 320-2235/2204 FAX: (691) 320-2505

Stevenson A. Joseph
Governor

Francisco L. Ioanis
Lt. Governor

AMENDED EMERGENCY DECLARATION 2024-01

Amending Declaration of a State of emergency relative to inadequate water supply and other disaster occurrences caused by extremely dry weather condition and catastrophes resulting from the effect of El Nino phenomenon, for the main island of the State of Pohnpei including all other smaller islands, and outer islands of the State of Pohnpei, pursuant to Pohnpei State Constitution Article 13 Section 9 subsection 1, The Governor may declare a state of emergency and issue appropriate decrees, to preserve the public peace, health, or safety, at a time of extreme emergency caused by civil disturbance, epidemic, natural disaster, or immediate threat of war. Further adding Pohnpei State Constitution Article 11 Section 11 (2) (2) Except as required by a State of emergency declared by the Governor in accordance with this Constitution, no appropriation for operations of any government agency may be made except in accordance with the comprehensive operations budget authorization law.

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2024 an El Nino Advisory, issued by the US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through Pohnpei Weather Services advised that the weather outlook from January to March 2024 for the State of Pohnpei has high chance of very dry condition due to lack of rainfall, stating tentative peak of 2023-2024 El Nino will be in February and start subsiding in March 2024; Further NOAA El Nino Advisory update is due early February, 2024; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2024 Pohnpei Utilities Corporation Water Division and Pohnpei Disaster Coordinating Office had corroborated that the central water supply source and potentially other main sources cannot sustain the normal water supply need for the communities they serve; and

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WHEREAS, on January 12, 2024, Governor's Disaster Advising Committee in its official deliberation on the water shortage situation statewide, further revealed the extent of the severity of this situation that is now evident creating hardship and affecting the livelihood in the communities, schools, community health centers, businesses, private and public enterprises and government operations and others; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2024, the Governor's Disaster Advising Committee has been activated and declared to collaborate with Pohnpei Utilities Corporation Disaster Committee to implement recourses to address disaster and disaster related needs arising from extremely dry weather and/or El Nino; and

WHEREAS, the Governor to reactivates and strengthens the Governor's Disaster Advising Committee and reinforce the need to have joint disaster committees readily able to address any disaster, therefore strengthen joint committees' capacities and sustain both proactive immediate measures and readily available long-term disaster relief measures; and

WHEREAS, the Governor mandates joint disaster committees to responsibly produce daily reports and briefings upon the Governor and such implementation plans shall pursue until further notice, tentatively upon the time the Governor officially possess confirmed data and/or confirmed information sourcing from responsible Expertise, providing Weather forecast or El Nino updates (NOAA and FSM Weather Services);

WHEREAS, therefore the joint disaster committees of Pohnpei State Disaster Committee and Pohnpei Utilites Corporation Disaster Committees shall jointly, pursue its responsibilities and implementation plans as follows;

1. Provide and monitor water supply and availability to all Schools and hospitals connected and not connected to PUC water systems
2. To survey and identify the capacity of all water catchments and improvements to prevent leakages
3. Make available clean and save water filling stations for the general public

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4. Continue commissioning wells
5. Long term disaster relief strategies and methodologies is strengthened and prioritized
6. Ensure all residents of Pohnpei State, smaller islands and outer islands, have access to clean and healthy water whilst remain protected and save from all related disaster arising from extremely dry weather or forecasted El Nino.
7. Ensure the general Public is informed of their legal rights and duties at times of any disaster, including right to clean water, right to be save from disastrous environment, as well as inherent legal responsibility to uphold all laws of the State.
8. Joint Committees shall maintain level of public information is shared, precautions and advisories shall be accessible to the general public for information and preparedness.

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that appropriate measures are devised and implemented in a timely manner by the Pohnpei State Government, appropriate and relevant agencies and private enterprises to exercise responsibility in adhering to joint committees' advisories and precautionary notices, in order to mitigate and alleviate the adverse impact of this serious situation; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2024, the National Weather Service disseminated Coastal Hazard Message on high surf advisory, reporting large breaking waves of 7 and 9 feet at the north facing reefs of Pohnpei from 6am Friday, January 19, 2024 to 4am Monday January 22, 2024.

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WHEREAS, on January 21, 2024, FSM Weather Station issued Special Weather Statement, alerting advisory for possible inundation on North to East Coastlines due to hazardous sea levels, possible inundation events.

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2024, FSM Weather Station issued Event Summary reporting displays indication of tidal waves of varying sizes were observed in several intervals and with multiple episodes during high winds, affecting certain Pohnpei outer islands, water run-up and inundation of over 80% of the main island affecting taro patches with salt water.

WHEREAS, the residents of the State of Pohnpei and all its outer islands are directly experiencing natural disasters directing from constant weather changes, initially on dry weather conditions, causing disastrous dilemma of low water sourcing, escalating to vulnerability to wildfires; Pohnpei State and its outer islands currently experiencing tidal waves, therefore justifying the paramount need for effective, reliable, and readily available preparedness disaster relief measures for the People of Pohnpei and all its smaller islands.

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2024 and January 23, 2024, joint Disaster Committees through the office of Environmental Protection Agency, engaged in a water availability assessment at non PUC serviced Schools in Pohnpei; Reporting self-provision of drinking waters and water availability for sanitary purposes, Assessment further reporting with limited water source.

NOW THEREFORE by the Authority vested in me by Pohnpei State Constitution Article 13 Section 9 (1) and Pohnpei State Constitution Article 11 Section 11 (2), I hereby issue this amended declaration for a state of emergency for Pohnpei State and Order as follows;

- (1) That the joint Committees shall ensure water is available and sustained at all Pohnpei Government Schools to ensure learning environment is sanitary and safe; Therefore, students may resume full day learning schedule, immediately,

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until further notice, specifically requesting joint committees to supplement water sourcing to all schools, noting the assessment and recommendations produced by joint Disaster Advising Committees.

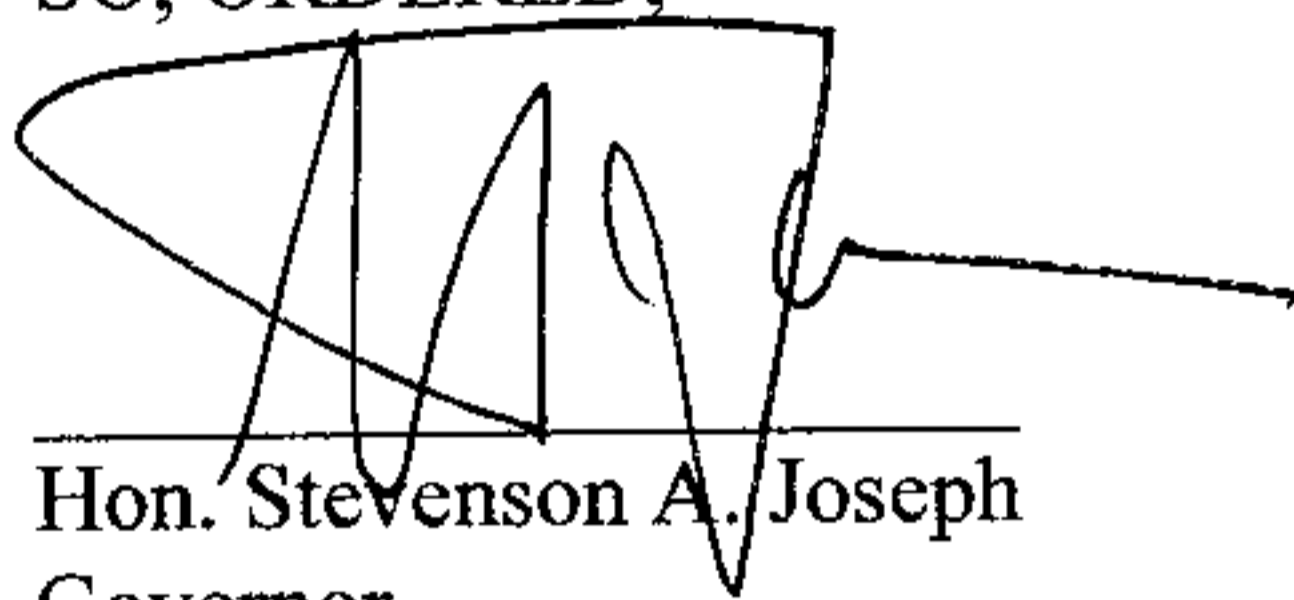
- (2) That the Governor's Disaster Advising Committee in Coordination with Pohnpei Utilities Corporation shall remain coordinated in its developing strategies to address both immediate and long-term preparedness plans and/or mitigating measures and all strategies relating to Pohnpei's disaster and catastrophic needs to ensure the Safety and wellbeing of all the People of Pohnpei.
- (3) That the Governor's Disaster Advising Committee Shall uninterruptedly and continuously undergo its Coordination with Pohnpei Utilities Corporation Disaster Committee in engaging to ensure all schools and hospitals and the community have access to water and that the general public's safety from associated disasters and other life-threats, resulting from extremely dry weather as well as any other natural disasters.
- (4) That the Governor shall exercise responsible financial adjustments as warranted through the Constitution of the State of Pohnpei, limited solely for justifiable essential financial needs to effectuate the purpose of this Declaration, maintaining financial responsibility while securing the financial integrity of the Pohnpei State Government;AND
- (5) That the Governor shall with due diligence stringently exercise waiver of processes required for applications and/or processes, as mandated by Pohnpei laws

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and regulations, only when such act is relating to the preservation of public peace, health or safety at a time of extreme emergency caused by civil disturbance, epidemic, natural disaster, or immediate threat of war.

Copies of this Order shall be transmitted to the President of the FSM, the Speaker of the 11th Pohnpei Legislature, the Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court, the local chief executives of each municipality, members of Mwoalen Wahu, the Governor's Disaster Advising Committee, all other relevant stakeholders.

SO, ORDERED;



Hon. Stevenson A. Joseph
Governor

1-23-24
Date