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****PRESS RELEASE****

Governor Mike Dunleavy Declares Disaster for City of Kotzebue

Date: February 15, 2024

From: City of Kotzebue Mayor Saima Chase and City Manager, Tessa Baldwin

Phone: (907) 442-3401

Kotzebue, Alaska- On February 14, 2024, Governor Mike Dunleavy declared a Declaration of Disaster Emergency for the Northwest Arctic Borough of Northwest Alaska and the City of Kotzebue for the Swan Lake Water Loop Failure. This incident, affecting 190 homes, has left many residents without access to essential water and sewer services, necessitating immediate and coordinated emergency response efforts. Of these 190 homes, 56 of them are completely without running water and 15 of the houses are without sewer.

“I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Governor Dunleavy and his administration for swiftly declaring the Swan Lake water loop disaster a statewide emergency declaration. This decisive action demonstrates his commitment to the safety and well being of all Kotzebue residents affected by this crisis.” stated Mayor Saima Chase.

The disaster declaration enables the mobilization of state resources, including emergency personnel, equipment, and financial assistance, to address the immediate consequences of the water main failure. Emergency response teams are working diligently to provide alternative water sources, coordinating to establish temporary sanitation facilities, and ensure the health and safety of all residents affected by this crisis.

For more information regarding the contents of this press release, please contact Rachel Belamour, City of Kotzebue, Department of Public Relations by email at rbelamour@kotzebue.org or by phone at 907-442-3401.

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