



**EXECUTIVE ORDER 17-03**

**PROCLAMATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR MALHEUR COUNTY REGARDING EFFECTS OF SEVERE WINTER STORMS AND DELEGATION OF EMERGENCY AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO ORS 401.035(2) TO SUSPEND STATE ADMINISTRATIVE RULES THAT PREVENT, HINDER OR DELAY MITIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF THESE WINTER STORMS**

Pursuant to ORS 401.165, I find that a state of emergency exists in Malheur County, which has been ravaged by severe winter storms. There exists imminent need to remove and dispose of debris related to these storms; delays to such removal and disposal present an ongoing risk to public safety.

I issued Executive Order 17-02 on January 11, 2017, and declared a statewide emergency in Oregon due to severe winter storms. In Malheur County, the severe winter storms have left behind historic levels of wreckage. Local and state officials estimate that 100 or more buildings in Malheur County have been damaged or have totally collapsed. Damaged or destroyed buildings include agricultural, commercial, and residential structures. The building collapses have also damaged or destroyed the contents of these buildings.

In consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Oregon Emergency Management (OEM), I have determined that debris removal and disposal efforts in Malheur County are being inhibited by certain DEQ permitting, material handling, and disposal requirements, and that this inhibition has occasioned a state of emergency in Malheur County.

Based on the information I have received from DEQ and OEM, and in accordance with my authority under ORS 401.168(2), I find that strict compliance with certain DEQ rules would prevent, hinder, or delay mitigation of the effects of this emergency.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:**

1. Pursuant to ORS 401.035, I delegate to the Director of DEQ the authority conferred under ORS 401.168(2) to issue emergency orders that temporarily suspend such DEQ rules as the Director determines to be necessary in order to make possible or to expedite DEQ-approved operations in response to buildings collapsed as a result of severe winter storms in Malheur County,



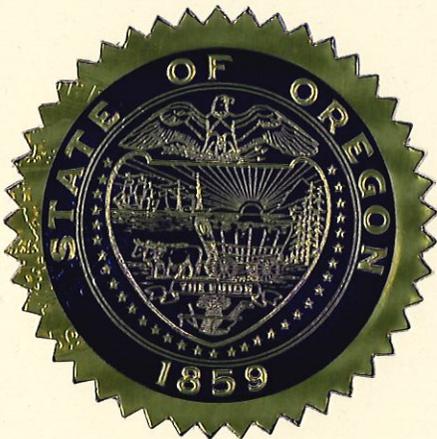
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and to protect public health, safety, and the environment during those operations.

2. The Director of DEQ shall consult with the Governor's Natural Resources Office prior to issuing any order temporarily suspending a DEQ rule pursuant to the authority provided in this Executive Order. The Director of DEQ shall provide a written report to the Governor's Natural Resources Office and to the Environmental Quality Commission concerning the nature and basis of any emergency order issued pursuant to this Executive Order.

The authority delegated by this Executive Order will automatically terminate August 1, 2017, unless otherwise extended or terminated by supplemental order.

This order was made by verbal proclamation at 11:48 am the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January 2017, and signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2017.



Handwritten signature of Kate Brown in black ink.

Kate Brown  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Dennis Richardson in green ink.

Dennis Richardson  
SECRETARY OF STATE