



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

allison.fore@mwrdr.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release

July 11, 2023

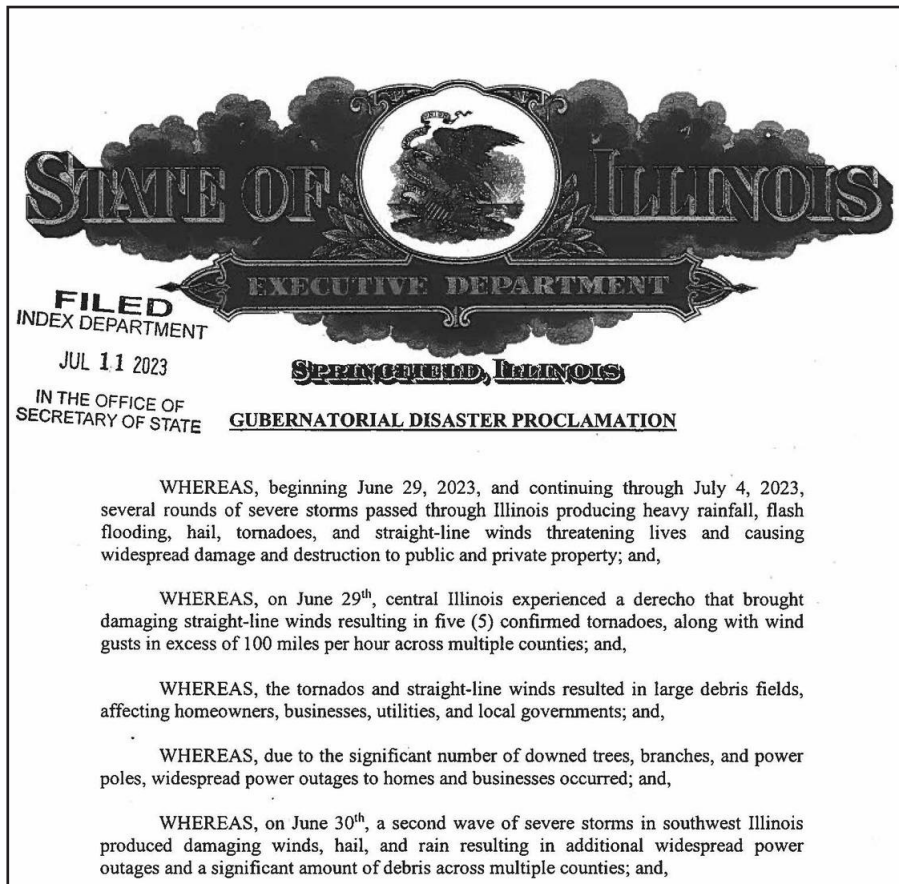
Statement in support of Governor J B Pritzker's Disaster Declaration

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Board of Commissioners commends Governor J.B. Pritzker for his decisive action in declaring Cook County a disaster area resulting from massive storms that took place on July 2 and 3.

This bold and necessary step demonstrates his commitment to the well-being and safety of the residents of Cook County and his ability to swiftly respond to crises. By recognizing the severity of the situation, Governor Pritzker has shown exceptional leadership in times of adversity.

Declaring Cook County a disaster area will provide much-needed resources and support to the affected communities. This designation opens up avenues for federal assistance, enabling access to additional funding, personnel, and expertise to aid in disaster response and recovery efforts. This initiative will ensure a coordinated and effective response to the challenges faced by Cook County residents, businesses and churches.

We are confident that Cook County will receive the support and resources necessary to navigate this disaster and emerge stronger.



Statement in support of Governor Pritzker's Disaster Declaration, *cont.*

WHEREAS, on July 2nd, a third set of severe storms dropped significant rainfall, including localized totals of upwards of eight (8) inches of water, in a short period of time, causing flash flooding in and around the Chicago area, including on the City's west side in Austin and other communities; and,

WHEREAS, the July 2nd storms also downed numerous trees and caused widespread power outages in northern Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, the storms during this time period also caused disruptions to transportation due to flash flooding and debris on the roadways; and,

WHEREAS, the continuation of severe storms throughout this time period caused further damage to public and private property in the affected areas and inhibited the ability of areas affected by previous storms to undertake effective response and recovery operations; and,

WHEREAS, high temperatures and humidity throughout the entire period, including during and after these storm systems, have required the opening of shelters and public places in order to protect the public from heat-related injuries; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of these storms, the damage they caused to critical infrastructure, and the ongoing danger and impacts to the public, extraordinary measures are required, and have been implemented, to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, based on reports received by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security, local resources and capabilities in the communities hit by these storms have been exhausted, and State resources are needed to respond to and recover from the effects of the severe storms; and,

WHEREAS, these conditions provide legal justification under Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7, for the issuance of a proclamation of disaster.

NOW, THEREFORE, in the interest of aiding the people 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 Coles, Cook (including the City of Chicago), Edgar, Hancock, McDonough, Morgan, Sangamon, and Washington Counties as disaster areas.

Section 2. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security is directed to continue implementation of the State Emergency Operations Plan, as it has been doing since June 29th, and 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 and the Illinois Joint Purchasing Act 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.

Section 4: 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 5: This proclamation shall be effective immediately and remain in effect for 30 days.


JB Pritzker
Governor

Date: July 11, 2023

FILED
INDEX DEPARTMENT
JUL 11 2023
IN THE OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water