

Governor Declares State of Emergency in New Jersey *Urges Residents to Stay Updated and Follow Instructions*

TRENTON – Governor Jon S. Corzine today signed an Executive Order proclaiming a state of emergency in New Jersey.

“At this point, it’s clear that we are in the middle of one of the most severe flood events in recent history,” Corzine said. “I urge all residents in the affected areas to pay attention to local media for updates and to evacuate immediately if ordered.”

The Governor’s Office today sent home all non-essential employees working in the Trenton area because of health and safety concerns. Those same government facilities that were closed early today will be closed on Thursday. The State House and the Annex will remain open. Cabinet-level officials will designate essential staff and facilities within their departments and agencies as appropriate. The Governor’s Office will continue to closely monitor conditions as take further steps as warranted.

This State of Emergency gives the Director of Emergency Management the authority to order evacuations and designate shelters. Additionally, the Executive order empowers the Adjutant General to mobilize units of the New Jersey National Guard as needed.

The full text of the Executive Order is below.

WHEREAS, severe weather conditions, including heavy rains, high winds, main stream and river flooding, and progressing runoff, now threaten homes and other structures and the flow of traffic throughout the State; and,

WHEREAS, these weather conditions make it difficult or impossible for citizens to obtain the necessities of life, as well as essential services such as police, fire and first aid; and

WHEREAS, these weather conditions constitute a disaster from a natural cause, which threatens and presently endangers the health, safety and resources of the residents of one or more municipalities and counties of this State; and

WHEREAS, this situation is too large in scope to be handled by the normal county and municipal operating services in some parts of this State, and this situation may spread to other parts of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution and statutes of the State of New Jersey, particularly the provisions of N.J.S.A. App. A: 9-33 et seq., N.J.S.A. 38A:3-6.1, and N.J.S.A. 38A:2-4 and all amendments and supplements thereto, confer upon the Governor of the State of New Jersey certain emergency powers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JON S. CORZINE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of the State of New Jersey DO DECLARE AND PROCLAIM that a State of Emergency presently exists throughout the State of New Jersey; and I hereby ORDER AND DIRECT the following:

- I authorize and empower the State Director of Emergency Management to implement the State Emergency Operations Plan and to direct the activation of county and

municipal emergency operation plans as necessary.

- I authorize and empower the State Director of Emergency Management, who is the Superintendent of State Police, in accordance with N.J.S.A. A:9-33 et seq. as supplemented and amended, through the police agencies under his control, to determine the control and direction of the flow of vehicular traffic on any State Highway, municipal or county road, including the right to detour, reroute or divert any or all traffic and to prevent ingress or egress from any area, that, in the State Director's discretion, is deemed necessary for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public, and to remove parked or abandoned vehicles from such roadways as conditions warrant.

- I authorize and empower the Attorney General, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:4-213, acting through the Superintendent of the Division of State Police, to determine the control and direction of the flow of vehicular traffic on any State or Interstate highway, and its access roads, including the right to detour, reroute or divert any or all traffic, and to prevent ingress or egress from any area to which the declaration of emergency applies. I further authorize all law enforcement officers to enforce any such orders of the Attorney General and the Superintendent of State Police, within their respective municipalities.

- I authorize and empower the State Director of Emergency Management to order the evacuation of all persons, except for those emergency and governmental personnel whose presence the State Director deems necessary, from any area where their continued presence would present a danger to their health, safety or welfare because of the conditions created by this emergency.

- I authorize and empower the State Director of Emergency Management to utilize all facilities owned, rented, operated and maintained by the State of New Jersey to house and shelter persons who may need to be evacuated from a residence, dwelling, building, structure or vehicle during the course of this emergency.

- I authorize and empower the executive head of any agency or instrumentality of the State government with authority to promulgate rules to waive, suspend or modify any existing rule, the enforcement of which would be detrimental to the public welfare during this emergency, notwithstanding the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act or any law to the contrary, for the duration of this Executive Order, and subject to my prior approval and in consultation with the State Director of Emergency Management. Any such waiver, modification or suspension shall be promulgated in accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-45.

- I authorize and empower the Adjutant General, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 38A:2-4 and N.J.S.A. 38A:3-6.1, to order to active duty such members of the New Jersey National Guard that, in the Adjutant General's judgment, are necessary to provide aid to those localities where there is a threat or danger to the public health, safety and welfare and to authorize the employment of any supporting vehicles, equipment, communications or supplies as may be necessary to support the members so ordered.

- In accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-34 and N.J.S.A. App. A:9-51, as supplemented and amended, reserve the right to utilize and employ all available resources of the State government and of each and every political subdivision of the State, whether persons, properties or instrumentalities, and to commandeer and utilize any personal services and any privately owned property necessary to protect against this emergency.

- In accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-40, no municipality, county or any other agency or political subdivision of this State shall enact or enforce any order, rule, regulation, ordinance or resolution that will or might in any way conflict with any of the provisions of this Order, or which will in any way interfere with or impede the achievement of the purposes of this Order or the orders of the State Director of Emergency Management.

- It shall be the duty of the members of the governing body, and each and every officer, agent and employee of every political subdivision of this State and of each member of all other governmental bodies, agencies and authorities of any nature whatever, to fully cooperate with the State Director of Emergency Management in all matters during this emergency.

- I authorize and empower the State Director of Emergency Management, pursuant to N.J.S.A. App. A:9-37 and N.J.S.A. App. A:9-48 and in accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-36, to require any public official, citizen or resident of this State, or any firm, partnership, or corporation, incorporated or doing business in this State, to furnish any information deemed reasonably necessary by the Director to carry out the purposes of this Order.

- The cooperation of every person or entity in this State or doing business in this State in all matters concerning this state of emergency is requested.

- In accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-34, N.J.S.A. App. A:9-40.6 and 40A:14-156.4, I direct that no municipality or public or semipublic agency send public works, fire, police, emergency medical or other personnel or equipment into any non-contiguous disaster-stricken municipality within this State, or to any disaster-stricken municipality outside this State, unless and until such aid has been directed by the county emergency management coordinator or his or her deputies, in consultation with the State Director of Emergency Management.

- This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it is determined by me that an emergency no longer exists.