EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 31

WHEREAS, beginning on Wednesday, November 25, 2026, and continuing through Friday, November 27, 2026, a storm system is expected to impact the State of New Jersey bringing severe hazardous weather conditions including tidal flooding, high winds, and heavy rainfall with greatest impacts felt in coastal and bayside areas; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued a coastal flood warning for Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem, and Union counties; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued a high wind warning for Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem, Somerset, Union, and Warren counties; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued a storm warning for all marine zones; and

WHEREAS, multiple rounds of tidal flooding are expected, with moderate to major coastal flooding anticipated during periods of high tide, and with the most significant impacts expected on Thursday, November 26, 2026; and

WHEREAS, high tides have the potential to bring widespread roadway flooding to coastal and bayside areas, making some roadways impassable, damaging vulnerable structures, and isolating some locations; and

WHEREAS, precipitation is expected statewide with rainfall amounts of 1-3 inches, with locally higher amounts as high as 4 inches along the coast; and

WHEREAS, this storm could bring gusts between 50 and 70 miles per hour for most areas, with possible gusts in excess of 70 miles per hour along the coast, creating elevated risk for power outages that would impede the normal operation of public and private entities; and

WHEREAS, storm force winds and gusts are expected across all coastal waters, with seas building to 15-20 feet; and

WHEREAS, these serious weather conditions could 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, this impending storm constitutes an imminent hazard that threatens and presently endangers the health, safety, and resources of the residents of the State; and

WHEREAS, this situation may become too large in scope to be handled in its entirety 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, 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, MIKIE SHERRILL, 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 exists throughout the State of New Jersey, effective at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25, 2026; and I hereby ORDER and DIRECT the following:

1. I authorize and empower the State Director of Emergency Management, who is the Superintendent of State Police, to implement the State Emergency Operations Plan and to direct the activation of county and municipal emergency operations plans, as necessary, and to coordinate the recovery effort from this emergency with all governmental agencies, volunteer organizations, and the private sector.

2. I authorize and empower, in accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-33, et seq., as supplemented and amended, the State Director of Emergency Management, who is the Superintendent of State Police, through the police agencies under their control, and with consideration of any Administrative Order issued by the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, to determine and control the direction of the flow of vehicular traffic on any State or interstate highway, municipal or county road, and any access 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.

3. I authorize and empower the Attorney General, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:4-213, acting through the Superintendent of State Police, and with consideration of any Administrative Order issued by the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, to determine and control the direction of the flow of vehicular traffic on any State or interstate highway, municipal or county road, and any access road, including the right to detour, reroute, or divert any or all traffic, to prevent ingress or egress, and to determine the type of vehicle or vehicles to be operated on such roadways. I further authorize all law enforcement officers to enforce any such order of the Attorney General or Superintendent of State Police within their respective municipalities.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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, where 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 Order,

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.

7. 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 who, 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.

8. In accordance with the N.J.S.A. App. A:9-34 and N.J.S.A. App. A:9-51, I 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 of persons, properties, or instrumentalities, and to commandeer and utilize any personal services and any privately-owned property necessary to protect against this emergency.

9. 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 which 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.

10. It shall be the duty of every person or entity in this State or doing business in this State, and of the members of the governing body and every official, employee, or agent of every political subdivision in this State, and of each member of all other governmental bodies, agencies, and authorities in this State of any nature whatsoever, to cooperate fully with the State Director of Emergency Management in all matters concerning this State of Emergency.

11. In accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-34, N.J.S.A. App. A:9-40.6, and N.J.S.A. 40A:14-156.4, no municipality or public or semipublic agency shall send public works, fire, police, emergency medical, or other

personnel or equipment into any non-contiguous disaster-stricken municipality within this State, nor to any disaster-stricken municipality outside this State, unless and until such aid has been directed by the county emergency management coordinator or their deputies in consultation with the State Director of Emergency Management.

12. This Order shall take effect at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25, 2026, and shall remain in effect until such time as it is determined by the Governor that an emergency no longer exists.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this 25th day of November, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six, and of the Independence of the United States, the Two Hundred and Fifty-First.

[seal]

/s/ Mikie Sherrill

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Timothy P. Lydon

Chief Counsel to the Governor