

Executive Order No. 2017-29

WHEREAS, Hurricane Irma, and the associated wind, heavy rain, localized flooding, and other severe weather, represented a significant threat to the State of South Carolina and required that the State take timely precautions to protect property, critical infrastructure, communities, and the safety, security, and welfare of the people of this State; and

WHEREAS, on September 6, 2017, I issued Executive Order No. 2017-20, declaring a State of Emergency due to the significant threat posed by Hurricane Irma, placing into effect the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan, and directing that all prudent precautions be taken and preparations be made at the individual, local, and state levels to protect against the possible effects of Hurricane Irma; and

WHEREAS, the heavy rain and localized flooding associated with Hurricane Irma presented a significant risk of overtopping erosion or destruction of dams or reservoirs, which independently posed a serious danger to persons and property, as this State previously experienced in connection with Hurricane Joaquin in 2015 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the foregoing, on September 7, 2017, I issued Executive Order No. 2017-22, ordering, *inter alia*, all dam and reservoir “Owner[s],” as defined by section 49-11-120(9) of the South Carolina Code of Laws, to evaluate their impoundments and determine if water levels could be safely lowered to accommodate incoming flows and to coordinate releases of water with downstream dam or property owners and directing the Department of Health and Environmental Control (“Department”) to take certain actions to prevent dam and reservoir failures and to employ any and all remedial measures deemed necessary pursuant to the South Carolina Dams and Reservoirs Safety Act, codified as amended at sections 49-11-110 to 49-11-260 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, to protect persons and property in this State; and

WHEREAS, the Department has advised that the effects of Hurricane Irma and the foregoing concerns and conditions no longer pose an imminent threat to persons and property in this State.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby rescind Executive Order No. 2017-22, effective 10:00 a.m., September 13, 2017. Nothing in this Order prohibits the Department from continuing further monitoring during the recovery period or taking other remedial measures deemed necessary in accordance with the South Carolina Dams and Reservoirs Safety Act to protect persons and property in this State.

This Order is effective immediately. Further proclamations and directives deemed necessary to ensure the fullest protection of life and property during this State of Emergency shall be issued orally by me and thereafter reduced to writing within the succeeding 24-hour period.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 13 DAY OF
SEPTEMBER, 2017.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**