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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2013

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Governor Declares State of Disaster for Kent County Declaration could pave the way for federal assistance for flooding damage

GRAND RAPIDS - Governor Rick Snyder signed a Declaration of a State of Disaster for much of Michigan today, including Kent County. This declaration supports the many efforts following the severe flooding that occurred last month. Preliminary assessments for Kent County put the cost of damage at over \$6.2 million. Today's declaration is a step in the process to determine if any federal assistance will be available to the county following the disaster.

"The flooding Kent County experienced in April was unlike anything we've seen in decades," said Dan Koorndyk, Chairman of the Kent County Board of Commissioners. "We have been working closely with Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley and the Governor's Office throughout this disaster. We are extremely appreciative of all of the efforts of Governor Snyder, and the many others who have dedicated themselves to helping the residents of Kent County over the past four weeks."

The Governor's Office has pledged to explore "all possible avenues for assistance to help affected residents and local governments recover from the severe flooding." While the flood waters have receded, there is still much work to be done. "It is significant to point out that during this time of extreme stress and strain, the personnel from Kent County worked diligently with our citizens and our communities to achieve our top objectives throughout this disaster: protecting the health and safety of our residents and our responders," Chairman Koorndyk added.

Along with Kent County, this disaster declaration also covers Baraga, Barry, Benzie, Genesee, Gogebic, Gratiot, Houghton, Ionia, Keweenaw, Marquette, Mecosta, Midland, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ontonagon, Osceola, Ottawa and Saginaw Counties. Later this week, staffers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are expected to join Governor Snyder, as well as numerous state and local officials, to assess damage to homes and businesses in Kent County. They will also look at damage to public facilities and infrastructure, to build a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA). Once this is complete, state officials will determine whether a federal declaration should be requested.

