

David M. Apatang
Governor



Dennis James C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2026-007

SUBJECT: Authorizing the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to enter into contracts for recovery operations to ameliorate the destruction caused by Super Typhoon Sinlaku on an expedited basis.

AUTHORITY: NMI Const. art. III, § 1 provides that "[t]he executive power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a governor who shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws" and NMI Const. art. III, § 10 permits the governor to "mobilize available resources to respond to" "invasion, civil disturbance, natural disaster, or other calamity as provided by law."

WHEREAS, from April 13-16, 2026, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was devastated by Super Typhoon Sinlaku, a powerful and slow-moving Category 4 tropical cyclone that destroyed much of the islands' power, water, and wastewater infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, electrical power generation and distribution, water distribution, and wastewater services were severely affected by typhoon-strength winds. Hundreds of power poles have been downed, wastewater pumps are operating on temporary generators, and water service has not yet been fully restored; and

WHEREAS, the provision of electrical, water, and wastewater services are a core function of government necessary to sustain the life of the Commonwealth's citizens and residents, and it is necessary to expedite recovery efforts to protect and promote public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the recovery efforts will, at a minimum, include coordination with all Commonwealth government agencies, agencies from Guam, and the federal government. CUC will need to source labor, goods, and services from providers within and outside of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has an Order entitled Contract Review Protocol, Docket 09-01, dated December 19, 2008 (as amended January 27, 2012) which governs many of the contracts entered into by CUC. Section three of the protocol authorizes emergency procurement with no prior notice to the CPUC for procurements "authorized by a gubernatorial declaration of emergency."

WHEREAS, it is the intention of this Executive Order to authorize expedited emergency procurement pursuant to the CPUC Contract Review Protocol, and to clarify that any contract entered into by CUC pursuant to Executive Order 2026-004 is also so authorized;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVID M. APATANG, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth, hereby order as follows:

Procurement Authorization: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is expressly authorized to enter into any contract to restore power, water, and wastewater services to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to ameliorate the damage caused by Super Typhoon Sinlaku on an expedited basis. The procurement shall be as competitive as practicable under the circumstance.

Compliance with CPUC Contract Review Protocol: Any contract entered into pursuant to this Executive Order or Executive Order 2026-004 is deemed compliant with section three of the Contract Review Protocol ordered by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission Docket 09-01, dated December 19, 2008 (as amended). CUC shall provide notice of such procurement to the CPUC within three (3) days after the execution of the contract, or as soon as practicable thereafter.

It is so Ordered,

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED on this 11 day of May, 2026.


DAVID M. APATANG
Governor