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Subject: Governor Gregoire's statement on earthquake in Chile and tsunami advisory for Washington state coastline

Gov. Gregoire's statement on earthquake in Chile and tsunami advisory for Washington state coastline

For Immediate Release: February 27, 2010

OLYMPIA – Gov. Chris Gregoire today issued the following statement on the 8.8 magnitude earthquake in Chile and the tsunami advisory in effect for the Washington coast:

"Our hearts are with the people of Chile following last night's earthquake.

"As a result of the earthquake a tsunami wave was generated and is now spreading across the Pacific Ocean. A tsunami advisory is in effect for the entire Washington coast. However, there is no tsunami watch or warning currently in effect for the Washington coast.

"We are closely monitoring the situation. It is strongly recommended that people stay away from beaches and coastal waters this afternoon and should be alert to strong currents in coastal harbors. Coastline communities will be notified should conditions change and should follow the advice of their local emergency management agencies."