

Memorandum

Borough Manager John Moosey



DATE: January 13, 2020 (for Public Release on January 20, 2020)
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: John Moosey, Borough Manager
SUBJECT: Manager's Notes to the Assembly

Letters to Federal Legislators re Houston Middle School – Attached are copies of our letters to Congressman Young, Senator Murkowski and Senator Sullivan dated December 17, 2019. Email response from Daniel George of Congressman Young's office dated December 23, 2019.

Rasmuson Grant Award of \$450,000 – Attached is a copy of Letter from Diane Kaplan dated December 10, 2019.

Supreme Court Ruling re Homeless – See attached ADN article dated December 16, 2019.

Big Lake Christmas Parade – Attached is a copy of my letter in support dated December 21, 2019.

IGU Natural Gas Tank Nearly Complete, Serving More Customers Next Year – Attached is an article from last fall (October 11, 2019), relative to future activity here in the Borough.

Status of Marijuana Businesses – See attached memo from the Borough Revenue & Budget, Sales & Excise Tax Specialist Candie Graham dated December 16, 2019.

In American Politics, Everyone's a Cynic – See attached article dated December 16, 2019.

Congressional Appropriations Update – See attached email from Karl Ohls dated December 18, 2019.

FY2021 State Priorities – See the attached letter to Governor Dunleavy and Mat-Su Valley Legislators dated December 23, 2019. Subsequently on January 7, the Assembly added the Shirley Towne Bridge project to the list of priorities.

Disaster Declaration – Willow Creek Flooding – See attached dated December 23, 2019.

Letter Requesting Funds for Houston Middle School to Mat-Su Borough School District – See attached letter to Board President Thomas Bergey dated December 23, 2019.

FY2020 Federal Appropriations Passed & Approved – Attached is a copy of Karl Ohls' email dated December 27, 2019.

KGB Town Hall, December 28, 2019 – Attached are two maps including information regarding Seldon Road Extension Project, Phase II Alignment.

Talkeetna Erosion – On January 2, 2020 Garrett Boyle from Senator Murkowski’s D.C. office met with Assemblymembers Boeve and Mayfield, myself, and several staff to discuss our concerns with Talkeetna and the potential river impacts from quickly eroding dike system.

Willow Creek Town Hall, January 2, 2020 – Mayor Halter, Assemblymember Boeve, Borough staff, and other subject experts hosted a Town Hall to inform citizens of the status of the emergency. See the attached memo from HDL dated January 3, 2020.

Letter to Governor Dunleavy re Willow Creek Disaster – See Mayor Halter’s letter dated January 3, 2020.

A2A Staff Discussion – On January 6, borough staff and I met to discuss the status of the project.

U.S. Census Complete Count Committee – The group met on January 7. Printed mailings and media announcements have started. Public Service Announcements have been recorded and will be airing soon. U.S. Census is hiring local employees to begin the door-to-door operations. Assemblymember Nowers and Keisha Lafayette, the US Census Mat-Su Area Partnership Specialist will appear on Radio Free Palmer to talk the importance of completing the US Census forms on January 15, 2020. Census information is confidential and only used for statistical purposes. Census numbers determine how over \$3 Billion in federal funding is distributed within the State of Alaska. A complete count of Mat-Su Borough residents will shape the distribution of federal funding for schools, and roads, and though programs such as Head Start, Medicaid, and Foster Care. A 1% undercount of the borough population could result in a loss of roughly \$3.1 Million per year.

Governor Dunleavy at Mat-Su Health Foundation – Governor Dunleavy addressed questions about the FY2021 Budget on January 7 at the Mat-Su Health Foundation. In particular Governor Dunleavy mentioned his shift for right sizing the State budget to the Legislators.

Support for Rebarchek Project – On Wednesday, January 8, 2020, I met with LaMarr Anderson to discuss future support for the Rebarchek project by the Historical Planning Commission. I will be drafting a letter of support.

Former AGDC President Makes Pitch to Retake Reins of Alaska LNG Project – See the attached Anchorage Daily News article dated January 10, 2020.

Board of Fisheries re Kodiak Finfish Meeting – See the attached letter dated January 10, 2010 on behalf of the MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission to the Board of Fisheries for the meetings in Kodiak January 11-14, 2020.

After Action Review of Willow Creek Flooding Disaster – On Friday, January 10, 2020 a positive meeting was held at Station 65 to discuss lessons learned from this event. The cooperation of many entities and departments was discussed, along with suggestions on what we could have done differently. Attached are photos taken over the course of the disaster.

Attachments:

- Letters re Houston Middle School to Congressman Young, Senator Murkowski and Senator Sullivan, December 17, 2019;
- Letter from Rasmuson Foundation, December 10, 2019
- Supreme Court Ruling on Homeless, Anchorage Daily News, December 16, 2019
- Letter to DOT in support of Big Lake Christmas Parade
- IGU Natural Gas Tank Nearly Complete, October 11, 2019
- Memo from Candie Graham, Sales & Excise Tax Specialist, December 16, 2019
- In American Politics, Everyone's a Cynic, December 16, 2019
- Congressional Appropriations Update, email from Karl Ohls, December 18, 2019
- FY2021 State Priorities Letter to Governor Dunleavy and Mat-Su Valley Legislators, December 23, 2019
- Disaster Declaration – Willow Creek Flooding, December 23, 2019
- Letter Requesting Funding for Houston Middle School to Thomas Bergey, December 23, 2019
- FY2020 Federal Appropriations Passed & Approved, Karl Ohls' email, December 27, 2019
- KGB Town Hall, two maps including KGB and Seldon Road Extension Project, December 28, 2019
- Memo from HDL re Willow Creek Ice Jam Mitigation, Willow Creek Town Hall, January 2, 2020
- Mayor Halter's Letter to Governor Dunleavy re Willow Creek Disaster, January 3, 2020
- Former AGDC President Makes Pitch to Retake Reins of Alaska LNG Project, ADN, January 10, 2020
- Letter to Board of Fisheries re Kodiak Finfish Meeting, January 10, 2020
- Photos of Willow Creek Flooding Disaster, December 2019 – January 2020

Upcoming Activities:

- Ribbon Cutting at MatSu Regional Hospital for new 3rd floor behavioral health unit, January 16, 2020
- Legislative Session begins in Juneau January 21, 2020
- AML Winter Legislative Conference, February 18-20, 2020, Juneau. Mayor Halter and I will be attending. Please note that I will not be present for the February 18 regular Assembly meeting.





MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Mayor

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8682 • Fax (907) 861-8669

Vern.Halter@matsugov.us

December 17, 2019

The Honorable Don Young
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Young,

On November 30, 2018 the Matanuska-Susitna Borough suffered a 7.1 magnitude earthquake. Many roads and structures were damaged. Houston Middle School was significantly damaged. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough prepared for an event such as this and was able to recover a significant portion through insurance proceeds (\$15M).


Additional assistance from FEMA is needed and has been requested. We have been pleased with the efforts from FEMA. They have been responsive and helpful. However, under the best case scenario, the school children in Houston, Alaska will be without this school building for three years.

The purpose for our letter is to respectfully encourage you to examine all possible means of assistance. We are also asking for quick determination so our school children can return to a normal educational experience.

Thank you for your help and assistance.

Sincerely,


Mayor Vern Halter
Matanuska-Susitna Borough


Mayor Bert Cottle
City of Wasilla


Mayor Virgie Thompson
City of Houston


Mayor Edna DeVries
City of Palmer

cc: Senator Dan Sullivan
Senator Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters
Robert Forgit, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Sam Walton, State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community.



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Vern.Halter@matsugov.us

December 17, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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Mayor Bert Cottle
City of Wasilla


Mayor Virgie Thompson
City of Houston


Mayor Edna DeVries
City of Palmer

cc: Congressman Don Young
Senator Dan Sullivan
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters
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Vern.Halter@matsugov.us

December 17, 2019

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sullivan,

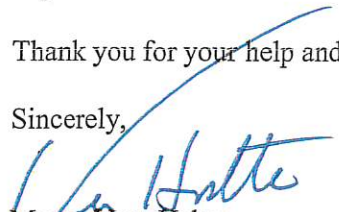
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cc: Congressman Don Young
Senator Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters
Robert Forgit, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Sam Walton, State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community.

John Moosey

From: George, Daniel <Daniel.George@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2019 9:49 AM
To: Mary Miller
Cc: John Moosey
Subject: RE: Mat-Su Valley Mayors' letters re Houston Middle School

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Hi Mary,

Thank you for forwarding this letter to Congressman Young. I am sorry to hear that the community of Houston will be without their school for three years. I recall the devastating fire a few years ago at Su Valley and the impact that had on their community, as well as how they came together to manage that situation. I appreciate the fine job you and the Borough Manager do in handling this recent barrage of disasters—I'm sure you are already busy with the flooding on Willow Creek.

I have shared this letter with our legislative team in the DC office. Please be aware that most of the DC staff do take the time between Christmas and New Years off. If this will be an issue in light of the request for quick determination mentioned in the letter, please let me know what the borough and city timelines require.

Thank you again, and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Daniel George

State Director

Office of Congressman Don Young
471 W. 36th Ave., Suite 201
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 271-5978



From: Mary Miller <Mary.Miller@matsugov.us>
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2019 2:30 PM
To: George, Daniel <Daniel.George@mail.house.gov>; 'Sharpe, Margaret (Sullivan)' <Margaret_Sharpe@sullivan.senate.gov>; Sumpter, Gerri (Murkowski) <Gerri_Sumpter@murkowski.senate.gov>
Subject: Mat-Su Valley Mayors' letters re Houston Middle School

Good Afternoon,

Please forward the attached letters to Congressman Young, Senator Sullivan and Senator Murkowski.

Thank you kindly,

Mary Miller

Executive Assistant to Borough Manager John Moosey

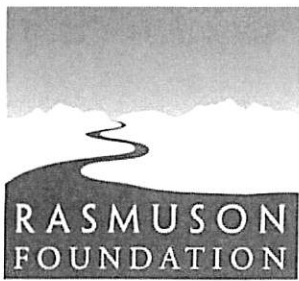
Matanuska-Susitna Borough

350 E. Dahlia Avenue

Palmer, Alaska 99645

(907) 861-8557

Mary.Miller@matsugov.us



Matanuska Susitna Borough

DEC 17 2019

Administration

December 10, 2019

301 W. Northern Lights Blvd.
Suite 601
Anchorage, AK 99503

907.297.2700 *tel*
907.297.2770 *fax*
877.366.2700 *toll-free in Alaska*
info@rasmuson.org *email*
www.rasmuson.org

Mr. John Moosey
Borough Manager
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
350 East Dahlia Ave
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Mr. Moosey:

It is my great pleasure to inform you that Matanuska-Susitna Borough has been awarded a \$450,000 top-off grant for the construction of a new Willow library and renovation of its community center. The payment is contingent upon certification that all project funds have been secured.

Please have two officials from your organization acknowledge receipt of this grant and agreement with its terms by signing the attached grant agreement and returning it by January 31, 2020. A payment request form has also been included in this packet. Kindly return all signed forms as soon as possible to ensure timely payment.

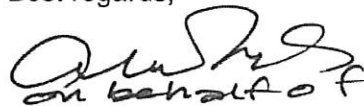
The grant agreement contains instructions for payment requests and reporting. The required forms may be found on the Foundation's web site, www.rasmuson.org/forms. Please refer to grant number 12461 in all correspondence regarding this award.

Our directors are interested in keeping in touch with your activities during the year. If you have a special event, receive recognition for your services, or have a significant accomplishment, we would like to hear about it. You may wish to include us on your regular mailing list. Also, if any key people involved in the project change, please notify us in writing.

If you have any questions, please contact Todd Shenk by email at tshenk@rasmuson.org, or by phone at (907) 297-2700, or toll-free in Alaska (877) 366-2700.

Congratulations on your award.

Best regards,



on behalf of

Diane Kaplan
President

Enclosures

BOARD of
DIRECTORS

Edward B. Rasmuson
Chairman

Laura Emerson

Adam Gibbons

Jay Gibbons

Lile R. Gibbons

Rebecca Brice Henderson

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Cathryn Rasmuson

Judy Rasmuson

Marilyn Romano

Natasha von Imhof

PRESIDENT
Diane Kaplan

RF grant number 12461

December 16, 2019

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

Nation/World

Supreme Court lets stand ruling that protects homeless who sleep on sidewalks and in public parks

✍ Author: David G. Savage, Los Angeles Times ⓘ Updated: 2 hours ago 📅 Published 2 hours ago



Tarp-covered tents line a sidewalk beneath a highway and adjacent to downtown Seattle. (AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File)

WASHINGTON -- The Supreme Court refused Monday to hear a major case on homeless, letting stand a ruling that protects their right to sleep on the sidewalk or in public parks if no other shelter is available.

The justices without comment or a dissent said that they would not hear the case from Boise, Idaho, which challenged a ruling by a federal appeals court.

The outcome is a significant victory for homeless activists and a setback for city officials in California and other western states who argued the appeals court ruling undercut their authority to regulate encampments on the sidewalks.

Lawyers for the homeless had argued it was cruel and wrong to punish people who have nowhere else to sleep at night. They won a major victory last year when the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that prosecuting people for sleeping on the sidewalks violated the 8th Amendment's ban on "cruel and unusual" punishment.

The appeals court ruling extended to California and eight other Western states, including Alaska, and said a city ordinance "violates the 8th Amendment insofar as it imposes criminal sanctions against homeless individuals for sleeping outdoors on public property, when no alternative shelter is available to them."

The legal case has arisen a decade before when Robert Martin and several other homeless people were given tickets or fines of between \$25 and \$75 for camping on the sidewalk. They then joined a lawsuit that challenged the punishments as unconstitutional.

A large group of West Coast cities including Los Angeles had urged the Supreme Court to hear the appeal in *City of Boise vs. Martin*.

They said the "creation of a de facto constitutional right to live on sidewalks and in parks will cripple the ability of more than 1,600 municipalities in the 9th Circuit to maintain the health and safety of their communities," wrote lawyers for Boise.

"Nothing in the Constitution ... requires cities to surrender their streets, sidewalks, parks, riverbeds, and other public areas to vast encampments." The appeal was filed by Theane Evangelis and Ted Olson, partners at Gibson Dunn in Los Angeles.

A right to sleep on the sidewalk is not new for Los Angeles or city officials. In 2006, the 9th Circuit handed down a similar ruling that said the city may not enforce laws against sleeping in public places. Rather than appeal, the city negotiated a settlement with lawyers for the homeless in which it agreed to not enforce such laws from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The Boise case began a decade ago when Robert Martin and five other homeless individuals were given fines of \$25 to \$75 for camping on the sidewalks or in the parks. They joined a lawsuit alleging this punishment was unconstitutional.

The 9th Circuit agreed last year and ruled the city may not enforce ordinances that "criminalize the simple act of sleeping outside on public property."

The Supreme Court has previously relied on the 8th Amendment to limit the punishment for some crimes, but it is rare for judges to strike down a criminal law itself as cruel and unusual punishment. The 9th Circuit cited a 1962 decision in *Robinson vs. California* which struck down part of a state law that "made the status of narcotic addiction a criminal offense."

Judge Marsha Berzon said this principle extends to homelessness. "Just as the state may not criminalize the state of being homeless in public places," she wrote, "the state may not criminalize conduct that is an unavoidable consequence of being homeless_namely sitting, lying or sleeping on the streets."

Los Angeles City Attorney Michael Feuer had urged the court to hear the Boise case and review the 9th Circuit's opinion. "The lack of clarity of the Boise decision, combined with its sweeping rationale, makes more difficult the efforts of Los Angeles to balance the needs of its homeless residents with the needs of everyone who uses our public spaces," he said.

He questioned whether the city must have shelter available for all 36,000 homeless people "before taking enforcement action against a single unsheltered individual who refuses an available shelter bed in one of the city's regional shelters, just because shelters at the opposite end of the city are full."

Comments

Matanuska-Susitna Borough



December 16, 2019

Wolfgang Junge, P.E.
Regional Director
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
4111 Aviation Avenue
PO Box 196900
Anchorage, AK 99519-6900

Dear Mr. Junge,

On behalf of the Mat-Su Borough, I am writing a letter requesting your support for the Big Lake Christmas Parade planned for Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

The Borough has no objection to this event. Traffic control will be provided by the West Lakes Fire Department.

Attached is a copy of West Lakes Fire Chief Hightower's memo, and a copy of the Traffic Control Plan.

Sincerely,

John Moosey
Borough Manager

cc: Dan Mayfield, Assembly District 5
Tawnya Hightower, West Lakes Fire Chief





West Lakes Fire Department
10073 W. Parks Hwy. Wasilla, Alaska 99623
Phone: (907) 861-8200 / Fax: (907) 861-8190



December 10, 2019

Deb Kirk,

Good afternoon. West Lakes Fire Dept. will be overseeing the traffic control on December 21, for the holiday parade and tree lighting ceremony in Big Lake. West Lakes Fire Dept. will provide radio communications and monitoring during the event for the Big Lake community.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve one of the best communities in the Mat-Su Valley.

Respectfully,
Tawnya Hightower
Fire Chief, West Lakes Fire Dept.
Office: 907-861-8084
Cell: (907) 982-4948
Email: tawnya.hightower@matsugov.us

Traffic Control Plan 2019 Christmas Parade

- Three controllers all of which are from the West Lakes Fire Department. One controller will be at the Northshore Drive position in the roundabout, another at the Big Lake Road position of the roundabout. A third controller will be placed at the intersection of Hollywood and Big Lake Road.
- All controllers will be in reflective gear with appropriate signage for holding traffic.
- Controllers will only hold traffic for about 15 minutes or less once the procession crosses Hollywood Blvd.
- Controllers will be in communication via two-way radio.
- The plan is to start at the elementary school each float not to exceed 5 mph. Each float spaced at 30 feet apart to give adequate time to stop should the roads be icy.
- Parade consists of approximately 14 floats. Two of which are fire trucks one will be placed at the beginning of the procession the second will be last in the procession.
- The parade will end at the Big Lake Lions Rec Center, Floats that wish to dismantle may continue on back to the Elementary School may do so. Controllers will not abandon post until all floats are in their final positions, either at the Lions Rec Center or the Elementary School.

Deb Kirk
Big Lake Community Member
907-795-0440

http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/igu-natural-gas-tank-nearly-complete-serving-more-customers-next/article_e8956bdc-ec8e-11e9-96a0-73fd96707435.html

IGU natural gas tank nearly complete, serving more customers next year

By Amanda Bohman, abohman@newsminer.com
Oct 11, 2019



Kayla Parsons, a pipeline welder, fuses two pieces of 8 inch-diameter pipeline on Wednesday, July 29, 2015. The pipeline will serve as the backbone of the Interior Gas Utility system in North Pole.

Matt Buxton/News-Miner

The Interior Gas Utility is weeks away from activating its massive natural gas storage tank in South Fairbanks and months away from being able to add hundreds, perhaps thousands, of new customers, according to the utility's general manager.

In a major milestone for the borough-owned utility, the 5.25-million gallon tank will begin taking gas — trucked in liquid form from Point MacKenzie — in late November, the IGU announced earlier this week.

Filling the \$60 million tank will take many months, or about 500 truck loads, IGU General Manager Dan Britton said. That will increase the utility's capacity by about 50 percent with room for as many as 2,600 new residential customers, he said.

"We kind of call it the heart of the Interior Energy Project," he said of the tank, which has been under construction since site preparation began in 2017.

"It facilitates the future expansion. It's our first step to be able to begin adding customers again," Britton said.

The company is compiling a waiting list over the winter of people interested in tying in to the natural gas network.

The cost to run a line to a home within 100 feet of a gas main is \$225.

What about the price comparison and heat output of natural gas versus heating oil? The two are comparable in their price per heating output, measured in British thermal units, at today's prices of \$2.78 for heating oil and \$20.81 for natural gas. The utility is hoping to have the price much lower eventually, however, to provide the financial incentive for people to convert to gas.

Britton said there are reasons other than price to change to natural gas.

Natural gas burns cleanly. Prices are more stable over time. Eligible residents of the Fairbanks North Star Borough willing to sign a deed restriction on their home can get up to \$14,000 toward converting to natural gas. The fuel can be used on a variety of appliances including stoves and dryers.

"Over time, if oil prices go up, we will be stably priced," Britton said. "Customers will enjoy those savings."

Converting a furnace to burn natural gas can cost several thousand dollars. Converting a newer-model System 2000 boiler system from oil to gas, for example, is \$3,000 to \$5,000, according to an employee at one Fairbanks heating company.

A working group is assembling to develop more incentives for residents to tie in to the natural gas network, according to Britton.

One incentive in place now is through the borough wood stove changeout program. Residents who live in the federally recognized air pollution non-attainment area can apply for money to convert to natural gas so long as they are willing to give up a solid-fuel burning device, such as a wood stove or outdoor hydronic heater, and sign a deed restriction on such devices.

Borough Air Quality Manager Nick Czarnecki said residents can apply even if they used the wood stove changeout program to purchase the appliance they are planning to renounce. Eligible residents can get \$10,000 to \$14,000 to pay for a new heating system or convert to gas.

People who live in air pollution hot spots have priority for funding under the program, which is paid for with a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

About 50 new customers joined the natural gas network this year, according to Britton, but they won't receive gas until next year after the new tank is filled.

The utility is able to expand its customer base under its current natural gas supply thanks to the added storage capacity, according to Britton.

Completion of the South Fairbanks storage tank by Jan. 1, 2020, qualifies the IGU to receive a state of Alaska Storage Tax Credit in the amount of \$15 million, Britton said.

The utility is also working on getting more gas.

The company recently contracted with oil and gas consultant Mary Ann Pease, of Anchorage, who is being paid \$5,000 a month and would receive up to \$100,000 more upon securing a contract for natural gas at certain price points.

The IGU board of directors will be briefed about that effort at a board work session on Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Key Bank building.

Britton said the board will hear about opportunities and challenges with respect to the search for inexpensive natural gas.

Work is underway on a new gas storage facility in North Pole.

The IGU signed a \$1 million contract for dirt work at the storage site this week, the utility announced.

“Progress has not always been as smooth or as fast as we would have liked,” IGU Board Chair Steve Haagenon said in a prepared statement. “However, progress has been steady and always targeted to IGU’s stated mission, and the ground improvement for the North Pole LNG Storage Facility is another step along the path forward.”

Two tanks from the Fairbanks natural gas storage site are being recycled and used at the North Pole storage site, Britton said.

A request for proposals for construction at the North Pole site is expected to go out to bid in the next two weeks. The timeline for completing the storage facility is mid-to-late 2020.

“When that is done, then we can begin serving customers in North Pole,” Britton said.

About five years ago, the IGU added more than 100 miles of gas lines in neighborhoods around Fairbanks and North Pole.

The natural gas network in Fairbanks runs west from Hamilton Acres to neighborhoods around the Fairbanks International Airport and from Van Horn Road north to College Road.

In North Pole, the system runs from the Tanana River north, crossing the Richardson Highway to Hurst Road. The western boundary is just beyond Homestead Drive. The eastern boundary is just beyond Gordon Road.

Contact staff writer Amanda Bohman at 459-7545. Follow her on Twitter: @FDNMborough.

MORE INFORMATION

IGU board approves effort to seek \$7.5 million loan from borough

IGU reports progress on storage tanks, liquefaction

Assembly postpones IGU loan, favors banning plastic bags

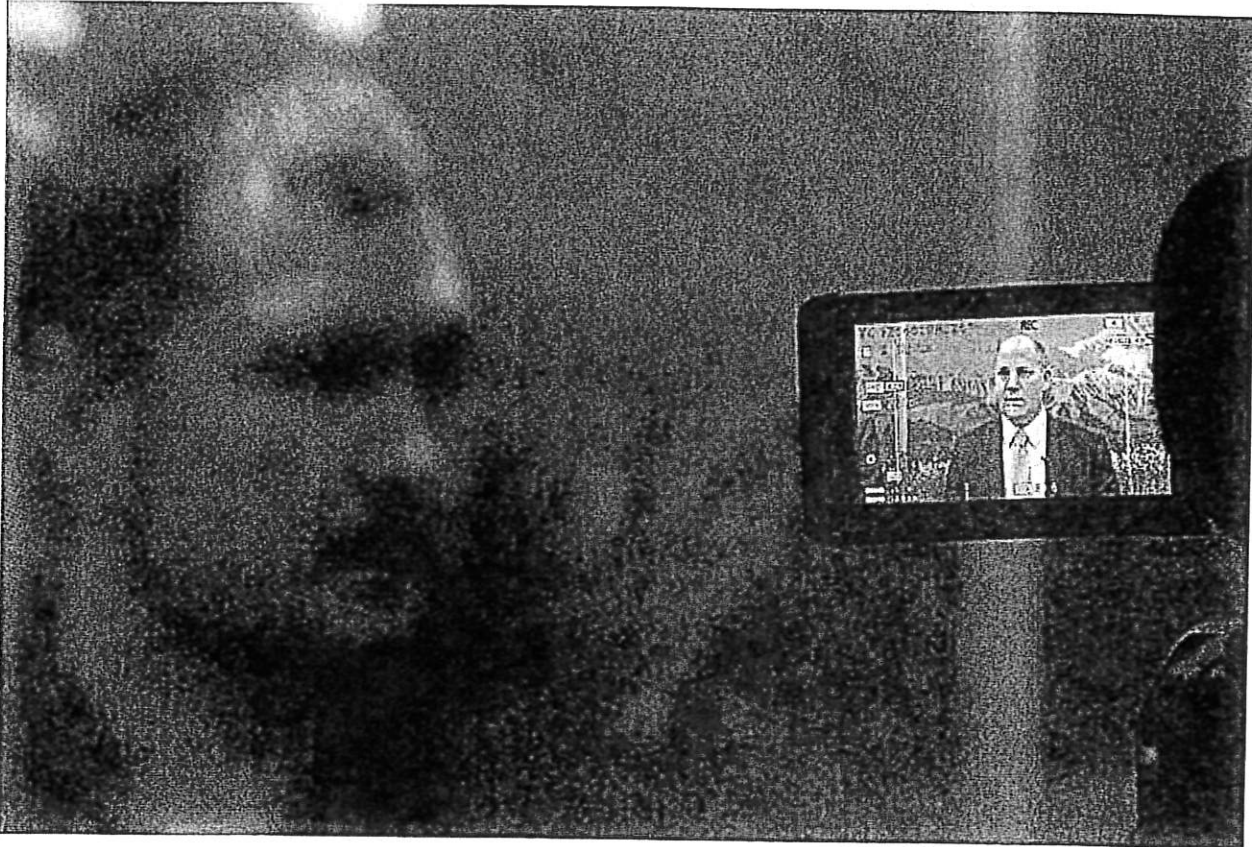
House bill passed to extend tax credits for Fairbanks LNG facilities

http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/proposal-would-offer-financial-assistance-for-oil-to-gas-conversions/article_d6ab33ec-f621-11e9-b1b2-53ea87b0a5ba.html

Proposal would offer financial assistance for oil-to-gas conversions

Amanda Bohman abohman@newsminer.com

Oct 24, 2019



Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Bryce Ward, left, seen during a news conference May 14 at the Carlson Center, has proposed making borough parks smoke free — including cigarettes and vaping — punishable by a \$50 fine.

Eric Engman

Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Bryce Ward is proposing to spend \$1 million to help people convert from heating oil to natural gas next year.

Ordinance 2019-45 creates the oil-to-gas conversion program and is getting introduced today at a regular meeting of the Borough Assembly. A separate measure, also being introduced, would provide funding for the program.

The ordinances come as the Interior Gas Utility, a subsidiary of the borough, prepares to add hundreds, perhaps thousands, of new customers next summer. This will entail installing heating systems that burn natural gas — an expense that is incurred by individual property owners. The current rate of natural gas is about the same as what it costs to buy heating oil when the heat output of each product is taken into account.

Ward wants to encourage oil-to-gas conversions by offering up to \$3,000 for converting an existing oil burner to gas and up to \$9,500 to remove an oil burning appliance and replace it with an appliance that uses natural gas or propane. To get the assistance, property owners would be required to sign a deed restriction barring the installation of an oil burner or wood stove in the future.

The goal of the conversion program is to reduce chimney stack emissions from burning wood and oil that are contributing to poor air quality, according to Ordinance 2019-45. If approved by the assembly, the program would apply to properties within the borough's air pollution control zone, a geographic area designated by the assembly for air pollution regulatory purposes.

That zone is defined as running north from the Tanana River to the ridge above Farmers Loop Road. To the west, it stops south of Chena Ridge Road. To the east, it stretches from Fairbanks to Badger Road to North Pole and beyond. The measures by Ward are scheduled to be heard in assembly committees on Nov. 7 with public hearings scheduled for Nov. 14.

The IGU installed more than 100 miles of new line around areas of Fairbanks and North Pole about five years ago.

The natural gas network in Fairbanks runs west from Hamilton Acres to neighborhoods around the Fairbanks International Airport and from Van Horn Road north to College Road. In North Pole, the system runs from the Tanana River north, crossing the Richardson Highway to Hurst Road. The western boundary is just beyond Homestead Drive. The eastern boundary is just beyond Gordon Road.

The \$1 million for the conversion program would come from money from a court settlement that was set aside years ago as a line of credit for the IGU. The assembly will be asked to revoke that line of credit under Ordinance 2019-20-11. The measure states that the IGU board holds that the line of credit is no longer needed.

The utility is receiving financing from the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority and is preparing to seek other financing by selling bonds.

A key to reducing smoke pollution in Fairbanks and North Pole is expanding the availability of cleaner-burning natural gas, according to both ordinances.

Contact staff writer Amanda Bohman at 459-7545. Follow her on Twitter: @FDNMborough.



Matanuska-Susitna Borough

REVENUE & BUDGET DIVISION

350 E Dahlia Ave
Palmer Alaska 99645
(907) 861-8503

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 16, 2019

TO: John Moosey, Borough Manager

THRU: Cheyenne Heindel, Director of Finance *CH*

FROM: Candie Graham, Sales & Excise Tax Specialist *CGraham*

SUBJECT: Status of Matanuska-Susitna Borough Marijuana businesses

- **\$1,799,337.73** in marijuana sales tax has been collected since January 1, 2017 (date of commencement.)
- Quarter-3 marijuana sales tax of **\$273,879.58** was paid by 10 businesses with one delinquent at this time.
- At present, five new retail marijuana stores are in the State queue for a possibility of **16 total stores in 2020**.
- With Q-4 not due until January, estimations show that **2019** could see **\$1,000,000** in marijuana sales tax paid.
- The 2017 through 2019 marijuana tax of \$2,000,000 collected represents **\$40 million in marijuana sales made**.

CALENDAR YEAR	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
RETAIL MJ SALES:	\$6,318,848.64	\$15,707,308.81	\$15,764,466.50	\$0.00	\$37,790,623.95
TAX COLLECTED	\$293,547.20	\$759,535.20	\$746,255.33		\$1,799,337.73
FY-YEAR PERIOD	FY-17	FY-18	FY-19	FY-20	TOTAL
TAX COLLECTED	\$57,430.33	\$539,747.12	\$928,280.70	\$273,879.58	\$1,799,337.73

- There are **11 active retail marijuana stores** currently operating within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough:

Active Operating				
These businesses are fully licensed to operate.				
10060	THE GREEN SPOT LLC	8/31/2020	2893 S Big Lake Rd	Big Lake
10316	DENALI 420 RECREATIONALS	8/31/2020	2876 N Rex Rd	Houston
11050	HOUSTON GRASS STATION LLC	8/31/2020	15231 W Parks Hwy	Houston
14200	MATANUSKA CANNABIS COMPANY	8/31/2020	3550 S Old Glenn Hwy	Palmer
17068	OUTPOST	8/31/2020	1044 S Old Glenn Hwy	Palmer
12635	HILLTOP PREMIUM GREEN LLC	8/31/2020	13856 N Glenn Hwy	Sutton
10901	THE HIGH EXPEDITION COMPANY	8/31/2020	13465 E Main St	Talkeetna
10008	GREEN JAR	8/31/2020	4901 E Blue Lupine Dr	Wasilla
11031	GREEN DEGREE	8/31/2020	2301 S Knik-Goose Bay Rd #1B	Wasilla
11121	BAD GRAMM3R LLC	8/31/2020	1150 N Helen Lane	Wasilla
12023	GREEN DEGREE	8/31/2020	3361 W Machen Rd	Wasilla
Active-Pending Insepection				
Board has approved license after METRC credentialling and inspection				
15788	SCORPION GRASS	8/31/2020	266 S McCallister Dr	Wasilla
Delegated				
Board approval has been delegated to AMCO Director pending completion of certain requirments				
19178	HIGHER BY BAD GRAMM3R LLC		1204 N Hyer Spur Rd	Palmer
Complete				
Application has been deemed complete by AMCO Local Government and Community Council have been				
21619	LAUGHING SALMON		173 N Rosie Cir #1	Wasilla
22091	GREEN RAVEN LLC		5320 W Parks Hwy	Wasilla
Queue				
Application and payment have been submitted AMCO assigned to review application and supplemental				
23122	MCC FLIGHT		5675 E Blue Lupine Dr	Wasilla

- **Limited Marijuana Cultivation Facilities: 45 active** (less than 500 square feet under cultivation) with 6 more pending inspection and 16 new applications in the State queue for a possibility of 67 limited facilities.
- **Standard Marijuana Cultivation Facilities: 17 active** (over 500 square feet under cultivation) with 4 more pending inspection and 5 new applications in the State queue for a possibility of 26 standard facilities.
- **Concentrate or Marijuana Product Manufacturing Facilities: 7 total active/pending or new applications.**

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MARIJUANA BUSINESS PROPERTY TAX STATUS

CURRENT AS OF 12/16/2019

STATE OF ALASKA ACTIVE OPERATING MARIJUANA LOCATIONS & MSB PROPERTY TAX STATUS AS OF 12/16/2019

These businesses are fully licensed to operate

DELQ PROP TAX DUE	License#	License Type	Business Name	IssueDate	Address	
CURRENT	10060	Retail Marijuana Store	THE GREEN SPOT LLC	7/10/2019	2893 S Big Lake Rd # 1	Big Lake
CURRENT	12805	Limited Cultivation Facility	SUNRISE GARDENS	9/19/2019	14017 W Sunrise Dr	Big Lake
CURRENT	13598	Limited Cultivation Facility	AK PHARM LLC	6/6/2019	551 N Victor Rd	Big Lake
CURRENT	16276	Limited Cultivation Facility	ALASKAN DREAM LLC	9/19/2019	6696 Gonder Rd # 1	Big Lake
CURRENT	16791	Limited Cultivation Facility	RCJ LEGACY LLC	7/10/2019	2893 S Big Lake Rd # 2	Big Lake
CURRENT	16170	Standard Cultivation Facility	HERBAL DREAMS LLC	2/25/2019	12825 W Big Lake Rd	Big Lake
CURRENT	10316	Retail Marijuana Store	DENALI 420 RECREATIONALS	9/23/2019	2876 N Rex Rd	Houston
\$4,255.48	10799	Standard Cultivation Facility	CALM N COLLECTIVE	9/23/2019	13886 W Parks Hwy* [218N03W35D004]	Houston
\$7,068.75	11050	Retail Marijuana Store	HOUSTON GRASS STATION LLC	9/23/2019	15231 W Parks Hwy* [218N03W34A001]	Houston
CURRENT	12461	Standard Cultivation Facility	GUEST SERVICES LLC	10/11/2019	12668 W Westen Dr	Houston
CURRENT	13588	Standard Cultivation Facility	AKFUNDING LLC	9/23/2019	12975 W Horizon Way	Houston
CURRENT	13663	Limited Cultivation Facility	ARCTIC FARM LLC	10/11/2019	2967 Rex St	Houston
CURRENT	14885	Limited Cultivation Facility	KARMA GROWN GARDENS LLC	9/23/2019	11928 Looking Glass Dr	Houston
CURRENT	18931	Limited Cultivation Facility	MATANUSKA BUD LLC	9/19/2019	5540 N Bonnie Dr	Palmer
CURRENT	18516	Standard Cultivation Facility	BRO BRO BUDZ LLC	7/16/2019	13025 W Denlow Dr	Houston
CURRENT	17916	Limited Cultivation Facility	TOP TIER GARDENS LLC	9/6/2019	408 N O'Daniel Cir	Meadow LKs
CURRENT	11611	Standard Cultivation Facility	KUSHTOPIA	10/4/2018	1044 S Old Glenn Hwy	Palmer
CURRENT	11664	Standard Cultivation Facility	SUILNUA	1/8/2019	5600 N Cunningham Rd	Palmer
CURRENT	11921	Limited Cultivation Facility	SNOW CAPPED GARDENS LLC	7/30/2019	13150 E Soapstone Rd	Palmer
CURRENT	12448	Limited Cultivation Facility	WILL'S WORLD	9/19/2019	12151 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy	Palmer
CURRENT	12536	Concentrate Manufacturing Only	WILL'S WORLD	9/23/2019	12151 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy	Palmer
CURRENT	12612	Limited Cultivation Facility	ABSOLEM'S GARDEN	9/6/2019	13247 E Wycoff Dr	Palmer
CURRENT	13293	Limited Cultivation Facility	THRIFTY HIPPIE CULTIVATION LLC	10/11/2019	1350 S Pioneer Dr	Palmer
CURRENT	13299	Limited Cultivation Facility	DOWN TO EARTH FARMS	10/11/2019	20288 E Birch Hill Dr	Palmer
CURRENT	13374	Standard Cultivation Facility	KNIK GLACIER GARDENS	9/14/2018	25930 E Knik River Rd	Palmer
CURRENT	13659	Limited Cultivation Facility	THE NOBLE DUDES LLC	10/11/2019	11740 E Weathervane Cir	Palmer
CURRENT	14099	Limited Cultivation Facility	THE FROSTY FLOWER	9/23/2019	9300 N Palmer-Fishhook Rd	Palmer
CURRENT	14178	Limited Cultivation Facility	BODHI TREE WELLNESS	7/16/2018	6514 N Farm Lp Rd	Palmer
CURRENT	14199	Limited Cultivation Facility	MATANUSKA CANNABIS COMPANY	9/14/2018	3550 S Old Glenn Hwy	Palmer
CURRENT	14200	Retail Marijuana Store	MATANUSKA CANNABIS COMPANY	7/2/2018	3550 S Old Glenn Hwy	Palmer
CURRENT	15015	Limited Cultivation Facility	THE FIRE SUPPLY	9/19/2019	1705 N Winding Brook Lp #A3	Palmer
CURRENT	17068	Retail Marijuana Store	OUTPOST	1/22/2019	1044 S Old Glenn Hwy (Cabin)	Palmer
CURRENT	18173	Product Manufacturing Only	ALASKA'S LATITUDE 61	7/10/2019	2201 Nissen Dr	Palmer
CURRENT	18931	Limited Cultivation Facility	MATANUSKA BUD LLC	9/19/2019	5540 N Bonnie Dr	Palmer
CURRENT	12635	Retail Marijuana Store	HILLTOP PREMIUM GREEN LLC	10/11/2019	13856 N Glenn Hwy	Sutton
CURRENT	12637	Limited Cultivation Facility	HILLTOP PREMIUM GREEN LLC	10/11/2019	13856 N Glenn Hwy	Sutton
CURRENT	13752	Limited Cultivation Facility	NORTHERN DREAMS LLC	9/19/2019	11705 B N Jonesville Mine Rd	Sutton

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MARIJUANA BUSINESS PROPERTY TAX STATUS

CURRENT AS OF 12/16/2019

CURRENT	14427	Limited Cultivation Facility	ELEVATED HEIGHTS LLC	8/22/2019	26506 E Little Granite Creek Lp	Sutton
CURRENT	10004	Standard Cultivation Facility	TALKEETNA HERB COMPANY	10/4/2018	32500 S Talkeetna Spur	Talkeetna
CURRENT	10901	Retail Marijuana Store	THE HIGH EXPEDITION COMPANY	10/11/2019	13465 E Main St	Talkeetna
CURRENT	13249	Product Manufacturing Only	X-TRACTED LABORATORIES	9/26/2018	38957 S Commercial Dr	Talkeetna
CURRENT	13839	Product Manufacturing Only	FRONTIER MANUFACTURING	12/18/2018	38436 S Malaspina Lp	Talkeetna
CURRENT	14800	Limited Cultivation Facility	FIELD'S OF GREEN LLC	3/15/2019	23550 E Hillcrest Way	Talkeetna
CURRENT	10008	Retail Marijuana Store	GREEN JAR	9/6/2019	4901 E Blue Lupine dr	Wasilla
CURRENT	10061	Standard Cultivation Facility	HIGH TIDE FARMS LLC	8/12/2019	6875 W Snuffy's Rd	Wasilla
CURRENT	10170	Limited Cultivation Facility	GREEN DEGREE	10/11/2019	2301 S Knik Goose-Bay Rd # 1	Wasilla
CURRENT	11031	Retail Marijuana Store	GREEN DEGREE	10/11/2019	2301 S Knik-Goose Bay Rd # 1B	Wasilla
CURRENT	11121	Retail Marijuana Store	BAD GRAMM3R LLC	7/25/2019	1150 N Helen Lane	Wasilla
CURRENT	11413	Standard Cultivation Facility	DENALI DISPENSARIES LLC	10/11/2019	4603 Pittman Rd	Wasilla
CURRENT	12002	Limited Cultivation Facility	VAN GEER ENTERPRISES LLC	9/23/2019	7411 W Dean Dr	Wasilla
CURRENT	12022	Limited Cultivation Facility	GREEN DEGREE	10/11/2019	3361 W Machen Rd	Wasilla
CURRENT	12023	Retail Marijuana Store	GREEN DEGREE	10/11/2019	3361 W Machen Rd	Wasilla
CURRENT	12062	Limited Cultivation Facility	MATANUSKA MEDICINE WOMAN LLC	9/19/2019	13840 W Shangrila Ave	Wasilla
CURRENT	12482	Concentrate Manufacturing Only	HIGH TIDE FARMS LLC	8/12/2019	6875 W Snuffy's Rd	Wasilla
CURRENT	12523	Limited Cultivation Facility	AK KUSH	9/23/2019	1055 N Helen Lane	Wasilla
CURRENT	12550	Limited Cultivation Facility	FRONTIER FARMERS	7/30/2019	6284 N Carrie Street	Wasilla
CURRENT	12633	Standard Cultivation Facility	EMERALD CITY ORGANICS LLC	9/19/2019	4250 N Fireweed Fields Dr	Wasilla
CURRENT	12657	Marijuana Testing Facility	THE NEW FRONTIER RESEARCH	8/12/2019	2301 S Knik-Goose Bay Rd	Wasilla
CURRENT	12904	Standard Cultivation Facility	GRASS FRONTIER FARMS	11/15/2018	7596 W Carmel Rd	wasilla
CURRENT	12919	Limited Cultivation Facility	BLUEBERRY HILL LLC	10/11/2019	6990 S Yohn Bay Pl	Wasilla
CURRENT	12935	Limited Cultivation Facility	DYZ ALASKA LLC	9/6/2019	350 N Pioneer View Cir	Wasilla
CURRENT	13102	Limited Cultivation Facility	ALASKABUDS LLC	9/23/2019	6421 Admiralty Cir	Wasilla
CURRENT	13344	Limited Cultivation Facility	TLG GARDEN LLC	9/19/2018	9193 W Margin Way	Wasilla
CURRENT	13487	Standard Cultivation Facility	THE CONNOISSEUR	9/23/2019	3280 W Top of the World Cir	Wasilla
CURRENT	14245	Limited Cultivation Facility	CANNAFROST	9/19/2019	4315 E Dimond Way	Wasilla
CURRENT	14396	Standard Cultivation Facility	ALASKA FRONTIER CANNABIS LLC	10/11/2019	6570 W Trevett Cir	Wasilla
CURRENT	14581	Limited Cultivation Facility	AK BEST BUDS LLC	9/19/2019	9551 S Starlight In	Wasilla
CURRENT	14736	Limited Cultivation Facility	THE HAPPY HARVEST COMPANY LLC	9/19/2019	2301 S Knik-Goose Bay Rd #2	Wasilla
CURRENT	15025	Limited Cultivation Facility	MAD MOTA	8/12/2019	4980 W Greensward Dr	Wasilla
CURRENT	15223	Limited Cultivation Facility	ROCK HARD NUGZ AK	8/12/2019	240 W Kristy Dr	Wasilla
CURRENT	15789	Standard Cultivation Facility	SCORPION GRASS	10/11/2019	266 S McCallister Dr	Wasilla
CURRENT	16916	Limited Cultivation Facility	DUTCH BUDS CANNABIS CO	12/6/2018	4240 S Headvic Ct	Wasilla
CURRENT	17389	Product Manufacturing Only	KREATIVE KONFECTIONS LLC	7/22/2019	2301 S Knik-Goose Bay Rd #5	Wasilla
CURRENT	17692	Limited Cultivation Facility	MR HAPPY FARMS LLC	3/5/2019	3900 N Sierra St	Wasilla
CURRENT	17778	Limited Cultivation Facility	RED FOX FARMS LLC	8/5/2019	1400 N Armor Ct	Wasilla
CURRENT	17886	Limited Cultivation Facility	BAM ALASKA	5/29/2019	6051 W Aeronautical Ave	Wasilla
CURRENT	17952	Standard Cultivation Facility	ALASKA FROSTED FLOWERS LLC	8/12/2019	495 W Sunflower Dr	Wasilla

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MARIJUANA BUSINESS PROPERTY TAX STATUS

CURRENT AS OF 12/16/2019

CURRENT	20642	Limited Cultivation Facility	SNOW LOTUS GARDENS LLC	7/3/2019	2301 S Knik-Goose Bay Rd #4B	Wasilla
CURRENT	10040	Limited Cultivation Facility	ALASKA PRECISION	1/25/2019	15520 E Birch Cir	Willow
CURRENT	13424	Concentrate Manufacturing Only	MIDNIGHT SUN MANUFACTURING LLC	9/19/2019	28011 Old Parks Hwy	Willow
CURRENT	14919	Limited Cultivation Facility	RASTA FARMS LLC	9/6/2019	47291 S Yancey Dr	Willow
Active-Pending Inspection						
Board has approved license after METRC credentialling and inspection						
	License#	License Type	Business Name	IssueDate	Address	City
CURRENT	14956	Standard Cultivation Facility	50 SHADES OF GREEN LLC	2/27/2019	14481 W Marginal Access Rd [NO SUCH ADDR]	Houston
CURRENT	16225	Limited Cultivation Facility	GREEN GHOST FARMS LLC	3/27/2019	11601 W King Arthur Dr	Houston
CURRENT	17873	Standard Cultivation Facility	FREEDOM 49 FARMS	1/25/2019	12510 W Westen Dr	Houston
CURRENT	10231	Limited Cultivation Facility	420 GROW TECH	3/6/2019	10064 N Arnistead Cir (Garage)	Sutton
CURRENT	13776	Standard Cultivation Facility	ALASKA SKUNKWORKS LLC	8/9/2018	37331 S Talkeetna Spur	Talkeetna
CURRENT	13864	Limited Cultivation Facility	SIMPLE HOUSE LLC	10/9/2019	6511 Hemlock Dr	Wasilla
CURRENT	15788	Retail Marijuana Store	SCORPION GRASS	6/10/2019	266 S McCallister Dr	Wasilla
CURRENT	15790	Product Manufacturing Only	SCORPION GRASS	6/10/2019	266 S McCallister Dr	Wasilla
CURRENT	17105	Limited Cultivation Facility	SMG LLC	9/23/2019	972 N Satisfied Dr	Wasilla
CURRENT	19984	Limited Cultivation Facility	ALASKA FORGET ME NOT FARMS LLC	9/23/2019	1540 N Shoreline Dr	Wasilla
CURRENT	10014	Limited Cultivation Facility	THE NAKED HERBALIST	1/24/2017	47841 S Crop Cir	Willow
CURRENT	19204	Standard Cultivation Facility	MIKEY'S PLACE LLC	10/11/2019	30353 N Willow Fishhook Rd Building B	Willow
Delegated						
Board approval has been delegated to AMCO Director pending completion of certain requirements						
	License#	License Type	Business Name	IssueDate	Address	City
CURRENT	17409	Standard Cultivation Facility	KINE CO		12749 W Westen Dr	Houston
CURRENT	17440	Limited Cultivation Facility	LAZY MOUNTAIN CULTIVATION CO		3255 N Mars Ave	Palmer
CURRENT	19178	Retail Marijuana Store	HIGHER BY BAD GRAMM3R LLC		1204 N Hyer Spur [57775000L002]	Palmer
\$1,207.76	15530	Limited Cultivation Facility	BUDMASTERS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP		32685 S McKinley View Dr [56223B02L004D]	Talkeetna
CURRENT	15768	Limited Cultivation Facility	AURORA BOREALIS CANNABIS COMPANY		16756 E Moose Hollow Ave	Talkeetna
\$1,645.42	16015	Limited Cultivation Facility	BLUFFSIDE GARDENS		39700 S Parks Hwy* [224N05W24C001]	Talkeetna
CURRENT	16208	Limited Cultivation Facility	SUSITNA GARDENS		29686 S David St	Talkeetna
CURRENT	17816	Limited Cultivation Facility	TALKEETNA TRADITIONS LLC		41010 S Parks Hwy	Talkeetna
CURRENT	14706	Limited Cultivation Facility	DENALI HERB COMPANY		1328 E Fairview Lp Rd STE A	Wasilla
CURRENT	16181	Limited Cultivation Facility	POTTER'S HARVEST LLC		4123 S Gon Fishin Dr	Wasilla
CURRENT	18928	Limited Cultivation Facility	CANNAVORE LLC		12561 N Pettis Dr (Garage)	Willow
Tabled						
Board considered application and tabled to a future a meeting						
	License#	License Type	Business Name	IssueDate	Address	City
CURRENT	14707	Limited Cultivation Facility	ALASKA HERB COMPANY		1328 E Fairview Lp Rd STE B	Wasilla
Complete						
Application has been deemed complete by AMCO Local Government and Community Council have been provided with a copy of the complete application; 60 day protest						
	License#	License Type	Business Name	IssueDate	Address	City

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MARIJUANA BUSINESS PROPERTY TAX STATUS

CURRENT AS OF 12/16/2019

CURRENT	21967	Limited Cultivation Facility	NORTHERN HEIGHTS LLC		977 S Roskelley Cir	Palmer
CURRENT	21619	Retail Marijuana Store	LAUGHING SALMON		173 N Rosie Cir # 1	Wasilla
CURRENT	22015	Standard Cultivation Facility	FADED MOOSE FARMS		12262 W Winkler Way	Wasilla
CURRENT	22091	Retail Marijuana Store	GREEN RAVEN LLC		5320 W Parks Hwy	Wasilla
\$2,255.32	22960	Limited Cultivation Facility	J & M INVESTMENTS LLC		1000 E Burlwood Dr [218N01W22D006]	Wasilla
\$1,902.21	19279	Standard Cultivation Facility	ARCTIC HYDROPONICS LLC		47265 S Brookestar's Cir* [222N04W01A004]	Willow
Incomplete						
AMCO has identified items needed in order to complete application						
	License#	License Type	Business Name	IssueDate	Address	City
CURRENT	21021	Limited Cultivation Facility	CHOICE EXTRACTS		12668 W Westen Dr	Houston
Queue						
Application and payment have been submitted AMCO assigned to review application and supplemental documents						
	License#	License Type	Business Name	IssueDate	Address	City
CURRENT	16261	Standard Cultivation Facility	MATANUSKA THUNDER FARMS LLC		12605 W Big Lake Rd	Houston
CURRENT	19874	Limited Cultivation Facility	SNOW CAPPED GARDENS 2 LLC		3253 W Coghlan Cir	Wasilla
CURRENT	22369	Standard Cultivation Facility	BUBBA GREENS LLC		108 E Schrock Rd	Wasilla
CURRENT	23122	Retail Marijuana Store	MCC FLIGHT		5675 E Blue Lupine Dr	Palmer
CURRENT	23144	Limited Cultivation Facility	DENALI FARMS		5300 N Infinite Rd A1	Wasilla



DEC. 17, 2019, AT 6:00 AM

In American Politics, Everyone's A Cynic

By Maggie Koerth

Filed under Political Science



GETTY IMAGES

Everybody is cynical and [few people are changing their minds](#). That's the takeaway from the House's impeachment hearings. (Well, that and [Steve Castor's unconventional taste in briefcases](#).) It's the sort of national attitude that you might suspect would inspire political apathy. If you think all politicians are crooked do-nothings, you might care less what they do.

But a half-century of research — and an even longer slide into pessimism among the American electorate — suggests that any cynicism following the impeachment hearing isn't likely to make voters stay home in 2020. That was the old theory, born in the post-Watergate days when trust in politics was as low and heavy as a funk bassline, said Jack Citrin, professor of political science at the University of California, Berkeley. But it never bore out. Instead, Citrin and other experts say cynicism actually seems to be a political motivator, increasing both activism and voter turnout. But while we often broadly think of those as Good Things for Democracy, they don't necessarily portend a shiny, hopeful political future.

Americans are definitely cynical about politics. The American National Election Studies survey, which has tracked American opinion since 1958, includes a [“trust index”](#) combining the results of four questions about voters perceptions of government and politicians into a single score.¹

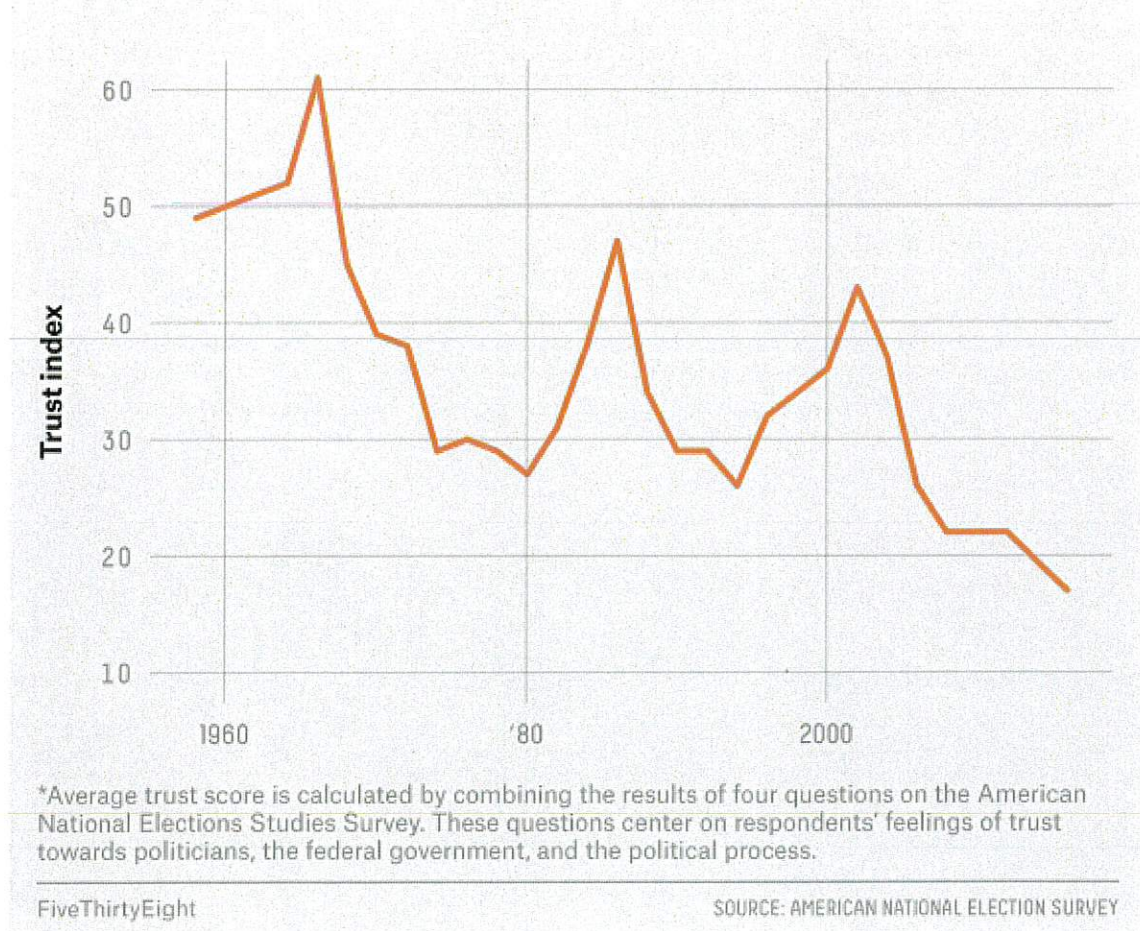
The questions that make up the trust index are:

- “How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right — just about always, most of the time or only some of the time?”
- “Would you say the government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?”
- “Do you think that people in the government waste a lot of money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?”
- “Do you think that quite a few of the people running the government are crooked, not very many are, or do you think hardly any of them are crooked?”

The average trust score in 2016 was 17, the lowest ever recorded. Although these questions are about trust, they serve as a proxy for understanding cynicism because political scientists think of those two things as opposites. Cynicism goes up as trust goes down, or vice versa.

Public Trust in Government Has Plummeted

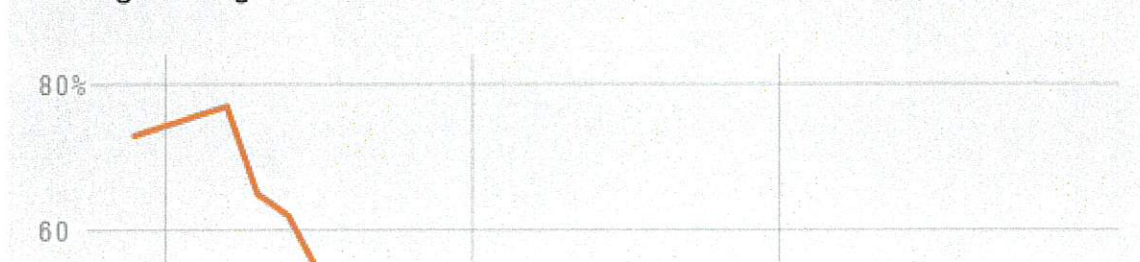
Average trust index score* in the U.S. government

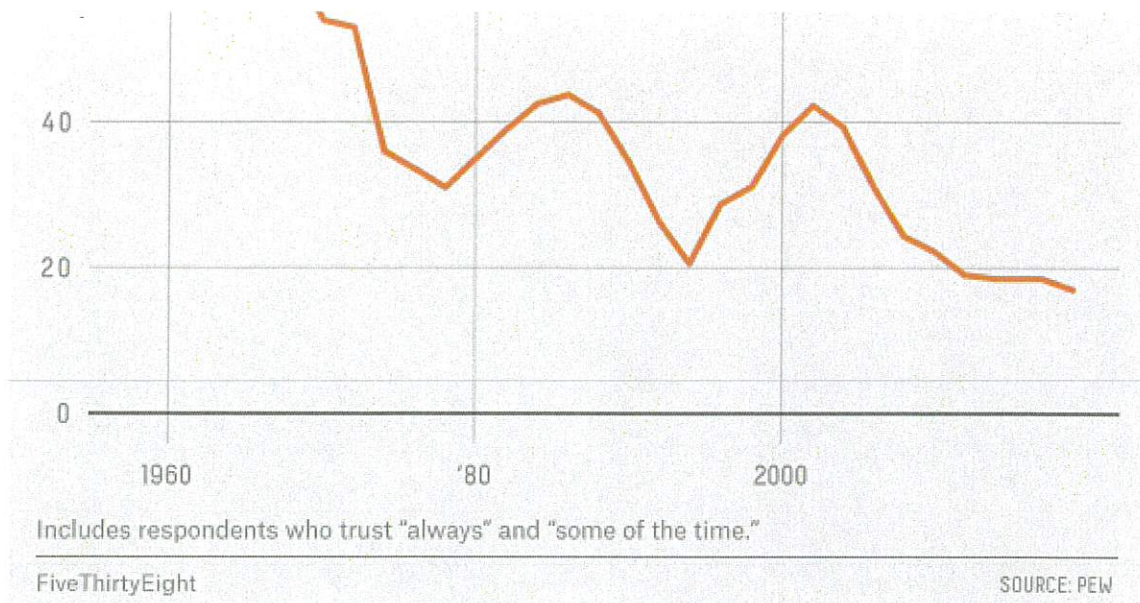


Now, we weren't always this dark. Scrub away the black eyeliner and you'll find a country that once got an average score of 61, back in 1966. Same survey. Same questions. And you see the same trend line in other measures of trust, such as [Pew data](#) that tracks the percentage of Americans who agree that the federal government will "do what is right." Half a century ago, 77 percent of us had high hopes for our elected officials. Since then, things have been on a downward slide, with two clear exceptions.

Only a fifth of Americans trust the Government

Average share of the public that trusts the federal government to "do the right thing"





One came during the early Reagan years, ending about the time the Iran-Contra Affair became public. The other happened over the course of the latter Clinton years, peaking after 9/11, then rapidly falling again. Today, trust in the government is so low that one expert I spoke to — a Berkeley political scientist named Laura Stoker — said she had a hard time imagining how it could actually fall further. “We’re pretty much at the floor,” she said. “It’s pretty darn low.”

And, yet, voter participation [has not followed a similar trend](#). “I’d say cynics generally aren’t apathetic,” said Sanne Rijkhoff, a professor of political science at Texas A&M, Corpus Cristi. “If you really don’t like something, that implies a certain level of passion about it.” Despite our historically low levels of political trust, Americans join in political movements and activism at staggeringly high rates. Back in 2008, Pew found that [63 percent of Americans had joined in some kind of political or civic activism](#). A similar survey by the same organization in 2012 found that [72 percent of us were out there, doing something](#) to shape a political system we mostly hate. And Logan Dancey, a professor of government at Wesleyan University, even found evidence that the more cynical people are, [the more likely they are to take a political scandal seriously](#), see wrongdoing, and want politicians to be held accountable.

So does that mean cynicism serves the public good? Or, alternately, if you’re the Democrats, does that mean you want the public *more* cynical after the

impeachment hearings because they might be more likely to want impeachment to happen?

Errrr, not exactly, Citrin said. Some cynicism is good, he said. Think of it as skepticism, in that case. You probably don't want a public that is happy to just smile and approve of everything their elected representatives do.

But, he told me, there is a point where the downsides of cynicism swamp the benefits. And we probably hit that point back in the days of bell bottoms and bad moustaches. Growth in cynicism is associated with increased support for outsider and extremist candidates willing to break political taboos. It's associated with decreased support for incumbents. It's associated with growing distrust between politicians, themselves, which makes them less likely to work together to solve problems. Voters may get more active as they get cynical, but their politicians become less active, which just contributes to a cycle that drives even more cynicism, Stoker said.

Unsurprisingly cynicism is also associated with decreased support for large-scale government programs, such as healthcare reform, public education, or climate change adaptation. That's not a good sign for any Democrats trying to use 2020 to usher in a new New Deal.

In fact, [cynicism is a highly partisan thing](#), in and of itself. The American public may be able to join hands and sing together in the spirit of disillusionment and doubt, but that doesn't mean we're united by it. If you break people down by their party affiliation, you see an increase in trust when their party of choice is in power, a decrease when that party loses power, and vice versa. "That lessened trust among those who don't hold power, that's fueling the aggregate decline [in trust]," Stoker told me.

It's no coincidence that [the lowest levels of trust come from independents](#) — who never get to enjoy being the party in power. Stoker thinks [the growth in independent-identified voters](#) is actually one of the trends fueling the growth of cynicism.

What's more, the political scientists I spoke with have no idea how you fix this. The initial plummet in trust looks like an Olympic ski jump preceding Watergate

that heads far down the mountain after. Early on, experts thought it would rebound once the government was able to demonstrate it could “do the right thing” — essentially show it could be trusted, after all. “But what do you mean by doing the right thing?” Rijkhoff said. The interactions between growing partisan rancor and the effects of cynicism, itself, have combined to make reversing extreme cynicism damn near impossible.

On the plus side, though, maybe that means the recent impeachment hearings won't make things any worse. “Watergate was a shock to the nation,” Stoker said. “But I don't think this will have any consequences on trust in government whatsoever.”

Footnotes

1.

The questions that make up the trust index are:

- “How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right — just about always, most of the time or only some of the time?”
- “Would you say the government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?”
- “Do you think that people in the government waste a lot of money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?”
- “Do you think that quite a few of the people running the government are crooked, not very many are, or do you think hardly any of them are crooked?”

John Moosey

From: Karl Ohls <kohls@northstargrp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 10:10 AM
To: John Moosey; Nicholas Spiropoulos
Cc: Mary Miller; Jack Ferguson; Grant Ackerman; Tom Elkins; Veronica Slajer; Aldyn Brudie
Subject: Congressional appropriations update

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

John and Nick,

While almost all the news out of DC these days is about impeachment, the Congress has been working on FY2020 federal appropriations. Congressional negotiators announced they had a deal early this week. The first item below summarizes the appropriations situation. The second article, from Roll Call, provides more details about what is in the negotiated spending package. Most significantly, agreement was reached on repealing the Cadillac tax on existing, comprehensive health insurance plans, such as the one MSB has for its employees.

Karl

From 'Eyes on Washington,' Dec. 16, 2019:

Lawmakers Reach Spending Deal, Expect Vote This Week

- Top congressional appropriators announced on December 12, 2019, that they have reached a "deal in principle" to avert a shutdown and fund the federal government past the December 20, 2019, deadline.
- The agreement on all 12 appropriations bills for fiscal year (FY) 2020 includes funding levels set by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (H.R. 3877) reached in August. Specifically, the deal would provide \$22 billion for defense and \$27 billion for nondefense budgets compared to FY 2019.
- Lawmakers are still working through sticking points in the bills, but House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) told reporters "We'll have a good product that we can vote on Tuesday." The House must pass this bill by December 17, 2019, to give the Senate enough time for approval before sending the measure to President Donald Trump's desk.
- The House and Senate will likely look to pass all 12 appropriations bills in two packages, or "minibuses."
- President Trump will get \$1.375 billion for the southern border barrier construction, significantly less than the \$5 billion that the White House requested. Congress will not backfill \$3.6 billion in military construction funds that the White House had taken under its emergency declaration. However, President Trump will be able to retain his ability to transfer funding from Pentagon accounts to the border wall.
- Although the administration has been involved in these talks, the White House has not yet endorsed the deal.

Lawmakers unveil two mega spending packages

Health taxes to be repealed, tobacco age raised in year-end deal

Posted Dec 16, 2019 / By Mary Ellen McIntire and Paul M. Krawzak / Roll Call

House appropriators filed two mega spending packages for floor consideration Tuesday after hammering out last-minute details over the weekend.

The legislation is the culmination of months of bargaining and numerous stalemates, even after a budget caps accord was reached in July. It also provides a must-pass vehicle for various policy measures that are the product of other committees.

Three health care-related taxes imposed nearly a decade ago would be eliminated and the minimum age to purchase tobacco products would be raised to 21 under the spending agreement unveiled Monday, which divides \$1.4 trillion in fiscal 2020 appropriations into the two bundles of individual bills covering every federal agency.

The fate of a package of tax extenders, backed by members on both sides of the aisle and traditionally renewed without much controversy, was still up in the air as of Monday evening, however. Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) and other House Democrats have been pushing hard to add expansions of earned income and child tax credits for the working poor, but Senate Republicans have resisted thus far.

The final suite of tax provisions, other than the health care-related items, was being readied as an amendment that could be tucked into the legislation as part of the rule for floor debate if a deal is reached in time, according to a source familiar with the discussions.

The eight-bill spending package of mostly domestic programs does include retirement savings legislation that flew through the House on a 417-3 vote earlier this year before getting hung up in the Senate as a stand-alone bill. The package will be added as an amendment to an unrelated legislative vehicle.

A separate four-bill package contains the Defense, Commerce-Justice-Science, Financial Services and Homeland Security measures, also to be substituted for an unrelated measure.

The domestic funding measure carries numerous other non-appropriations items that couldn't pass on their own. It would extend funding for several health care programs, including community health centers, through May 22, 2020, which is intended to create pressure for a Memorial Day deal on comprehensive legislation to reduce prescription drug prices and crack down on surprise out-of-network medical billing. Both of those efforts ran out of steam in the last few weeks as the House and Senate couldn't agree on details.

Raising the tobacco age, a priority of Senate Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell](#), was part of the tentative agreement on surprise billing that collapsed in the session's final days. McConnell also secured another of his year-end goals, funding to restore the solvency of the major pension fund for retired coal miners as well as preservation of health care benefits that were at risk because of several coal company bankruptcies.

Pelosi won inclusion of a loan for capital improvements at the Presidio, a national park overlooking San Francisco Bay. But House Minority Leader [Kevin McCarthy](#) and other central California Republicans lost their bid to attach funding for the Shasta Dam enlargement project, which state Democrats and environmental groups oppose.

The eight-bill package will also continue a long-standing prohibition on lawmaker pay raises.

Abortion, guns, border wall

Republicans and the White House would get some other health care-related wins, namely preventing the inclusion of additional family planning funds in the State-Foreign Operations bill and elimination of policy riders that would loosen abortion restrictions.

The final bill won't include a provision added to the Senate State-Foreign Operations measure by New Hampshire Democrat Jeanne Shaheen that would have required the U.S. Agency for International Development to notify lawmakers of instances where contractors receiving family planning, reproductive health or global HIV/AIDS program funds run afoul of an Obama-era regulation prohibiting discrimination against potential aid recipients. It would also require the agency to develop a mechanism for submitting complaints about possible violations of the nondiscrimination rule.

Anti-abortion activists and religious groups lobbied the Trump administration to remove the provision, arguing it could have cut out faith-based aid groups from USAID contracts. Shaheen argued the amendment would have simply required contractors to adhere to current law, which stipulates they can't deny services to individuals based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political affiliation or other factors.

Shaheen on Monday called it "shameful" that her amendment was excluded from the final version.

Republicans also touted the removal of gun control-related policy language sought by Democrats, although the latter secured \$25 million to research gun violence. While that's half of what Democrats wanted, it's the first such funding in more than 20 years, aides said.

The border wall battle, which led to a 35-day government shutdown in late December and early January, was defused in part by an agreement to largely keep the status quo, along with no additional restraints on the president's "transfer authority" to shift prior funding to the wall-building effort. Republicans also preserved White House flexibility to build barriers in more places than the fiscal 2019 spending measure allowed.

There's also language that allows the administration flexibility to transfer more money for Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention beds in response to a "surge," similar to last year's bill.

'Silver loading,' election security, NIH funding

While three pillars of financing for the 2010 health care law would be repealed — the "Cadillac" tax on high-cost insurance plans, an excise tax on medical device manufacturers and a fee imposed on health insurers — the emerging legislation would also block Trump administration efforts to undermine the law in other ways.

Under the deal, the administration would not be able to prevent automatic reenrollment in plans purchased on the exchanges if a consumer does not select a new plan during open enrollment.

The measure would also stop the administration from barring "silver loading," a practice that allows insurance plans to add costs on to the silver-tiered insurance plans offered on the exchanges that are tied to the tax credits that help people afford their premiums. Insurance companies began doing that after the administration stopped reimbursing insurers for certain payments that lower out-of-pocket health care costs for some low-income people. The administration has repeatedly threatened to block that practice, which keeps costs lower for consumers but drives up government spending.

Democrats also touted a number of appropriations "wins" in the legislation, including:

- \$425 million for election security grants.
- Funding for the Census Bureau would be set at \$7.6 billion, \$1.4 billion more than the Trump administration sought and enough to implement the 2020 decennial head count.
- "Record" funding for the National Institutes of Health, Head Start, Title I education funds for low-income children and Child Care and Development grants; NIH would receive \$41.7 billion, a \$2.6 billion or nearly 7 percent increase over the prior year.

- Federal civilian employees would receive a 3.1 percent rate, matching military pay raises and the largest pay bump for civilian workers in a decade.
- EPA would receive \$9 billion, a \$208 million or roughly 2 percent boost over the previous year.
- \$1.5 billion for state opioid response grants.

Generic drugs, Medicaid, Export-Import Bank

A bipartisan drug pricing measure that lawmakers have been pushing for years, which would make it easier for generic drug companies to access samples of brand-name drugs, is also included in the deal.

The spending deal would extend, for two years, Medicaid funding for the U.S. territories, with a federal matching rate of 76 percent for Puerto Rico and 83 percent for other territories. The territories currently receive a 55 percent federal match.

It would also extend, for a decade, the 2010 law's Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, which researches the effectiveness of clinical treatments.

Other ride-alongs on the spending legislation include:

- A seven-year reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, which provides low-cost financing for overseas buyers of U.S. products.
- A seven-year reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program. Extension of the National Flood Insurance Program through Sept. 30, 2020.
- Two years of additional funding for the Secure Rural Schools program, which serves schools in areas where a large amount of federal land saps the local tax base necessary to fund public education.

Karl A. Ohls

Senior Policy Advisor

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MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Mayor

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Phone (907) 861-8682 • Fax (907) 861-8669

Vern.Halter@matsugov.us

December 23, 2019

The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy
The Honorable David Wilson, District D
The Honorable Mike Shower, District E
The Honorable Shelley Hughes, District F
The Honorable Colleen Sullivan-Leonard, District 7

The Honorable Mark Neuman, District 8
The Honorable George Rauscher, District 9
The Honorable David Eastman, District 10
The Honorable DeLena Johnson, District 11
The Honorable Cathy Tilton, District 12

Dear Governor Dunleavy and Mat-Su Valley Senators and Representatives,

On December 17, 2019 the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly established their priorities for the 2021 Fiscal Year with Resolution 19-100. Like clockwork, the Valley's population grew again in 2019, disasters struck, increased services were provided and assistance from the great State of Alaska is needed.

The most important issue facing our residents and visitors is public safety. That begins with a full reconstruction of Knik-Goose Bay Road. This project should have been completed four years ago and we are still a couple of construction seasons away from commencement. Transportation is a major issue in the growing Valley. State Transportation Bonds, voter approved road matching bond projects and the Bogard Road – Engstrom Road project will be great improvements that will help ensure safety.

A just as important safety issue is Trooper staffing and availability. Crime is a major issue and the State's funding of the Trooper complement has not increased based upon population increase and service demand. The 2018 UAA Justice Center, Alaska State Troopers B Detachment Patrol Staffing Study, recommended an increase of 26 more sworn Troopers in the Mat-Su Valley.

Economic development in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough will greatly benefit the State of Alaska's economy. Three projects, with State assistance, will unlock that potential and resources: Port MacKenzie Rail extension completion, Port MacKenzie Deep-Draft Dock Pile Sleeves and West Susitna Roads to Resources.

Education is a required service for the State of Alaska which we happily partner. To fulfill our responsibility in this partnership we are requesting funding for the School Bond construction reimbursement program as presented to our voters in 2012. This 70/30 split is what our voters agreed. Thus far our residents have had to shoulder an additional \$15 million outside of this agreement. It is imperative for you to honor the Matanuska-Susitna Borough voters and honor the agreement. On November 30, 2018 catastrophe struck and greatly damaged Houston Middle School. Unlike others, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough proactively

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community.

acquired insurance resulting in payments of \$15 million. The building correction will need additional funds to provide for quality education for our Houston students.

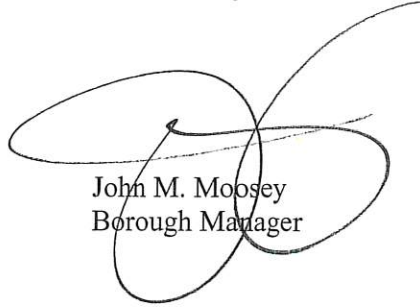
The Assembly looks forward to opportunity to meet with the Mat-Su delegation on January 3, 2019 at 10am to further emphasize these critical needs.

We respectfully request your consideration of the needs of the Mat-Su Borough.

Sincerely,



Vern Halter
Mayor



John M. Moosey
Borough Manager

cc: Assembly
Todd Smoldon
John Harris

Enclosure: Resolution 19-100

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 19-100**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY APPROVING FISCAL YEAR 2021 BOROUGH PRIORITIES AND PROJECT FUNDING.

Borough Action Priorities:

A. KNIK-GOOSE BAY ROAD RECONSTRUCTION (CENTAUR AVENUE TO VINE ROAD) - \$120-150 MILLION

This federally funded project will expand Knik-Goose Bay Road to a four lane divided highway from Centaur Avenue near the City of Wasilla to Vine Road, a major north-south arterial that connects to the Parks Highway. The project also includes signalized intersections, drainage improvements and a reconstructed separated pathway. Construction will be phased with Phase 1, Centaur Avenue to Fairview Loop, anticipated to start late 2021 and construction Phase 2, Fairview Loop to Settlers Bay Drive in 2023. Design is currently at approximately 75 percent. Right-of-way services contract to be advertised in 2020. Construction is expected to begin in 2023.

B. FULL COMPLEMENT OF TROOPER STAFFING AND PRESENCE IN THE MAT-SU VALLEY EQUALING 71 SWORN OFFICERS - UAA Justice Center report of February 22, 2018 recommends an increase of 26 sworn staff, for a total of 71 sworn staff. We support this goal and request it be achieved within three years.

C. ACTION ON STATE'S WEST SUSITNA ROADS TO RESOURCES PROGRAM - The two bridges and forest road will help develop the area between the Little Susitna (Little Su) and Susitna (Big Su) Rivers, allowing access to economic development resources.

D. SUPPORT FOR ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES OFFICE AT SEWARD-MERIDIAN PARKWAY - Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT&PF) is actively exploring options to establish a Mat-Su based District office. This office will consist of 25-35 AKDOT&PF personnel that may include designers, Right-of-Way agents, and construction managers. A building already owned by AKDOT&PF and located on Seward Meridian Parkway has been identified as the possible facility for this District office. This prospective location is a central location within the Mat-Su Borough core area and would significantly increase accessibility to projects for AKDOT&PF staff, while at the

same time significantly reducing commute time between Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough for AKDOT&PF staff.

- E. SUPPORT FOR ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OFFICE IN THE MAT-SU BOROUGH** - There is a great opportunity to have an important state department headquarters office relocated to the Mat-Su Valley. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Office located at 333 Raspberry Road in Anchorage is not easily accessible by residents needing its services, or their staff. In addition to being obsolete, the building sustained serious damage in the 2018 earthquake, and needs to be replaced. There are property options and land is available near the intersection of the Glenn and Parks Highways. The State needs to make this a priority and make the investment to move this essential function. This would add improved infrastructure, many jobs, and an opportunity for the business to be enhanced.
- F. STATE-WIDE TRANSPORTATION BONDS** - The borough fully supports a State-Wide Transportation Bond package legislation during 2019-2020 legislative session to present to voters in 2020 that would fund construction of much needed major transportation projects within the Mat-Su Borough. Approximately \$50 Million to \$100 Million in funding is needed to expand highway, rail, and port facilities in order to meet increased demand by continued growth in the Mat-Su Borough.

Borough Funding Priorities:

A. HOUSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - \$13 MILLION

On November 30, 2018, South Central Alaska's 7.1 earthquake caused significant damage to Houston Middle School. Although major damage occurred to both public and private facilities, Houston Middle School was most significant.

The Borough has received \$15 Million in insurance proceeds but this is woefully short of providing a safe and effective facility for our future students of Houston. A need for \$13 Million to repair and replace the facility is requested by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

B. FULL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL BOND DEBT REIMBURSEMENT - \$17,963,518

Full funding as voted upon by citizens on October 10, 2010, for a 70-30 percent share of construction of necessary schools and school improvements for the fast growing Mat-Su Borough. Citizens willingly chose to pay more for these important educational opportunities under the State's School Debt Service program.

It is imperative that our citizens can go to the ballot box with full faith that their decision will be carried out as presented. Without this confidence in their decision, the citizens' ability to trust our government systems is shattered.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough continues to be a growing community. Population has increased in the past 10 years from 84,314 to 105,743, a 25 percent growth. This growth resulted in the need for additional schools. The cuts to the School Bond Reimbursement Program unequally and negatively impact the residents of the Mat-Su Borough.

In 2015 Governor Walker eliminated \$5.7 million from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The 2019 State Budget eliminated \$9 Million. The Borough's services to our voters were negatively impacted. Another loss of \$9.7 Million, as placed in the Governor's budget, will hurt the Borough's ability to perform necessary services and again drive home the idea that our word with our citizens is not secure.

The Borough requests full reimbursement of \$17,963,518.

C. MATCHING FUNDS FOR VOTER APPROVED ROAD BOND PROJECTS - \$23.845 Million

See attached 2018 MSB Road Bond Projects map detailing the road projects approved by voters. The request is for a 50/50 State match. This funding will cover necessary planning, design, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocations, engineering, inspections and testing, administrative expenses, and construction for all ten bond projects:

- Project No. 101. Hemmer Road Upgrade and Extension North to Bogard Road - \$5.2 Million
- Project No. 102. Hermon Road Upgrade and Extension (Parks Hwy to Palmer-Wasilla Hwy) - \$7 Million
- Project No. 103. MSB School District 2018 Pedestrian Projects (Safe Routes to Schools Plan Implementation) - \$2 Million
- Project No. 104. Aspen Ridge Road Extension to Palmer Fishhook Road - \$5.5 Million
- Project No. 105. Cheri Lake Drive / Karen Avenue / King Arthur Drive Corridor Improvements - \$7 Million
- Project No. 106. Trunk Road Extension South, Phase II/III - \$3.6 Million
- Project No. 107. Tex-Al Drive Upgrade and Extension - \$5.5 Million

Project No. 109. Seldon Road Extension, Phase II (Windy Bottom / Beverly Lakes Road to Pittman Road) \$8.2 Million
Project No. 110. Trunk Road Connector / Katherine Drive - \$2.2 Million
Project No. 208. Smith Road Extension and Paved Pathway - \$1.49 Million

D. BOGARD ROAD AND ENGSTROM ROAD/GREEN FOREST DRIVE INTERSECTION UPGRADE - \$7.6 Million

The Engstrom Road area has seen exponential residential development in the last five to 10 years. As with most of the borough, a road grid network has not been developed which can carry and efficiently move and disperse large amounts of traffic such as is being generated from the Engstrom Road corridor. As a consequence, most of the traffic travelling to and from the large residential subdivisions are funneled to the Bogard Road intersection. This intersection has a number of issues including inadequate size, very limited traffic control (through signage), only one turn lane, extremely poor sight distance, and an offset with the Green Forest intersection.

E. COMPLETION OF PORT MACKENZIE RAIL EXTENSION - \$130 Million

Project scope would include final design, survey, construction of sub-ballast, rail, ties, ballast, Rail Reserve and signal/communications installation. Port MacKenzie is a deep-water port where one of the largest cargo vessels in the world has docked and been loaded. This rail extension from the Alaska Railroad mainline to Port MacKenzie will provide a shorter rail route from Interior Alaska to tidewater, which in turn will substantially boost the export of Alaska's minerals and natural resources helping diversify the statewide economy. The project will create jobs, lower transportation costs, and increase economic development. Fuel imports transported north on Port MacKenzie Rail to the Interior would help lower high energy costs. The Alaska Railroad is the first in the nation to receive approval by the Federal Railroad Administration to transport Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) by ISO container. AIDEA is working to expand an LNG facility adjacent to the rail extension and near Port MacKenzie to develop a fuel supply chain to Interior communities. By providing bulk transportation of LNG, the use of LNG in the Interior will increase and significantly improve the air quality, an added benefit. The rail extension could also save more than \$100 million in construction costs for the State's proposed natural gas pipeline over other ports as Port MacKenzie is 140 miles closer than Seward and 32 miles

closer than Anchorage to the Interior. Less expensive bulk transport costs will also help stimulate the development of natural resources and mines such as the one-billion-ton limestone deposit near Livengood. Two sizable mining projects have designated Port MacKenzie as their marine terminal for exports: A Canada to Alaska railway project estimated to export \$100s of billions in commodities including bitumen. Additionally, Trilogy Metals, Inc., in the Ambler Mining District, is projected to hold 8 billion pounds of copper, 3 billion pounds of zinc and more than 1 million ounces of gold-equivalent precious metals which could be transported on this rail line.

The shorter mileage to tidewater will also reduce the cost of transporting coal when coal prices recover, helping coal from Alaska's Interior be competitive on the world market. A number of private companies have leased land at Port MacKenzie and will take advantage of the rail extension's quicker transport time to the Interior, including Central Alaska Energy, who plan to import low sulfur fuel, store it in million gallon tanks and transport it around the state.

F. PORT MACKENZIE DEEP-DRAFT DOCK PILE SLEEVE PROTECTION - \$6 Million

This project will install pipe pile sleeves and fender pile sleeves to protect the deep-draft dock piles from slow deterioration caused by scour from silt and ice impact as well as material loss due to corrosion. Steel pile sleeves and grout will be added to the 64 pipe piles and 14 fender piles of the deep-draft dock. The design for this work has already been completed. The cost estimate to complete the construction is \$6 million. The deep-draft dock piles were driven in 2004 and have now lost their hot-dipped galvanized protective coating, as verified by an engineer inspection in August 2019, due to scour from the silt and ice laden currents of the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet. These protective pile sleeves, coupled with the cathodic protection system that was installed in 2015, will extend the life of the deep-draft dock twenty (20) to thirty (30) years longer than the alternative of not installing the pile sleeves. This pile protection system will save or defer tens of millions of dollars on future repairs and replacement of the piles. The project could be completed in the fall of 2021 if funding is approved. This project is essential to protect the \$14.7 Million already already invested in the construction of the Port MacKenzie deep-draft dock.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 17 day
of December, 2019.

VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Hale, Nowers, McKee, Leonard, Mayfield, Sumner
and Boeve



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8689 • Fax (907) 861-8669

John.Moosey@matsugov.us

Disaster Declaration

Whereas, commencing on December 21, 2019, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough sustained severe threats to life and property from ice jam flooding in the Willow Creek area; and

Whereas, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is a political subdivision within the State of Alaska; and

Whereas, the following additional conditions exist as a result of the disaster emergency: disruption of intrastate transportation; access to residential homes and businesses; property damage and loss; and environmental impacts due to flooding; and

Whereas, the severity and magnitude of the flooding emergency is beyond the timely and effective response capability of the local resources, and has hampered ability to obtain and maintain situational awareness related to damages; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Borough Mayor and Borough Manager of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough declare a Local Disaster Emergency per AS 26.23.140 to exist in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, effective December 23, 2019 at 12:00pm.

Furthermore, it is requested that the Governor declare a Disaster Emergency to exist, as described in AS 26.23.020, and provide State Assistance to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the form of public assistance, individual assistance and other emergency resources to help the Borough in its response and recovery from this event.

Further, the undersigned certify that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough will expend its local resources as a result of this disaster emergency.

Signed the 23rd day of December, 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vern Halter".

Vern Halter, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Moosey".

John Moosey, Borough Manager



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Mayor

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

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Vern.Halter@matsugov.us

December 23, 2019

Thomas Bergey, President
Mat-Su Borough School District Board
17777 E. Sullivan Avenue
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear President Bergey,

During a time of crisis, our citizens look to us to make timely and sound decisions. Certainly the November 30, 2018 Earthquake was that crisis. Together the Assembly and School Board have led our community to pick up the pieces and move forward. However, the job is not done.

Houston Middle School is our critical priority. We have engaged our State, insurance company, FEMA, and Army Corps of Engineers to provide full allocation to return our students back to a successful learning environment.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly agrees with the standard of replacement the School Board identified in MSBSD Resolution 20-001. The Borough has gathered \$23 Million in insurance and set asides for this project. We have authorized engineering work to proceed. However, we are financially short and believe that it is prudent to have all available funds sequestered prior to moving to the construction phase.

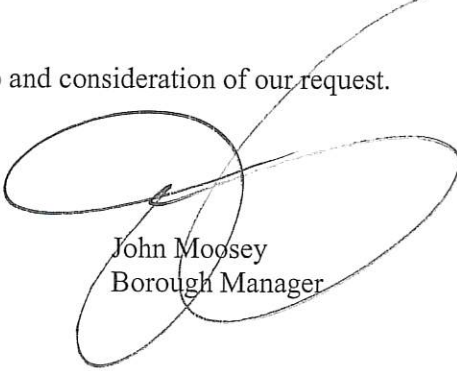
Upon reviewing MSBSD fund balances, as reported in the 2019 CAFR, we are requesting a transfer from school finances in the amount of \$7 Million prior to construction bidding. This will communicate to the Houston community that together we are diligently moving forward without additional delay.

Please know that we are still seeking FEMA funding and reimbursement for the Houston Middle School rebuild.

Thank you for your partnership and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Vern Halter
Mayor


John Moosey
Borough Manager

cc: Assembly



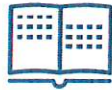
HOUSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

EARTHQUAKE RETROFIT

BACKGROUND

Houston Middle School (HMS) was built in 1985 and was originally known as Houston Jr/Sr High School (HJS). In 2018, HMS housed 383 students in a 93,152 square foot facility prior to the November 30, 2018 earthquake. HJS was re-established at Houston High School (HHS) in January 2019 as a combined middle and high school. The former HHS was built in 2003 as an 88,240 square foot facility. Today, HJS houses approximately 800 total students and staff from both HMS and HHS. Fifteen portable classrooms provide an additional 14,400 square feet of temporary classroom space.

FACILITY CONDITION ASSESSMENT



ASSESSMENT

The Mat-Su Borough authorized an architectural & engineering (A&E) assessment of Houston Middle School



ASCE 41-13, SEISMIC EVALUATION AND RETROFIT OF EXISTING BUILDINGS

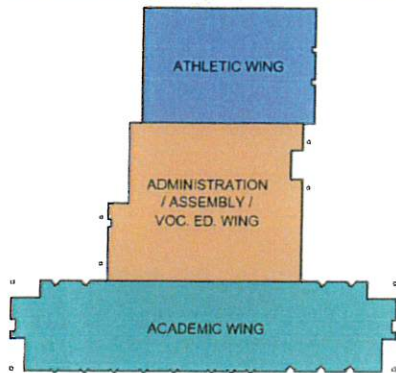
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 41-13 was utilized to identify necessary structural upgrades to bring the facility up to current life safety standards



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

- Houston Middle School was designed to the 1982 edition of building code
- Complete code upgrade of the building to today's International Building Code (IBC) would be too costly and impractical
- Many uncertainties remain regarding the condition of the facility, and unidentified damage is suspected throughout the building, with the largest concerns residing in the academic wing floor/ceiling and roof assemblies
- In order to determine the total extent of damage, removal of ceiling and wall finishes, down to the structural framing is required
- The evaluation performed establishes whether the existing building meets a minimum level of safety or performance level; these performance levels are a lower bar than modern codes such as the IBC so that older buildings are not automatically deemed unsafe due to code changes
- The performance level selected for this evaluation is typical for a school, which exceeds normal life safety requirements, but not at an immediate occupancy level such as a hospital; the findings based on this performance level are described in the findings summary below

FINDINGS SUMMARY



Overall

- Three distinct structures seismically
- Damage attributed to both obsolete design methods and some construction errors
- Foundations and roof framing could not be fully inspected, however engineer does not anticipate structural damage to these elements
- Inadequate reinforcing and grouting in concrete masonry unit (CMU) walls throughout
- Weak connection details between roof framing and CMU walls



Academic Wing

- Out-of-plane movement of concrete masonry unit (CMU) corridor walls
- Wood roof diaphragm separated from CMU shear walls
- Widespread, substantial damage to non-structural CMU partitions (alcoves)
- Code upgrade nearly as expensive as total replacement of this wing
- Recommend total code upgrade or replacement of this wing



Gymnasium

- Majority of damage to single wall that separates gym from wrestling area
- Deficiencies noted in checklists can be repaired



Admin Wing

- Minimal damage
- Damage concentrated to the tops of CMU walls
- Mortar joint cracking throughout
- Deficiencies noted in checklists can be repaired

RETROFIT OPTIONS

1. Repair entire building: \$15,701,439
2. Repair GYMNASIUM and ADMINISTRATION wings and replace ACADEMIC wing: \$28,884,817
3. Replace entire building: \$48,765,761

CONSIDERATIONS:

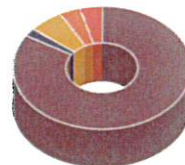
- Remaining uncertainty of damage to academic wing
- Over \$11,000,000 in deferred maintenance needs over next 5 years for existing building
- Benefit of incorporating in code upgrades with replacement

RECOMMENDATION

Option #2

- Repair ADMINISTRATION and GYMNASIUM wings
- Replace ACADEMIC wing entirely
- Update select building systems: plumbing, fire protection and sprinkler, HVAC, DDC controls, structural exterior walls, roofing, interior and exterior doors, interior ceilings, security and access control, electrical lighting and distribution, emergency power generation, and furnishings, fixtures and equipment

PROJECT COSTS



● Construction Cost	\$24,162,098
● Construction Management	\$615,013
● Design Services	\$1,801,347
● Equipment & Technology	\$1,098,255
● Project Contingency	\$1,208,105

TOTAL COST: \$28,884,817

From: Karl Ohls <kohls@northstargrp.com>

Sent: Friday, December 27, 2019 4:06 PM

To: John Moosey <John.Moosey@matsugov.us>; Nicholas Spiropoulos <Nicholas.Spiropoulos@matsugov.us>

Cc: Mary Miller <Mary.Miller@matsugov.us>; Jack Ferguson <Jack@jackferguson.com>; Grant Ackerman <grant@northstargrp.com>; Tom Elkins <tom@jackferguson.com>; Veronica Slajer <vaslajer@northstargrp.com>

Subject: FY2020 appropriations passed & approved

John and Nick,

Before the Congress left DC for the holidays, it passed the FY2020 appropriations bills, which President Trump has signed into law. See below for additional details about FY2020 appropriations, now going into effect.

Karl

From Eyes on Washington, Dec. 23, 2019:

President Trump Signs FY20 Spending Bills to Fund Government

- President Donald Trump on December 20, 2019, signed two spending packages, domestic and national security, totaling \$1.4 trillion to fund the government through September 2020 and avert a shutdown.
- The bills include all 12 annual appropriations bills for fiscal year (FY) 2020 that started October 1, 2019. They also extend several expiring and expired tax breaks and eliminate other taxes, adding an additional \$426 billion to the total cost of the bill.
- In the spending package, the legal age to purchase tobacco products is raised from 18 to 21. Congress also agreed to eliminate three taxes intended to pay for the Affordable Care Act, adding \$373 billion to the deficit over a decade. Additionally, energy credits are extended for biofuels and wind power, but not for solar or electric car manufacturers.
- The spending bills include \$25 million to fund gun violence research, \$425 million for election security, increase funding for climate research and full funding for the 2020 census. They also include a 3.1 percent pay increase for federal workers, matching the raise for members of the military.
- Although the President requested \$5 billion for border wall spending, the spending package includes only \$1.375 billion for physical barriers in confined areas.
- Lawmakers also deferred to the courts on whether the use of emergency powers to reprogram billions in defense funds toward building the wall was legal. Additionally, the bills do not refill \$3.6 billion from military construction programs transferred to the wall by the President.

Defense Authorization Bill Signed Into Law

- President Trump on December 20, 2019, signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), establishing the Space Force and giving federal workers 12 weeks of paid parental leave.
- The NDAA establishes the Space Force as the sixth branch of the U.S. military, with a goal of protecting U.S. assets in space from threats from Russia and China. The new service will be part of the Department of the Air Force in a structure similar to the Marine Corps relationship to the Navy and will be led by a four-star chief of space operations.
- The bill also gives all federal employees 12 weeks of paid parental leave, which is expected to benefit more than 2 million Americans.
- The final NDAA eliminates House-passed provisions that would have blocked President Trump from using Pentagon funds for his border wall, reversed the transgender military ban, blocked military action against Iran and cut off U.S. support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen.
- The bill also blocks the deployment of the low-yield nuclear warhead, bans new transfers to the Guantanamo Bay detention center, and bans the use of federal dollars to be spent on Chinese rail cars and buses owned by state-owned enterprises.

Before voting on final passage the chamber voted 64-30 to waive a budget [point of order](#) raised by Budget Committee Chairman [Michael B. Enzi](#), R-Wyo., against legislating on an appropriations bills.

"This bill has completely bypassed regular order and violates nearly all of the Senate's self-imposed budget rules with its billions of dollars in giveaways and tax policy changes," Enzi said. "We are legislating on funding bills — legislation is supposed to be scrutinized differently especially if it pays out real money."

Political considerations

Add-ons to the bill include measures to increase the age to buy tobacco products to 21 and shore up pensions and health care benefits for coal miners. One of the main drivers of those provisions was McConnell, who is up for reelection next year in Kentucky.

The bill would also repeal three taxes imposed by the 2010 health care law. The \$373 billion cost isn't offset, but the taxes have been panned for years by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

There were political considerations on both sides as well. A House bill to repeal the 2010 law's tax on health insurers was introduced by [Anthony Brindisi](#), D-N.Y., who is up for reelection in a district Trump carried by more than 15 points in 2016. The Senate version was introduced by [Cory Gardner](#), R-Colo., representing a state Trump lost by 5 points. Inside Elections with Nathan L Gonzales rates Gardner and Brindisi as "Toss-ups" in 2020.

A nearly \$54 billion tax package would renew or continue deductions for mortgage insurance premiums, college costs and large medical expenses; excise tax breaks for craft brewers and distillers; credits for employer-paid family and medical leave, investors in low-income communities, and faster depreciation for racehorses and motor sports complexes, among others.

The tax package includes an extension through 2022 for lapsed biodiesel and short-line railroad maintenance credits as well as several "technical corrections," including for churches and other nonprofits that provide employee parking and rural electric cooperatives that could have lost their tax-exempt status.

A few hours after voting on the first package, senators voted 81-11 to clear the \$860 billion combo including the Defense, Commerce-Justice-Science, Financial Services and Homeland Security appropriations bills. Schumer notably voted "no" on the second package.

The Homeland Security spending bill, a perennial problem child, was one of the more challenging bills to finalize this year. Lawmakers and the White House settled last week on a compromise that would provide \$1.375 billion for border wall construction, equal to the spending approved for fiscal 2019.

The measure would allow the Trump administration to keep the reprogramming authority it used to pull \$6.7 billion from Treasury and Pentagon accounts to border wall construction.

Doug Sword contributed to this report.

Karl A. Ohls

Senior Policy Advisor

North Star Group

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Construction Phasing Plan



BENEFITS

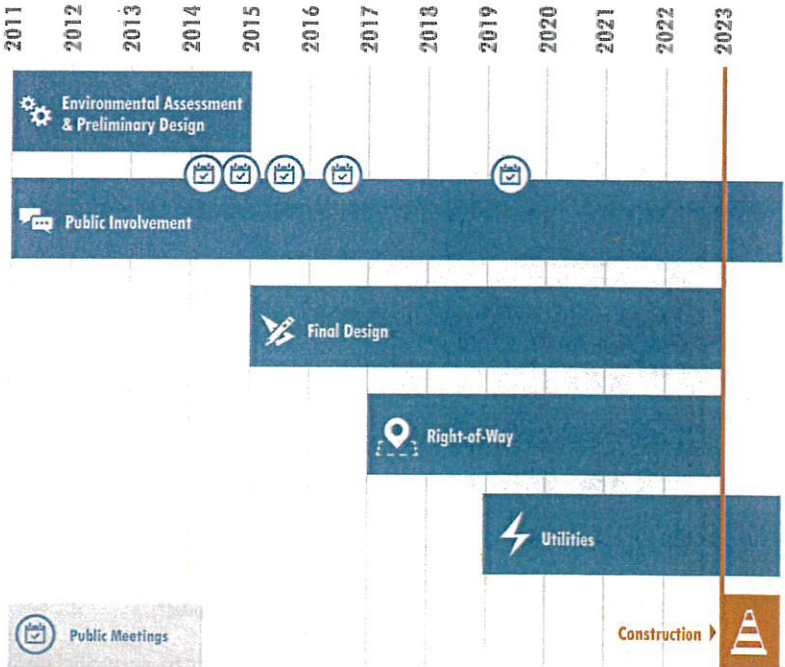
- 👤 Provides greatest benefit to most users
- 🚗 Improves highest volume segment first
- 🕒 Expedites project delivery

For Additional Information Contact:

Tom Schmid, P.E.
 DOT&PF Project Manager
 (907) 269-0543
 tom.schmid@alaska.gov

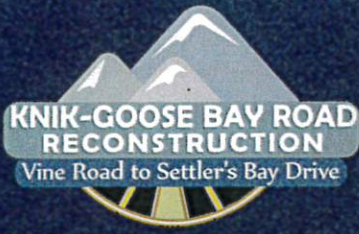
Rachel Steer
 DOWL Public Involvement
 (907) 562-2000
 rsteer@dowl.com

Project Timeline



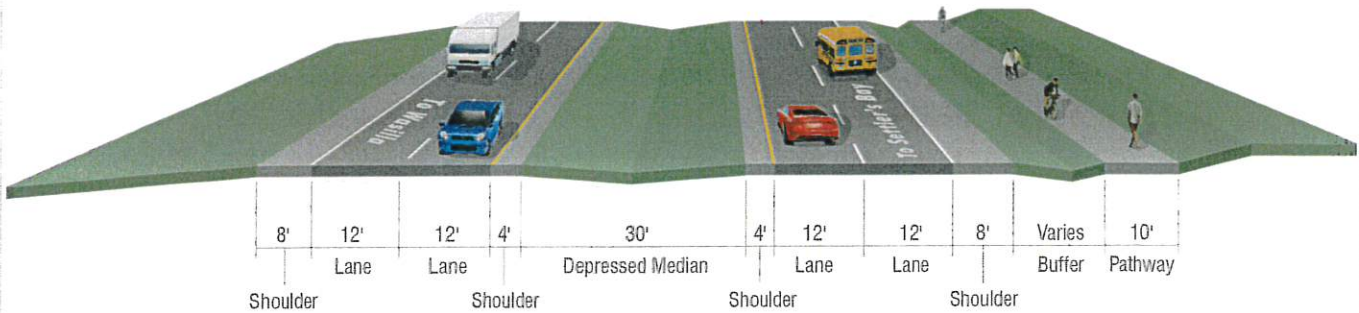
Funding

The proposed project is state funded.



Fact Sheet
State Project No. Z517170000

Proposed Typical Section



Project Overview

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is proposing to reconstruct Knik-Goose Bay (KGB) Road between Vine Road and Settler's Bay Drive in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The corridor has high congestion, low performance, and high collision rates, particularly during peak hours, due to limited capacity and numerous driveways. This project will add capacity and correct problems created by unconstrained access, thereby improving safety and reducing congestion. The project will be designed to accommodate both current and projected future traffic volumes.

This project will expand the corridor to a four-lane divided roadway with a separated multi-use pathway on the north side, turn pockets, access control, traffic signals, drainage, and other related improvements.

The project design is approximately 75% complete. The project team is reviewing the proposed design based on updated traffic projections, further evaluating drainage and erosion issues along the corridor, and working with utility companies to relocate impacted facilities. The team will continue to gather public input and coordinate with the adjacent KGB Road: Centaur Avenue to Vine Road project. The next steps are to refine the engineering plans and initiate the appraisal and acquisition of additional right-of-way needed for the project.

In an effort to expedite delivery, construction is proposed to be combined with Phase 2 of the adjacent federally-funded KGB: Centaur Avenue to Vine Road project.

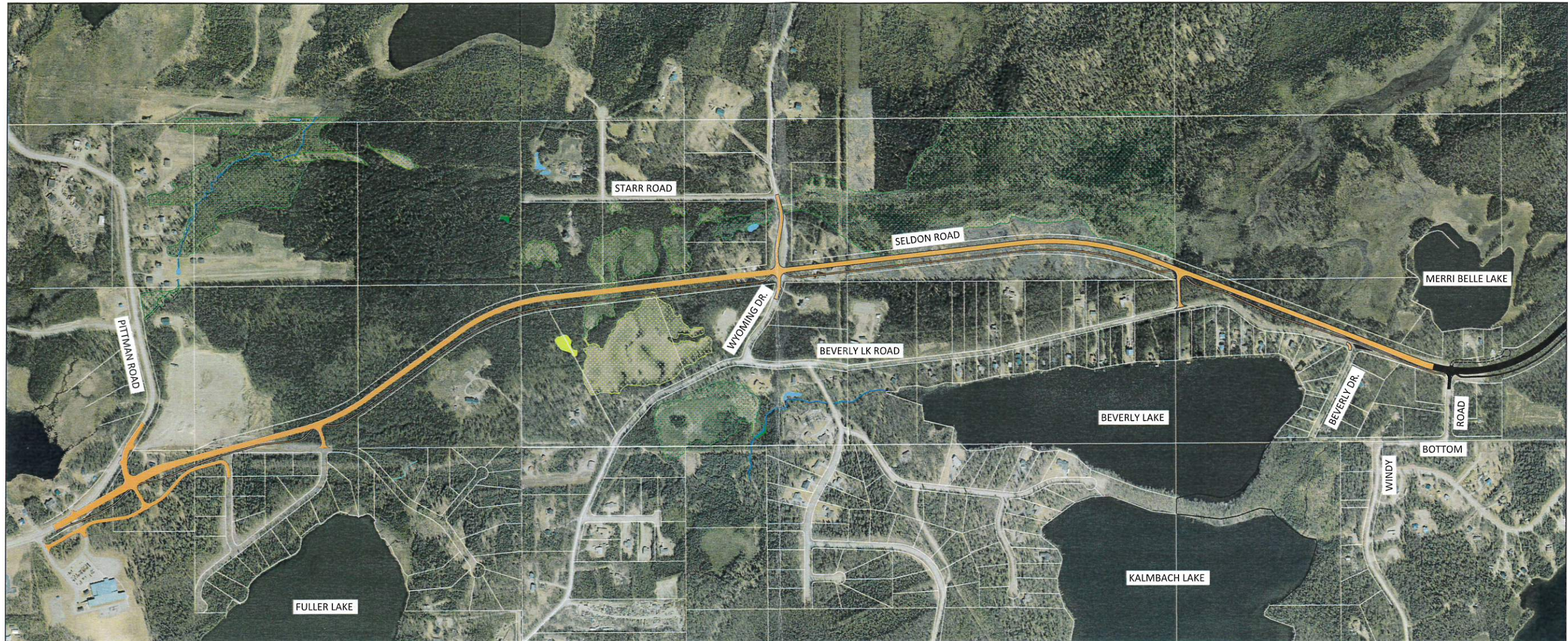
Email:
knikgoosebay@dowl.com

Watch for updates online at:
www.knikgoosebay.com

Last updated:
September 6, 2019

Seldon Road Extension Project

Phase II Alignment



Matanuska-Susitna Borough



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 3, 2020

TO: Jim Jenson, O&M Division Manager
Mat-Su Borough Department of Public Works

FROM: David Lundin, PE / Principal, HDL Engineering Consultants
Ken Karle, PE / Hydraulic Modeling and Mapping

RE: Willow Creek Ice Jam Mitigation
Willow, Alaska

CIVIL
ENGINEERING

GEOTECHNICAL
ENGINEERING

TRANSPORTATION
ENGINEERING

ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES

PLANNING

SURVEYING
& MAPPING

CONSTRUCTION
ADMINISTRATION

MATERIAL
TESTING

REAL ESTATE
SERVICES

Introduction. Ice jams have been described as the most dramatic events on northern rivers. They can cause water levels far higher than open water flood events, with obvious consequences for adjacent subdivisions, communities and engineering structures. Though the properties of engineered ice structures are understood (i.e. ice roads), ice jam characteristics are not well-documented, especially on smaller streams such as Willow Creek.

Ice jams are classified by the season in which they occur: freeze-up, winter, or breakup. Ice jams are also categorized by their type: floating or grounded. Ice jam probability at a particular location is commonly attributed to channel characteristics. Such items that cause an increase in floating ice concentration, creating a hydraulic obstruction, include: bends and narrows, islands and bars, and changes in slope from steep to flat.

Grounded ice jams occur when a surge of ice and water suddenly stops. Other than some flow through the porous space in the ice, the jam behaves like a rockfill dam. In a shallow wide floodplain, flow will back up until the elevation exceeds that of adjacent banks.

On December 21, 2019, an ice jam occurred on Willow Creek in the area of the Getts Bridge (Michelle Drive). The ice jam begins approximately 150 feet downstream of the bridge, and extends nearly 1,000 feet upstream, based on visible open water in recent aerial photography. The jam caused the water level to increase and overflow its banks on both the north and south side of the channel, within the floodplain. On the north side of the river, flow is travelling through wooded areas, crossing Michelle Drive through culverts, and reentering the channel downstream of the bridge without any apparent damage to existing improvements or property. On the south side of the river, flow is exiting the main channel near the Michelle Drive/Deneki Road intersection. Flow is traveling through wooded areas, improved properties, and Deneki Road, with the majority of the flow reentering the main channel at the western Deneki Road 90 degree bend. The remainder flows through a culvert under the north-south portion of Deneki Road and continues in the floodplain towards Burrow Street. This culvert has been partially blocked by Borough staff to limit the chance of flooding in the Burrow Street area. See Figure 1.



The flow on Deneki Road effectively cuts off access for local residents, including approximately 30 homes north of the river whose only access is across the Getts Bridge. Efforts by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Department of Public Works has reduced the flow on Deneki Road to allow use of the road for emergency access.

The Willow Creek winter ice jam is likely grounded in much of the main channel. The location includes features that are commonly attributed to ice jam formation.

Ice Control. For river ice jams, mechanical methods are typically employed to control ice so that it causes fewer problems. Mechanical methods seek to break or weaken the ice cover or remove it from the problem area. It is important to note that actions based on these methods have been unsuccessful in some situations because they were inadequately designed, caused too small an effect to overcome the problem, or they were misapplied. The following is taken from Ashton (1986)*:

Blasting: “Explosives have been used to remove ice jams for well over a hundred years. The primary purpose of the blasting is to break up the ice accumulation and allow it to flow downstream. Unless there is enough flow to move the loosened ice, the blasting is ineffective and merely rearranges the ice pieces. Blasting of freeze-up jams that consist largely of frazil accumulations has been attempted but is generally ineffective and merely rearranges the mush.

When enough flow is available, the usual technique is to place two lines of charges along the thalweg axis, detonate them simultaneously, and then repeat the process farther upstream. With an experienced crew, about 1 km of river per day can be cleared....the best time to blast is immediately after the jam has formed....assessing the downstream effects is important, both to be sure that the ice will be carried away and to be sure that it will not cause a more serious problem elsewhere.”

Removal By Equipment: “Ice accumulations are sometimes removed using material-handling equipment such as draglines, clamshell buckets, endloaders, bulldozers and backhoes. It is common to remove an ice accumulation from a small river or stream after a jam has formed. The purpose is to allow room for the flow and ice resulting from a later breakup or runoff flood. The jam must be grounded or the water must be very shallow to allow the equipment to operate. There are no known published guidelines....On small rivers and streams large hydraulically driven backhoes are effective. Bulldozers are nearly always needed to push the ice back from the river edge; large endloaders are sometimes used for the same purpose but are less effective. In some cases truck hauling is used. Each site will have specific features that will require consideration. Generally a minimum of one-third of the main channel width must be cleared.”

*Ashton, G.D. 1986. *River and Lake Ice Engineering*. Water Resources Publications. Littleton, CO.

Recommended Action. Several options to improve flooding conditions at the Willow Creek site have been considered. Based on site visits, consultation with experts, input from contractors, research, and engineering judgement, the recommended option is to excavate a

trench through the main channel ice jam, located at the Getts Bridge location. This action should:

- Reduce or eliminate out-of-bank flooding, which is resulting in flooded properties and limited access to Deneki Road and the Getts Bridge.
- Reduce or eliminate the potential for additional flooding at this location during the 2020 spring breakup event.

Reasons for Heavy Equipment Option.

1. Blasting the ice jam was considered. However, long-term flow records from the nearby USGS Willow Creek gaging station indicate that, based on 32 years of record, discharge will continue to decrease in magnitude from now to early/mid April. See Figure 2. Without an unusually large mid-winter precipitation/snowmelt event, it is unlikely that there is enough flow to move any ice loosened by blasting downstream.

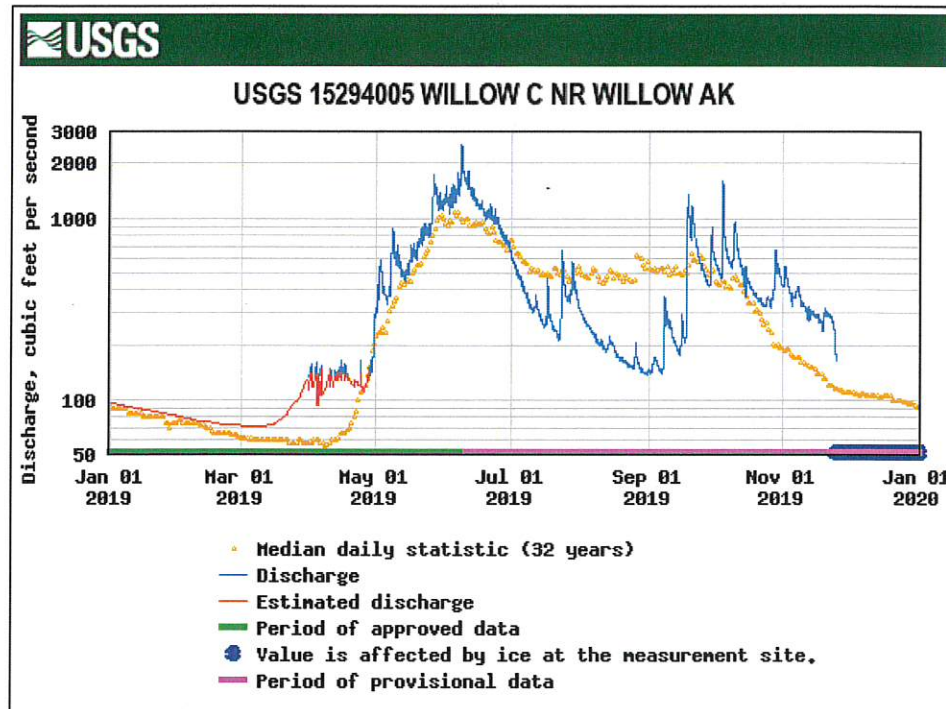


Figure 2. Willow Creek 2019 hydrograph and median daily statistics.

2. Even if enough flow occurred to move ice, the channel would have to be cleared to a distance downstream such that transported ice did not accumulate and create a second unintended ice jam downstream of the Getts Bridge.
3. Using heavy equipment provides immediate removal of the accumulated ice from the main channel in a controlled manner. Starting at the ice jam toe and working upstream will help to prevent additional backwater flooding, and will allow personnel to observe downstream conditions during excavation operations.

- Contractors report that this method has been successfully used on other streams in Southcentral Alaska.

Procedure. The primary activity for this recommended action is to use heavy equipment to excavate enough ice in the ice jam to create a wide channel with sufficient capacity to carry the entire Willow Creek discharge. The primary type of equipment for this operation will be a large track-mounted hydraulic excavator with bucket attachment. Based on conditions, additional equipment may be required, including a crawler-dozer, front-loader, and dump truck(s).

The ice excavation will be initiated at the toe (lower end) of the ice jam downstream of the Getts Bridge, and will proceed upstream. See Figures 3 and 4A-C. Depending on the location, the excavator will operate from within the shallow section of the main channel, or from the bank if adjacent to the main deep section of the channel (thalweg). The operator will clear the ice to create a wide rectangular trench within the main channel of Willow Creek. The excavated channel dimensions should be approximately 4 feet deep by at least 20 feet wide, and will have enough capacity to carry the estimated Willow Creek flow, even if additional ice formation occurs on the trench walls.

It is important to ensure the excavated trench extends underneath the bridge. The excavator may work from downstream of the bridge, upstream of the bridge, and possibly even on the bridge deck (with an observer) to complete the trench through the bridge footprint. If there is insufficient clearance for the excavator to operate under the bridge, an alternative trench alignment may be used to divert the channel to the north bank, where open water has been observed under the bridge. The alternative trench alignment is parallel to the bridge deck on the south side.

Once upstream of the bridge, ice trench excavation will continue upstream to intersect the overflow. If conditions permit, the excavated channel could be extended upstream to the head of the ice jam. Expected length of excavation is 700 feet. Average expected depth of excavation is 3-5 feet. Total area of excavation is approximately 14,000 square feet; volume of excavated ice is at least 2,074 cubic yards.

Precautions.

- Excavated ice should be placed completely out of the main channel, or as near to the bank away from the excavated trench as possible.
- The heavy equipment operators will make all possible effort to avoid digging/excavating gravel bed gravels, bank materials, or other aquatic habitat features.
- Spill kits and containment booms will be located onsite. Workers trained in deployment will be onsite.
- Heavy equipment will not be left in the channel overnight or during breaks in excavation.



Willow Creek Ice Jam Mitigation
 Figure 3: Site Plan
 Matanuska-Susitna Borough
 Willow, Alaska

DATE:	1/2/20	JOB NO.:	19-033
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HDL ENGINEERING
 Consultants LLC

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 civil • geotechnical • surveying • environmental • material testing
www.HDLAlaska.com

Figure 4A. Willow Creek Ice Jam Mitigation
Section A-A: 150' upstream of Bridge

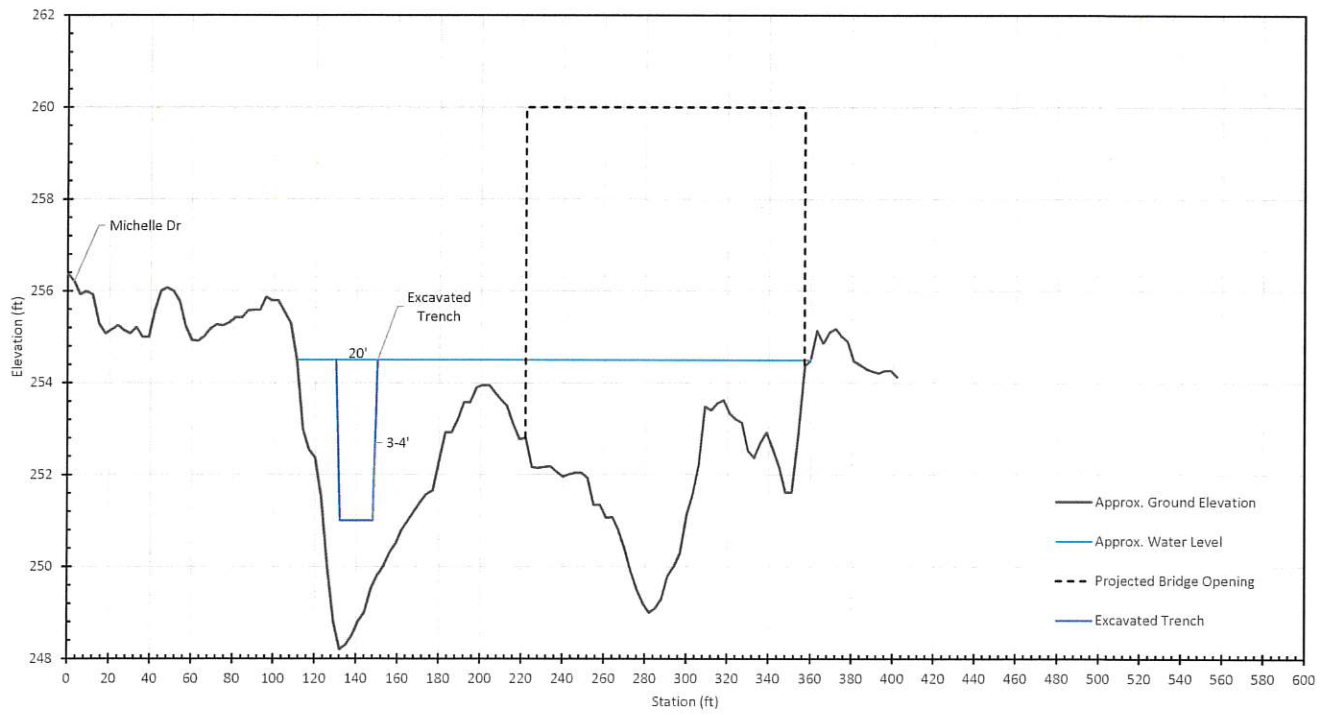


Figure 4B. Willow Creek Ice Jam Mitigation
Section B-B: 300' upstream of Bridge

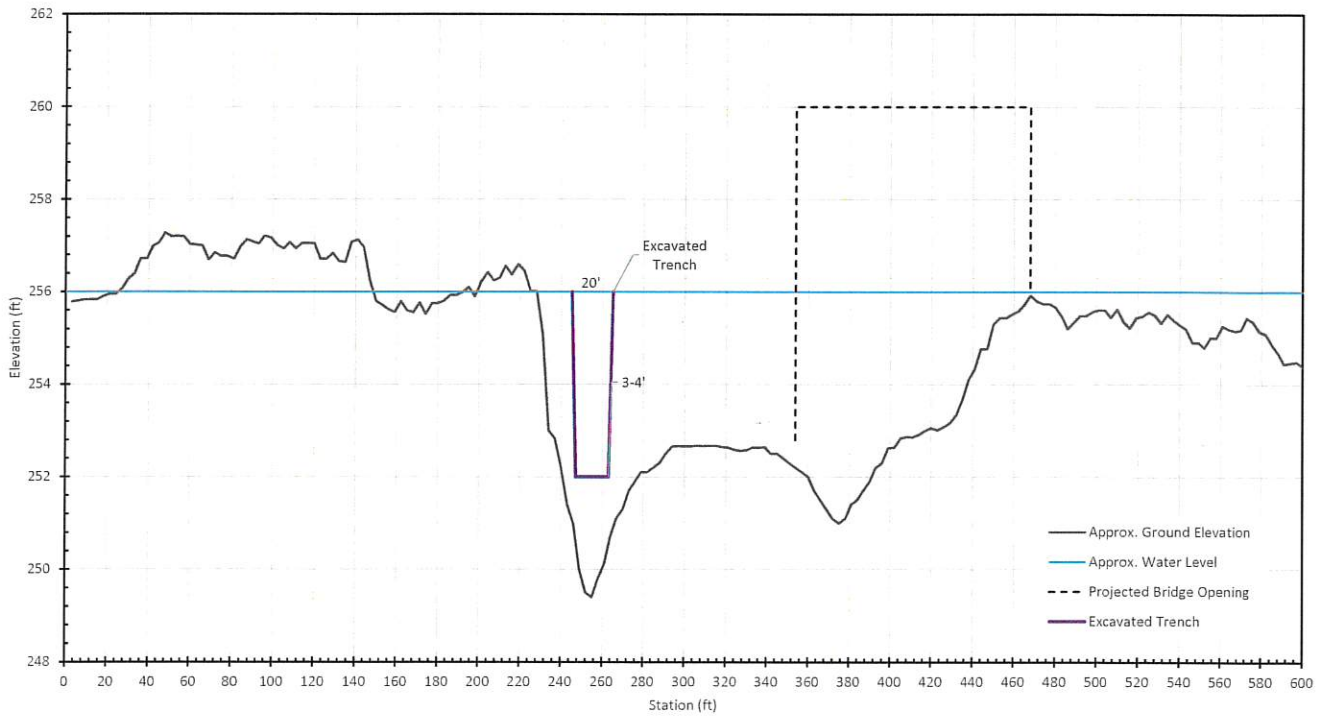
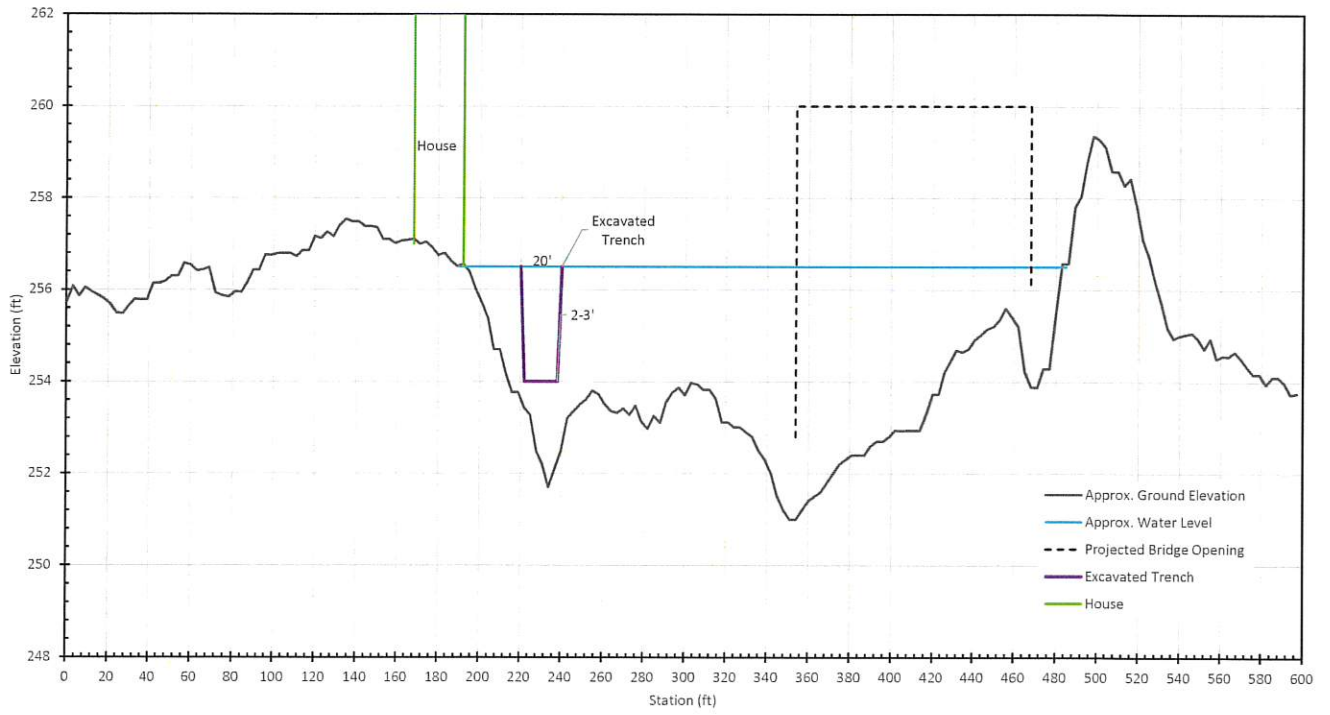


Figure 4C. Willow Creek Ice Jam Mitigation
Section C-C: 400' upstream of Bridge



Limitations. It is important to note that ice jam floods are less predictable and potentially more destructive than open-water flooding and can produce much deeper and faster flooding. Natural factors that cannot be controlled but contribute to the existing conditions and any procedures to ameliorate those conditions include: weather (temperature, precipitation, etc.), streamflow, groundwater flow, ice formation and transport, and other factors. The year 2019 will be labeled by NOAA as one of the warmest, if not the warmest, years on record for Alaska, creating additional uncertainties for analyzing a course of action. Although efforts are made to understand the ice jam and appropriate solutions for ice jam removal, NO guarantees or warranties are stated or implied regarding either the outcome or unintended effects of this project (ice dam removal).

Mary Miller

From: Hannah Newberry
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 1:44 PM
To: Mary Miller; John Moosey
Cc: Cheyenne Heindel; Layla Lesley
Subject: FY2021 Budget
Attachments: 1 - FY21 Budget Memo Calendar and Instructions.pdf; 2 -Budget Detailed Descriptions Template.XLSX; 3 - 100.100 Admin - Assembly Personnel.xlsx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red category

Good Afternoon,

Please find information for the start of the FY2021 budget cycle.

Thank you and Happy New Year,

Hannah Newberry
Budget & Revenue Specialist, Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Phone: (907) 861-8619
Email: Hannah.Newberry@matsugov.us
Website: www.matsugov.us



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Mayor

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8682 • Fax (907) 861-8669

Vern.Halter@matsugov.us

January 3, 2020

The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy
Alaska State Capitol, Room 305
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Willow Creek Local Disaster Emergency

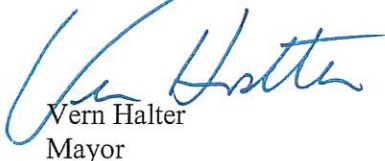
Dear Governor Dunleavy,

As you are aware, a state of emergency exists in Willow, Alaska at this time. Just about two weeks ago, ice dams in Willow Creek to the east of Deneki Road caused Willow Creek to overflow its banks and flow directly down Deneki Road. The resulting water and ice on the road trapped several vehicles, and cut off the only road to an entire community north of Willow Creek. Approximately 50 homes have been cut off and the lack of access poses a further risk to life and property. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has taken efforts to channel the flowing water from the road back into the creek bed, however, the ice dams causing the overflow continue to exist and build up to the west of Deneki Road.

This past summer, when the McKinley fire destroyed over 50 homes and directly affected the lives of over 50 families, both the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the State of Alaska issued disaster declarations to free up resources and coordinate efforts to address the disaster. Once again, approximately 50 families are threatened. This time, the threat is not from fast moving fire, but from slower moving ice which has cut off access to and from residents' homes. On December 23, 2019, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough issued a local emergency disaster declaration and requested that you do the same. Today, on behalf of the Willow Community, I once again ask you to issue an emergency disaster declaration regarding the situation on Willow Creek.

In our efforts to address solutions to keep water off Deneki Road, it has been observed that trenching or breaking up the ice, which is currently backed up in Willow Creek, would have alleviated the problem in the first place. Willow Creek is a waterway which is under the jurisdiction and management of the State of Alaska. If you will not issue an emergency disaster declaration, at least direct your state agencies to do what they can to break up or remove the ice dams. Deneki Road remains treacherous at best and your agencies have the ability to help alleviate the situation.

Sincerely,



Vern Halter
Mayor

cc: Assembly
Todd Smoldon
John Harris

January 10, 2020

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

Energy

Former AGDC president makes pitch to retake reins of Alaska LNG Project

✍ Author: Elwood Brehmer, Alaska Journal of Commerce ⓘ Updated: 1 hour ago 📅 Published 16 hours ago



Former Alaska Gasline Development Corp. President Keith Meyer speaks to the board of directors in Anchorage on Jan. 9. Meyer made a pitch to the board to let him retake the reins of the project with an as-yet unnamed financial backer. (Photo by Elwood Brehmer)

At a Thursday morning meeting in Anchorage, the former leader of the roughly \$40 billion Alaska LNG Project in Gov. Bill Walker's administration made a last pitch to take it over again with private backers.

Keith Meyer — who was president of the state-owned Alaska Gasline Development Corp. from early 2016 until being fired by the board of directors a year ago after Gov. Mike Dunleavy replaced several members — said the state’s current path virtually assures a long-sought North Slope gas line project won’t be built for at least another decade.

Meyer insisted he put together a private group that could take over the Alaska LNG Project from the state and develop it without the need for any additional state funding but the move needs to be made quickly before Alaska is left out of the quickly evolving global LNG industry.

“The state will not have to invest another dime in the project, but you cannot continue to drag your heels while the opportunity turns to dust. Waiting two or three years hoping someone will fund (final design) is not a strategy for success,” Meyer said.

He made his comments during the public testimony portion of a monthly AGDC board meeting.

Meyer highlighted AGDC’s achievements in attracting large potential financiers and Asian LNG customers — Korea Gas Corp., Tokyo Gas, PetroVietnam Gas Corp. and a consortium of Chinese mega-corporations — to the project during his tenure with the state.

“We rose to a point of admiration in the global industry,” he said, thanking those who supported the Walker administration’s efforts on Alaska LNG. “Those accomplishments formed a strong business development foundation to move the project forward and build a new economic future for Alaska; an economic future with reduced energy costs and increased job opportunities.”

However, he said, the Dunleavy administration’s decision to “systematically dismantle AGDC to cut expenses” has put the state at a significant disadvantage if the ultimate goal is truly to get the gas line built.

This past July, Interim AGDC President Joe Dubler announced the corporation would cut its staff by 60 percent to reflect its reduced mission: focusing on finishing major Alaska LNG permitting with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission without continuing the marketing or commercialization work that occurred under Meyer’s leadership.

Under Dubler, AGDC has allowed nonbinding agreements with prospective customers and gas sales term sheet agreements with BP and Exxon Mobil to expire.

Dubler has said AGDC previously engaged customers prematurely and the state would look to privatize Alaska LNG once it received a favorable decision from FERC if the project was deemed economic after an ongoing review.

According to Meyer, he first tried to pitch his plan to a reshaped AGDC board of directors in March after he saw the agency start to “unwind” the work that he had led.

That plan would transfer Alaska LNG Project information and control to Meyer and the undisclosed company backing him. Meyer's group would then see the project through permitting by utilizing current AGDC staff on a contract basis to maintain the deep knowledge base on the work that has been done.

If the decision is made to construct the megaproject, the state would get \$100 million back from the group for its work, according to Meyer.

His group would honor previous AGDC labor agreements to give Alaskans the first chance to work on the project and utilize union labor, he added.

If the transfer were made immediately, natural gas could be flowing from the North Slope to Alaska communities a Southcentral liquefaction plant by 2028, he estimated.

Overall, the state has spent \$237 million on the project, according to Dubler.

Meyer said board members refused to meet with him in March and the generalities of the proposal were relayed largely via email because the plan would be "politically inconvenient" for the Dunleavy administration, which has been highly critical of much of the work Meyer did on the project.

Since leaving AGDC, Meyer made four trips to Asia on his own to keep the potential customers the corporation had been courting engaged, with a message of, "Please be patient. Please don't give up on Alaska," he said in an interview.

"You have to appreciate the value of the momentum we had," he said further, adding that AGDC was in the process of drafting firm customer contracts when the leadership change was made and commercial work was all-but stopped.

According to Meyer, several of those customers have moved on and secured LNG supplies from other projects around the world but there is still significant interest in Alaska.

He said there was financing available for the project roughly a year ago and there is still interest, but AGDC's actions over the past year have made private investors skeptical that the state is truly interested in advancing the project.

Meyer stressed that time is of the essence if the state does not want to wait many more years for another potential opportunity to monetize North Slope gas to come along.

"If you miss the 2020s window, nobody is going to contract for five years or more," he said, echoing a message that was common at AGDC during his tenure.

"The global market is moving whether we're moving or not."

Qilak LNG, a firm led by former Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell, is trying to capture a portion of the growing global LNG market with a North Slope project as well. Announced in October, Qilak is proposing an offshore North Slope LNG plant and has an agreement with Exxon Mobil to source gas from the producer's Point Thomson field, which has also been seen as a source for approximately 25 percent of the gas that would feed Alaska LNG.

AGDC board chair Doug Smith said the board has not vetted Meyer's proposal but he knows the company backing Meyer is also working on a large LNG plant on the Gulf Coast, which amounts to competition for Alaska.

Smith also questioned the appropriateness of handing the currently public project over on a sole-source basis to a company that wants exclusivity without going through a formal proposal process. That is going to come when AGDC has its approval from FERC to move ahead with construction.

Meyer said he'd be happy to compete for the project in a traditional request for proposal process but it needs to be done now instead of June or later when FERC is scheduled to rule on the Alaska LNG Project environmental impact statement.

The company backing him wants to remain confidential for the time being but "It's a capable entity," Meyer said. "The board liked them. They did not like my involvement."

Dubler said Meyer presents an opportunity for the state, but added that the AGDC board has shown "good restraint" in not moving on it at this point.

"As a state corporation we can't just hand something over," Dubler said.

Dubler and other Dunleavy administration officials have stressed that getting a favorable decision from FERC will greatly de-risk the project and help attract private investors that could take over the project.

Meyer countered that the benefit of having FERC's approval in-hand for investors has been overblown. While FERC is a highly technical agency, it has a prescribed process that everyone in the LNG industry is familiar with.

"We had a project. We could easily move it to the private sector if that was the desire," Meyer said. "What scares me a little is whether this board and this administration will be sincere in moving this project forward."

About this Author

Elwood Brehmer

Elwood Brehmer is a reporter for the Alaska Journal of Commerce. Email him: elwood.brehmer@alaskajournal.com

Comments

Matanuska-Susitna Borough



January 10, 2020

Alaska Board of Fisheries Members - *Via Fax to 907-465-6094*

**Re: Matanuska-Susitna Borough Manager Comments for Consideration
Board of Fisheries Kodiak Finfish Meeting January 11-14, 2020**

Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

I am writing in support of efforts to address Kodiak's mixed stock salmon fishery. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission has been dealing with the decline of Chinook and Sockeye returns in the rivers of Cook Inlet for decades. The low returns of all species of salmon, particularly Chinook and Sockeye salmon, have forced the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to declare eight northern Cook Inlet stocks as Stocks of Concern out of 16 Stocks of Concern statewide.

Our Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission has advocated for years to use genetics studies to guide reasonable management by ADFG to return Chinook and sockeye salmon to their natal streams. The economic impact of salmon returning to the Mat-Su Borough has been significant. We ask that the Board consider the impacts to communities like Chignik and others in the Mat-Su Borough where the impact of low salmon returns on livelihoods and economies have been severe. However, the source of the problem reaches beyond Northern Cook Inlet, including the interception of fish trying to return to their natal streams.

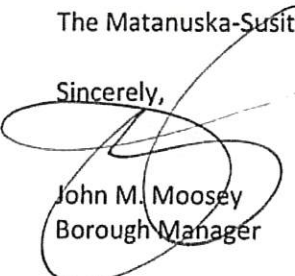
In past decades the Kodiak seine fleet has changed dramatically. The ships are much larger and they have developed very effective fishing techniques and gear that can harvest many more fish than their traditional methods. They can now navigate beyond the capes and into the straits, thus intercepting fish destined for rearing grounds elsewhere.

We urge BOF members to look at genetics and consider the impacts on local fisheries and economies like Chignik and the Susitna rivers, and take actions that rebuild our dwindling stocks and economy in Northern Cook Inlet.

Proposals such as 58 and 60 are addressing these very issues, as are proposals 63, 64, 65, and 66. I ask that the Alaska Board of Fisheries give their serious consideration and support for these proposals.

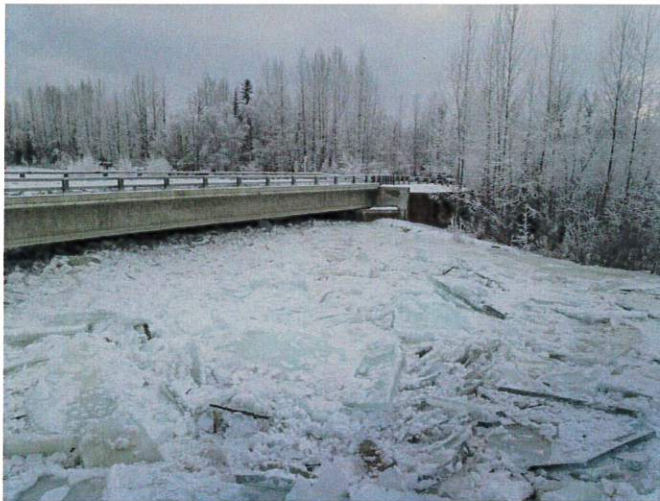
The Matanuska-Susitna Borough thanks you for your service.

Sincerely,


John M. Moosey
Borough Manager



Willow Creek Flooding December 2019 - January 2020



Willow Creek Flooding December 2019 - January 2020

