

PROPOSITION NO. 3
Seward-Bear Creek Flood Service Area

Shall the Kenai Peninsula Borough be authorized to exercise powers to provide flood planning, protection and mitigation services in the Kenai Peninsula Borough Seward-Bear Creek Flood Service Area within the service area boundaries defined in Ordinance 2003-30?

YES *[A Yes vote establishes the service area and authorizes the exercise of flood planning, protection and mitigation powers within the service area.]*

NO *[A No vote opposes formation of the service area and the exercise of flood planning, protection and mitigation powers.]*

The Seward-Bear Creek area has experienced at least five major floods since 1986. On November 20, 2002, a community meeting was conducted in Seward to identify problems and potential solutions regarding flooding issues in the Seward area. The general theme emerging from that meeting was the need to examine the entire watershed as a whole and develop a coordinated plan of action to reduce the risk of damage to private and public property from future flooding.

On March 21, 2003, the borough clerk certified a petition to establish the Seward-Bear Creek Flood Service Area to provide flood protection, response, and recovery services. On June 16, the assembly conducted a public hearing in Seward to receive comments from area residents regarding the need for the service area. Seventeen people testified at the hearing, and all were in favor of forming the service area.

Subsequently, the assembly adopted Ordinance 2003-30, establishing the Seward-Bear Creek Flood Service Area. (See map on opposite page for service area boundaries.) The ordinance provides for a seven-member elected service area board consisting of four residents of the City of Seward and three residents of the area outside the Seward city limits. If approved by the voters, the first board will be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the assembly for one year terms. In October 2004, all board seats will be placed on the regular election ballot for election by residents of the service area.

The board will be responsible for developing, implementing and updating a development plan for furnishing flood protection services and for determining the level of such services to be provided by the service area. The services are intended to primarily address service area flood issues and reflect fair use of the tax levy for watershed-wide benefit.

Since this proposed service area includes areas both inside and outside an incorporated city, it must be approved by majority vote within the City of Seward and within the Bear Creek voter precinct. If the proposition fails in either area, the service area will not be formed.

It is anticipated that the tax levy for this service area will not exceed 0.5 mills, or \$50 for each \$100,000 of assessed property value. The actual mill rate will be set by the assembly each year during the regular budgetary process.