



## **KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**

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**DAVID R. CAREY**  
**BOROUGH MAYOR**

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Gary Knopp, Assembly President  
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**FROM:** David R. Carey, Mayor *DR Carey*  
Sue McClure, Assembly Member *JB for S.M.*

**DATE:** February 3, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance 2011-02, extending Ordinance 2009-09 (Substitute) pertaining to the Seward Mapped Flood Data Area

This ordinance extends Ordinance 2009-09(Substitute) as amended by Ordinance 2010-17 based on the understanding that the Seward Mapped Flood Data Area (SMFDA) was established by the Kenai Peninsula Borough assembly pending the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) completion of new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for the Seward area. Once FEMA presents the new maps, the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) will have six months to adopt them by code. The final DFIRMs have not yet been provided by FEMA.

The DFIRM data are used to identify flood prone areas for KPB's participation with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The borough's participation in NFIP benefits its residents in many ways including federal disaster relief, increased availability of federal grants, access to federally insured or guaranteed loans, education and outreach, and lowered flood insurance premiums, to name some.

The SMFDA was based upon combined data from three known major flooding events (1986, 1995, and 2006) in the Seward area. Evidence in this data showed flooding extents that are greater than the existing DFIRM data, which was developed for the 1981 maps presently used under the NFIP. Given that flooding has repeatedly occurred in the Seward-Bear Creek Flood Service Area to a greater extent than shown in the existing DFIRMs, the assembly adopted the SMFDA as a recommendation from the Seward-Bear Creek Flood Service Area Board and from the KPB Planning Commission, as well as the Kenai Peninsula Borough Floodplain Task Force.

This ordinance will extend the sunset of the SMFDA until the new DFIRMs are provided by FEMA and adopted by the assembly, at which time the SMFDA will automatically expire unless the sunset date is altered or extended by the assembly. Shortened hearing is necessary as the ordinance is currently scheduled to sunset on March 4, 2011.