



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*

DATE: February 3, 2011

SUBJECT: Resolution 2011-*010*, supporting enactment of House Bill 89 authorizing the Department of Natural Resources commissioner to offer bedload material for flood control purposes in exchange for a percentage of the profit from the sale of that material

Flooding is a serious problem in the Seward-Bear Creek area. The area is subject to alluvial fan flooding hazards including the overfill of the river bed with glacial gravel and other material washed down during a storm or over time. This large amount of sediment and debris filling the streambeds allows floodwaters to spread widely threatening development over a broad area. Bed load removal as cited in the hazard mitigation plans of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the Seward-Bear Creek Flood Service Area (“SBCFSA”) would reduce the risk of flooding. Under current law the State of Alaska must charge fair market value of the material that is removed from the riverbed. This upfront cost makes removal of the material uneconomical for commercial operators and individuals.

Representative Paul Seaton is sponsoring House Bill 89 which would amend AS 38.05.872 to allow the Department of Natural Resources commissioner the discretion to offer bedload material for disposal for flood control purposes in exchange for a percentage of the profit from the sale of the material instead of a fixed upfront permit fee. HB 89 provides a financial incentive for more material to be removed from flood-prone rivers so that the riverbeds will better accommodate high-water events and decrease flooding.

The goal of finding an economical method to remove gravel to reduce flooding in the Seward Bear Creek area is consistent with the borough’s All Hazard Mitigation Plan and the SBCFSA Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan. The assembly’s support of this resolution is appreciated.