



# **KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**

## **Coastal Management Program**

514 Funny River Road • Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7520

PHONE: (907) 714-2216 • FAX: (907) 260-5992

www.borough.kenai.ak.us/

**JOHN J. WILLIAMS  
BOROUGH MAYOR**

January 2, 2007

Ms. Nicole Allison, Project Review Coordinator  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Project Management and Permitting  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 705  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Subject: ARRC, Seward Freight Dock Expansion AK 0612-03AA

Dear Ms. Allison:

Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Coastal District staff reviewed the above referenced project for consistency with KPB Coastal Management Program enforceable policies. This project seeks a consistency determination for expansion of the Alaska Railroad's existing freight dock facility in Seward.

### Scope of the Project

The applicant seeks to expand the width of the existing ARRC Seward freight dock to 320 feet, install a mooring dolphin to aid in berthing barges and trench an electrical line from the dock to the mooring dolphin to facilitate lighting. The project will require approximately 115,000 cubic yards of fill in Resurrection Bay with about 92,000 cubic yards of the fill being deposited below high tide line (86,000 cubic yards of gravel fill and 6,000 cubic yards of riprap).

Water quality issues that may be part of this project will be addressed through the DEC 401 Certification process.

According to the applicant the purpose of the project is to improve the safety and efficiency of freight intermodal operations and the overall utility of the dock to accommodate larger vessels and contribute to safer, more efficient loading and unloading operations.

### Findings

- 1) Kenai Peninsula Borough Enforceable Policy 2.3, Commercial Fishing, requires that, to the extent feasible and prudent, all temporary and permanent developments, structures, and facilities in marine and estuarine waters shall be sited, constructed and operated in a manner that does not create a hazard or obstruction to commercial fishing operations. The applicant's activity will require pile driving to install the mooring dolphin and may effect commercial fishing operations. The applicant proposes to mitigate the effect of the

operation by suspending pile driving with an impact hammer during regular or emergency commercial fishing openings in Resurrection Bay.

- 2) Kenai Peninsula Borough Enforceable Policy 2.4, Dredging and Filling, requires that dredging or filling in saltwater areas including tide flats will be located, designed, constructed and maintained in a manner so as to avoid significant impacts to fish and wildlife, limit the areas of direct disturbance, minimize the escapement of waterborne sediment and not interfere with circulation and drainage patterns. The applicant proposes to mitigate the effect of its fill operations by:
  - a. Installing armor rock to protect the fill slope from wave action.
  - b. During the month of April through September 14<sup>th</sup> fill will not contain more than 12% fines passing a 200-mesh sieve or, alternatively, fill will be placed within a confining rock dike.
- 3) Kenai Peninsula Borough Enforceable Policy 2.6, Mitigation, requires that activities on land and water will be planned and conducted to mitigate potential adverse impacts on fish and wildlife, habitats and harvest activities. Inasmuch as the activity cannot reasonably avoid impacts and accomplish the intended purpose of the project, the applicant proposes to mitigate the loss of habitat by providing \$28,000 to the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust for protection of 5.3 acres of estuarine intertidal habitat or other important habitat in upper Resurrection Bay.
- 4) Kenai Peninsula Borough Enforceable Policy 4.2, Conflicts with Recreational Use, requires that activities that could conflict with recreational use of designated recreation areas shall be conducted to minimize conflicts. The applicant proposes to mitigate this impact by suspending pile driving with an impact hammer from July 15 through September 15 unless the activity will be of minimal impact to sport fishing with prior approval from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The project and proposed mitigation measures are consistent with Kenai Peninsula Borough Coastal Zone Management policies.

Sincerely,



Gary Williams

Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Coastal District Coordinator