

May 15, 2006

Mr. Jim Renkert, Project Review Coordinator  
State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Project Management and Permitting  
Alaska Coastal Management Program  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1660  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Subject: Cook Inlet/Terry Cowart/Runway and Taxiway AK 0604-09AA

Dear Mr. Renkert:

Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Coastal District staff reviewed the above noted project for consistency with KPB Coastal Management enforceable policies. This project, proposed by Mr. Terry Cowart concerns a small plane airstrip to serve a subdivision in Lot 5, Beachview Sea Breeze Addition, Kenai Peninsula Borough Parcel Number 131-070-59.

#### Scope of Work

The applicant seeks to place approximately 2,501 cubic yards of sand, clay, peat and topsoil into approximately 0.84 acres of jurisdictionally determined wetlands for the construction of a 60' x 2' x 550' long runway and a 25' x 2' x 140' taxiway. This project is located within a large wetland complex that drains into Cook Inlet. Development in and around this wetland complex involves gas and oil exploration and production and commercial and residential subdivisions.

#### Findings

Kenai Peninsula Borough Coastal Zone Enforceable Policy (KPBCZMP) 2.4(d and e) require that projects requiring dredging or filling in wetlands shall be located, designed constructed and maintained in a manner so as to:

- d. Minimize the amount of waterborne sediment traveling away from the dredge or fill site.
- e. Maintain circulation and drainage patterns in the area of the fill.

Alternative Measure #1: the project must use Best Management Practices to protect wetlands outside the permitted footprint from sediment generated by placement of fill. The proper installation and maintenance of a silt fence throughout the vicinity of the wetland area being filled will make the project compliant with KPBCZMP 2.4d.

Alternative Measure #2: the natural flow of water from the affected area must be maintained to nourish down slope wetland area. The proper installation and maintenance of a drainage device such as a culvert must be installed under the fill. Best Management Practice must be followed to insure that the device is installed and maintained so that it does not “perch” or otherwise become ineffective causing water to be impounded behind the fill. The size, alignment, functionality and installation of the drainage device, directed by a qualified by expertise in this work will enable the project to be compliant with KPBCZMP 2.4e.

KPBCZMP 2.7, Cumulative Impacts, requires the cumulative effects of proposed new and existing development on ambient, air, water quality and coastal habitats to be considered in the review or renewal of coastal projects. As an alternative measure the applicant may be in compliance with this provision by providing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with an assessment of Practical Alternatives as provided in the Environmental Protection Agency’s 404(b) (1) guidelines in the Clean Water Act.

Provided the alternative measures called for above are implemented, the project will be consistent with the Kenai Peninsula Borough’s Coastal Zone Enforceable Policies.

Sincerely,

Gary Williams  
Coastal Zone Coordinator