

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Coastal Management Program

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**JOHN J. WILLIAMS
BOROUGH MAYOR**

April 3, 2007

Ms. Nina Brudie, Project Review Coordinator
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Office of Project Management and Permitting
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 705
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Subject: Centennial Boat Lagoon, Kenai River AK 0702-07AA

Dear Ms. Brudie:

The Office of Project Management and Permitting is coordinating a consistency review of an application submitted by the City of Soldotna to dredge in the Kenai River. The dredge work will occur at River mile 20.3 at Centennial Park, within Section 31. Township 5 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian. This review will evaluate the project's consistency with the enforceable policies of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Project Scope

The applicant seeks permits to dredge, using an excavator and front-end loader, approximately 200 cubic yards of gravel, rock and silt from a 60' x 90' area below the ordinary high water mark of the Kenai River. All dredge material will be removed from the site and disposed of in an upland location. All work will be conducted when the project areas are dewatered. The applicant also seeks a 10-year maintenance permit to dredge 150 cubic yards of material in the same location.

Project Discussion

This project is designed to dredge an area along the face of a boat ramp in the City of Soldotna's Centennial Park. Dredging at this location has occurred over the past 10- years, or more. The lagoon fills with river-borne sediment, interfering with the launching and haul-out of recreational boats.

Findings

Kenai Peninsula Borough Enforceable Policy 2.4, Dredging and Filling, requires that dredging in rivers will be located, designed and constructed and maintained to:

1. Avoid significant impacts to important fish and wildlife habitat;
2. Avoid significant interference with fish migration and life cycles;
3. Limit the area of direct disturbance to as small an area as possible.

The applicant has defined the area of excavation along the face of the boat launch ramp to be a 60' x 90', an area that is not within the channel of the Kenai River. Work will be conducted during the time the area is dewatered so no water borne sediment will escape from the project area. Under these conditions the project is consistent with applicable borough policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,



Gary Williams
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Coastal District Coordinator