

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Office of Emergency Management

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Johnson, Assembly President and Assembly Members
THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *AR for CP*
FROM: Brenda Ahlberg, Emergency Manager
DATE: 01/19/2022
RE: Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update – Draft Plan¹

Background: From 2006 to 2009, the borough developed 17 Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) representing all landscapes across the borough with the exception of Tyonek, Moose Pass, Bear Creek, Seward and Lowell Point. In 2018, the borough received federal pass-through funds in the amount of \$103,366 (O2018-19-11) and funds from the spruce bark beetle interest account in the amount of \$50,000 (O2019-19-02) to update these plans. This update is being completed by SWCA Environmental Consultants with substantial completion by March 31, 2022.

The 2022 update combines the former 17 plans and encompasses all unincorporated areas and municipalities. The CWPP serves two audiences: 1) provides recommended projects designed to greatly reduce wildfire risk to residents, ensuring that communities live safely in this fire prone environment; and 2) provides guidance to fire and emergency managers, as well as agencies who manage large land holdings.

The intent of this memo is to provide you an opportunity to review the “working draft” and invite you to provide comments through the Office of Emergency Management or on the project story map. I will providing an update to the Planning Commission at their January 24th meeting. Please note that public review is January 24 – February 4, 2022. The draft plan may be found on the project story map at www.kpb.us/cwpp. This story map (an interactive project website designed to tell a story with maps) continues to be used as the primary two-way communication tool, providing information and collecting community input about the project. The story map will remain “live” and be instrumental for current mapping products, data and serve as a repository of completed mitigation projects.

¹ This project is being completed by consulting firm SWCA and funded in part by the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska Division of Forestry and Department of Natural Resources pursuant to USDA Forest Service Award No. 2018-DG-110106-810.