

# Kenai Peninsula Borough

## Planning Department – River Center

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Brent Johnson, Assembly President  
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**THRU:** Peter A. Micciche, Mayor *PM*  
Robert Ruffner, Planning Director *RR*  
Samantha Lopez, River Center Manager *SL*

**FROM:** Julie Hindman, Floodplain Administrator *JH*

**DATE:** September 7, 2023

**RE:** Ordinance 2023-23, Amending KPB 20.30.280 and KPB 21.06 Regarding Floodplain Management to Adopt Required Changes to Remain Compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program (Mayor)

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Since 1988, the Borough has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program (“NFIP”), making federal disaster assistance, federal hazard mitigation grants, federal subsidized mortgages, and affordable individual homeowner flood insurance available within the Borough. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) oversees the NFIP and provides participating communities with the minimum regulations and regulatory flood maps for each community to enforce.

Every five to eight years, FEMA visits the Borough to perform a Community Assistance Visit. This is a visit by FEMA staff that serves the dual purpose of providing technical assistance to the community and assuring that the community is adequately enforcing its floodplain management regulations. This visit includes: meeting with community staff and officials; reviewing current code; touring and inspecting structures in the floodplain; reviewing floodplain development permits; and documenting any unpermitted structures.

The proposed amendments to Borough Code reflected in this ordinance are a combination of FEMA-required changes and housekeeping amendments to ensure the Borough’s floodplain management code meets federal standards. The proposed amendments also address other portions of Borough Code for clerical purposes. These amendments are necessary to keep the Borough in good standing with the NFIP. Failure to adopt the required changes could result in sanctions, which could impact the Borough’s ability to participate in the NFIP.

Your consideration is appreciated.