

Introduced by:	Mayor
Date:	06/21/22
Hearing:	07/05/22
Action:	Enacted
Vote:	8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
ORDINANCE 2022-19-01**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$300,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO
ESTABLISH TEMPORARY FIREWISE SLASH DISPOSAL SITES**

- WHEREAS,** the 2022 Kenai Peninsula Community Wildfire Protection Plan (“KP CWPP”) identifies public slash disposal as a high-priority mitigation strategy for fire hazards throughout the Kenai Peninsula; and
- WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough (Borough) is identified as the key agency in addressing this identified strategy; and
- WHEREAS,** the Central Peninsula Landfill has been overwhelmed and inundated by the quantities of woody debris and dramatic influx of slash as the spruce bark beetle outbreak progresses throughout the Central Peninsula; and
- WHEREAS,** private property owners throughout Cooper Landing, Sterling, Soldotna, Kenai, Nikiski, and Kasilof have increased amounts of woody debris as a result of taking firewise actions to remove dead and dying spruce trees on their properties; and
- WHEREAS,** firewise actions are supported by the best management practices for private land owners in the Fire Safety Program of the Alaska Division of Forestry and Firewise USA’s Defensible Space guidance, referenced in Chapter 4 of the KP CWPP; and
- WHEREAS,** the Central Peninsula Landfill is not a feasible disposal location for distant rural communities such as Cooper Landing, Nikiski, Sterling, and Kasilof; and
- WHEREAS,** private property owners are burning slash unregulated, without professional guidance or monitoring, resulting in an increased risk of fire escapement; and
- WHEREAS,** immediate, emergency action is needed to deal with massive amounts of woody debris generated from firewise activities in response to the spruce bark beetle mortality; and
- WHEREAS,** providing slash disposal facilities incentivizes property owners to engage in firewise activities and to dispose of slash properly; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kenai has allocated \$50,000 from their general fund to set up a firewise slash disposal site within its boundaries due to consistent public demand for slash disposal; and

WHEREAS, the borough is actively pursuing grants which, if received, could provide alternative and longer duration project funding to support the needed spruce bark beetle mitigation strategies identified in the 2022 KP CWPP;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That \$300,000 is appropriated from the General Fund fund balance, to account 100.21110.23SLH.43011 to support firewise slash disposal identified as a mitigation strategy in the 2022 KP CWPP.

SECTION 2. That appropriations made in this ordinance are project length in nature and as such do not lapse at the end of any particular fiscal year.

SECTION 3. That the mayor is authorized to expend the funds to fulfill the intents and purposes of this ordinance.

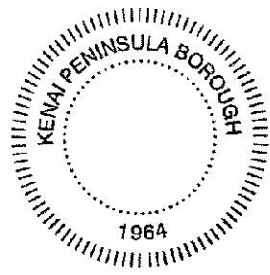
SECTION 4. That this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon enactment.

ENACTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 5TH DAY OF JULY, 2022.


Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:


John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Bjorkman, Chesley, Cox, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Tupper, Johnson

No: None

Absent: Derkevorkian