



Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

Subsistence is Our Agriculture

March 8, 2023

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Re: Ordinance 2022-046 – Modification of the “Nikiski Area” APC Boundaries
Emailed to: assemblyclerk@kpb.us

Dear Assembly Members,

The Tyonek Tribal Conservation District (TTCD) writes this letter in support of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 2022-46 to modify the Nikiski Advisory Planning Commission (APC) boundary and to exclude the west side of the Cook Inlet from the Nikiski APC.

The Tyonek Tribal Conservation District was formed through a mutual agreement between the Native Village of Tyonek, Tyonek Native Corporation, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). TTCD assists landowners and stakeholders within our 6.6M-acre district to achieve shared conservation goals by providing technical and fundraising assistance. 2.1M acres of our district is within the Kenai Peninsula Borough on the west side of Cook Inlet. Our extensive programs include fish passage culverts, habitat restoration, mitigation of aquatic and terrestrial invasives, and monitoring activities throughout the Tyonek area watershed.

The intent of APCs is to develop “locally-driven, community plans” yet the west side of Cook Inlet, including the Native Village of Tyonek, is not demonstrably part of the Nikiski community. In fact, the inclusion of the west side of Cook Inlet in the Nikiski APC, without input from the Native Village of Tyonek and tribal landowners such as Tyonek Native Corporation and CIRI, disregards the area’s largest stakeholders. We are concerned that a Nikiski APC which includes the west side of Cook Inlet gives residents in Nikiski an outsized voice in determining the use of resources which our stakeholders in the Tyonek watershed have historically managed.

The Tyonek Tribal Conservation District urges the Kenai Borough Assembly to support Ordinance 2022-46, excluding the west side of Cook Inlet from the Nikiski APC. We also invite the KPB Assembly, Planning Commission, and Administration to contact TTCD when considering any matters that might overlap with our projects on the west side of Cook Inlet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Stuart".

Laurie Stuart, EdD | *Executive Director*
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