

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly 144 N. Binkley Street Soldotna, AK 99669

Via email: <u>bjohnson@kpb.us</u>; <u>assemblyclerk@kpb.us</u>

To Assembly President Johnson and the KPB Assembly,

The City of Seldovia respectfully requests that the representation of the City of Seldovia on the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission be considered further in future ordinances concerning the apportionment of the commission and that significant changes impacting equitable representation on the commission allow time for public comment before being decided.

As one of the oldest incorporated cities in the borough and the only first-class city located off the road system, the City of Seldovia has a unique planning history that presents a variety of challenges and opportunities. A reduction of planning commission seats while the borough population continues to expand can unfairly disproportion representation for unincorporated areas of the borough and municipalities, with five at-large seats split across districts and four municipalities representing the entirety of the borough. Additionally, a more diverse and equitable representation supports the fullest possible engagement in communities and allows for a more fully deliberated decision-making process, increasing overall efficacy.

Representation matters, is evidence of equal opportunities and inclusion, and equitable representation is paramount in public decision-making processes, such as the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission. The Seldovia Planning Commission humbly requests that until the opportunity arises to further consider the equitable apportionment of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission that there be the availability of regular correspondence with the South Peninsula District representative and that when the seat becomes available in the future that a member of the City of Seldovia and greater Seldovia area be considered for the seat.

Sincerely,

Heidi Geagel
City Manager