## E. NEW BUSINESS

3. Right-Of-Way Vacation; KPB 2025-094V

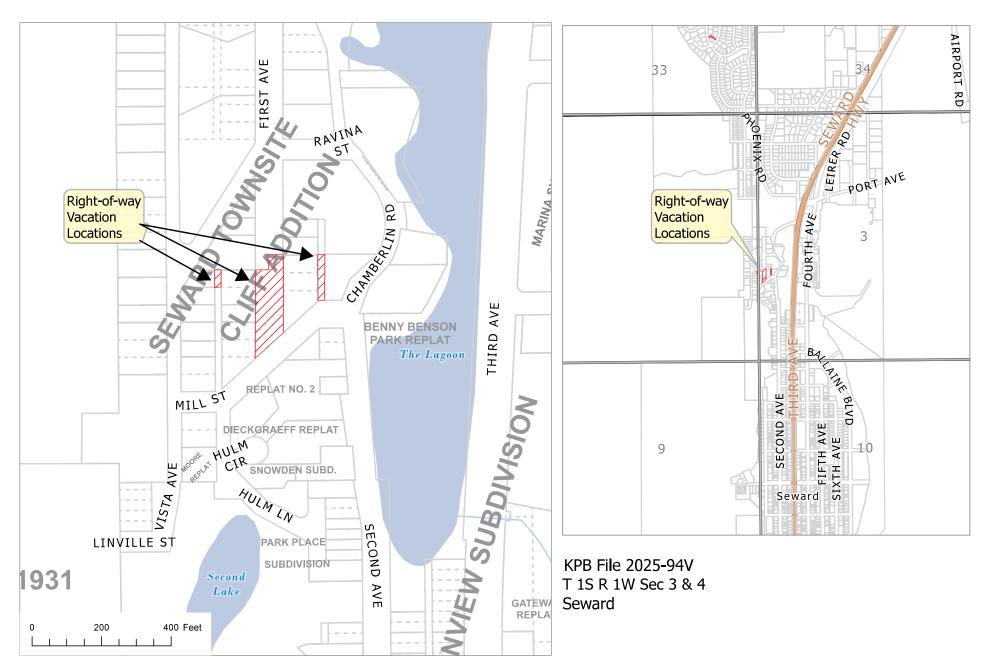
AK Lands / Walker, Davis

Request: vacates the alley right-of-way between Lots 1 and 12, 13 & 14 of Block 9, the alley ROW between Lot 6 & Lot 12 of Block 6 and the First Avenue ROW north of Mill Street between Lots 12, 13 & 14 of Block 9 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 of Block 6, all of Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite, Plat SW No. 3

**City of Seward** 

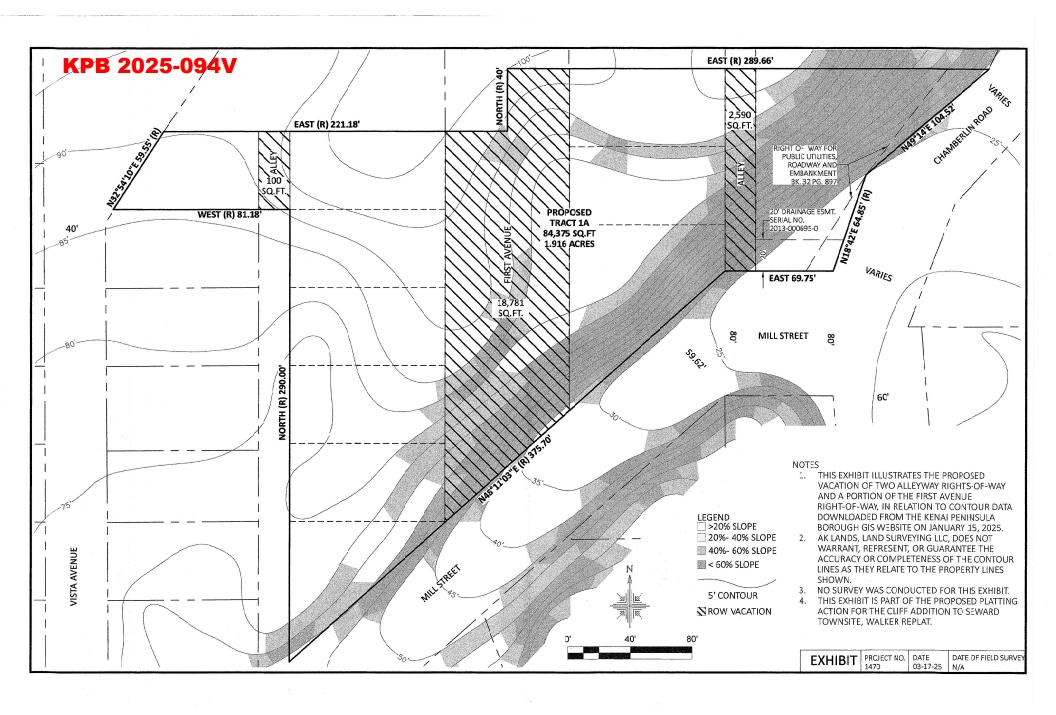
(Staff Person: Platting Manager Vince Piagentini)

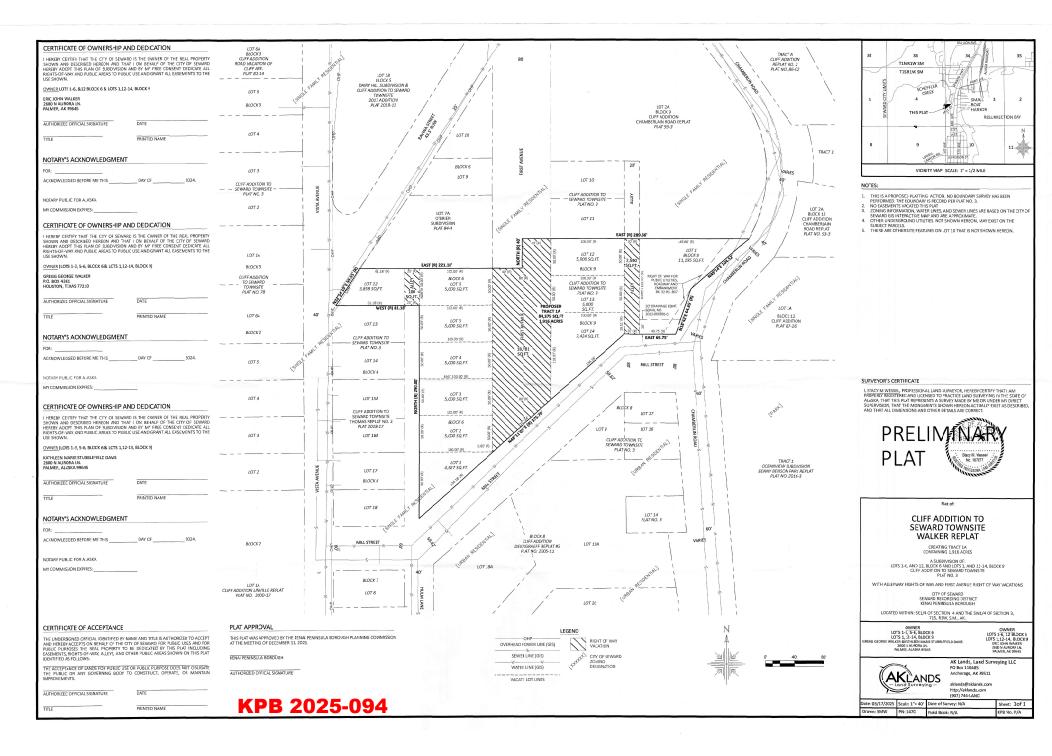
Vicinity Map 6/16/2025











#### AGENDA ITEM E. **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ITEM #3 - RIGHT OF WAY VACATION

Vacates the alley located between Lots 6 and 12, Block 6; the west half of First Ave adjacent to Lots 2-6 Block 6 north of Mill St and the east half of First Ave adjacent to Lots 12 - 14 Block 9 north of Mill St and the alley located between Lot 1 and 12 – 14 Block 9 all in Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite Plat S-3

KPB File No.	2025-094	
Planning Commission Meeting:	July 14, 2025	
Applicant / Owner:	Gregg George Walker, Eric John Walker (aka Eric J. Walker), and	
	Kathleen Marie Stubblefield Davis of Palmer, Alaska	
Surveyor:	Stacy Wessel / AK Lands Land Surveying LLC	
General Location:	West of the Seward Lagoon, City of Seward	
Legal Description:	First Avenue and two separate Alleyways, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 12, Block 6, and Lots 1, 12, 13, and 14, Block 9, Original Townsite of Seward Cliff Addition, Alaska Plat S-3, Township 1 South, Range 1 West, Section 4, Seward Meridian	

#### STAFF REPORT

#### Specific Request / Purpose as stated in the petition:

Proposed vacation of a 100-square-foot portion of an alley to the west, a 18,781-square-foot portion of First Avenue right-of-way and a 2,590-square-foot portion of an alley to the east.

Notification: The public hearing notice was published in the July 4th, 2025 issue of the Peninsula Clarion and the July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 issue of the Homer News as part of the Commission's tentative agenda.

The public notice was posted on the Planning Commission bulletin board at the Kenai Peninsula Borough George A. Navarre Administration building. Additional notices were mailed to the following with the request to be posted for public viewing.

Library of Seward

Post Office of Seward

Forty-one certified mailings were sent to owners of property within 300 feet of the proposed vacation. Twenty-Six receipts had been returned when the staff report was prepared.

Fifteen public hearing notices were emailed to agencies and interested parties as shown below;

State of Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

State of Alaska DNR

State of Alaska DOT State of Alaska DNR Forestry

City of Seward

**Emergency Services of Seward** Bear Creek Emergency Services

Kenai Peninsula Borough Office Seward

Alaska Communication Systems (ACS) **ENSTAR Natural Gas** 

General Communications Inc, (GCI) Homer Electric Association (HEA)

Chugach Electric Seward Utilities

TelAlaska

#### **Legal Access (existing and proposed):**

Mill Street provides access to the proposed rights-of-way to be vacated. Mill Street is maintained by the City of Seward varying from 60-feet to 80-feet in width. It connects to Chamberlin Road to the east and Vista Avenue to the west.

Page 1 of 7

The proposed lot will have access to Mill Street, Ravina Street and Chamberlin Road. First Ave from the north is not developed at this time.

The existing block is compliant with KPB code; however, it is irregular in shape consisting of Vista Avenue to the west, Mill Street to the south, Chamberlin Road to the east and Ravina Street to the north. The vacation of the proposed dedications will not affect the block length.

The plat to complete the vacation will not be proposing any dedication, only the vacation and combining of the lots to create one large lot.

No section line easements affect the subject area.

A right-of-entry permit was granted to the City of Seward for a portion of Lot 1, adjacent to Chamberlin Road per Book 34, Page 897, Seward Recording District. As part of the agreement, the City agreed to support vacation of the alley right-of-way between Lots 1 and 12-14, Block 9 and the First Avenue right-of-way between Lots 12-14, Block 9 and Lots 2-6, Block 6, Plat S-3, in the event of a replat being submitted. It should be noted the agreement mentions granting area to City at time of replating of alley, but no mention by the City was made in their staff report. **Staff recommends** the surveyor verify with the City of Seward if this part of the agreement needs to be fulfilled by granting said area to the City of Seward.

KPB Roads Dept. comments	Out of Jurisdiction: Yes
	Roads Director: Uhlin, Dil
	Comments:
	City of Seward's jurisdiction
SOA DOT comments	No Comment

#### Site Investigation:

The majority of the alleyway to the east and First Avenue is very steep with some grades over 60% according to the Contours layer on the KPB GIS Imagery. The access point at Mill St to the south of the alley on the west is steep with grades over 40%. The contours have been shown as shaded on the submitted sketch. **Staff recommends** the contours may be removed on the final plat finalizing the vacation with only the top and toe of slopes being labeled and depicted.

No wetlands affect the proposed vacations.

The City of Seward has identified the south edge of the property adjacent to Mill Street to be located within the Seward Mapped Flood Data Area. **Staff recommends** the proper City and Regulation note be placed on the plat finalizing the vacation.

KPB River Center review	A. Floodplain
	Reviewer: Hindman, Julie Floodplain Status: Within City of Seward Comments: No comments
	B. Habitat Protection
	Reviewer: Aldridge, Morgan Habitat Protection District Status: Is NOT within HPD Comments: No comments

#### **Staff Analysis:**

In 1916, the land was surveyed and platted as Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite, plat S-3. This plat dedicated the rights-of-way being proposed to be vacated.

The proposed vacations are currently undeveloped and are not being used.

Once vacated, the rights-of-ways are proposed to be combined with the adjacent lots to create one large lot. The new lot will have access by Mill Street, Ravina Street and Chamberlin Road. The vacation will be finalized by the preliminary plat Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite Walker Replat and is being reviewed at the Plat Committee meeting of July 14, 2025 for preliminary approval.

The surrounding parcels will continue to have existing legal access by Vista Avenue, Mill Street and Chamberlin Road.

Seward Townsite - Cliff Addition Chamberlain Road Replat (SW 93-3) vacated the adjacent north portion of the eastern alleyway. O'Brien Subdivision (SW 84-4) vacated the adjacent north portion of the western alleyway.

The City of Seward Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed and unanimously approved the preliminary plat and associated rights-of-way vacations during their April 8, 2025 meeting. A copy of the meeting minutes and packet are available in the staff packet.

On April 28, 2025, Seward City Council passed and approved Resolution 2025-040 recommending approval of the preliminary plat and associated rights-of-way vacations, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite Walker Replat. A copy of the city packet, meeting minutes, and resolution are available in the staff packet.

City of Seward's Resolution 2025-040 states the proposed Tract will have access to city water, sewer, and electricity and no city subdivision agreement is required.

Per the City's Staff Packet and Resolution, a driveway for Lot 1, Block 6, is encroaching into the platted right-of-way of First Avenue. The City does not have plans to develop the right-of-way due to steep terrain and recommended to the owner to vacate the right-of-way. Vacating the right-of-way and combining the adjacent lots into one large lot will eliminate the driveway encroachment and provide the owners better access to their property and future development.

The original plat did not grant any utility easements along or abutting the proposed portions of the requested rights-of-way vacations. The plat finalizing the vacation shall grant a 10-foot utility easement adjoining all rights-of-way per KPB 20.30.060. **Staff recommends** this easement be depicted on the plat and associated plat notes to be added.

There is a drainage easement granted to the City of Seward affecting Lot 1, Block 9, as recorded in serial number 2013-000695-0. This easement is depicted on the right-of-way vacation sketch with reference to the document number provided. **Staff recommends** the surveyor include all dimensions of the drainage easement on the final plat as provided within the document.

#### 20.65.050 - Action on vacation application

- D. The planning commission shall consider the merits of each vacation request and in all cases the planning commission shall deem the area being vacated to be of value to the public. It shall be incumbent upon the applicant to show that the area proposed for vacation is no longer practical for the uses or purposes authorized, or that other provisions have been made which are more beneficial to the public. In evaluating the merits of the proposed vacation, the planning commission shall consider whether:
  - 1. The right-of-way or public easement to be vacated is being used;

Page 3 of 7

**Surveyors' comments:** The rights-of-way to be vacated are not being used and are unlikely to be developed for public traffic due to severe slopes.

**Staff comments:** The proposed vacations are currently undeveloped.

2. A road is impossible or impractical to construct, and alternative access has been provided;

**Surveyors' comments:** Road construction on 20%-60%+ grades is impossible or unreasonably hazardous; therefore, alternative access has been proposed through private easements.

**Staff comments:** The new lot will have access by Mill Street and Chamberlin Road.

3. The surrounding area is fully developed and all planned or needed rights-of-way and utilities are constructed:

**Surveyors' comments:** The steep topography limits further road network expansion. Combining parcels into one makes them more suitable for single-family use.

**Staff comments:** The proposed Tract will have access to city water, sewer, and electricity and no city agreement is required.

4. The vacation of a public right-of-way provides access to a lake, river, or other area with public interest or value, and if so, whether equal or superior access is provided;

**Surveyors' comments:** No public resources (lakes, rivers, etc.) exist here, so vacating these unused rights-of-way does **not** affect public access.

Staff comments:

5 The proposed vacation would limit opportunities for interconnectivity with adjacent parcels, whether developed or undeveloped;

**Surveyor's comments:** Prospects of interconnection with adjacent parcels are impractical due to intense slopes. Other property owners in this area may similarly vacate First Ave. and reconfigure, if needed.

**Staff comments:** Seward Townsite- Cliff Addition Chamberlain Road Replat (SW 93-3) vacated the adjacent north portion of the eastern alleyway. O'Brien Subdivision (SW 84-4) vacated the adjacent north portion of the western alleyway.

6. Other public access, other than general road use, exist or are feasible for the right-of-way;

Surveyor's comments: The proposed lot has access off of Vista Avenue and Ravina Street.

Staff comments: The new lot will have access by Mill Street, Ravina Street and Chamberlin Road.

7. All existing and future utility requirements are met. Rights-of-way which are utilized by a utility, or which logically would be required by a utility, shall not be vacated, unless it can be demonstrated that equal or superior access is or will be available. Where an easement would satisfactorily serve the utility interests, and no other public need for the right-of-way exists, the commission may approve the vacation and require that a utility easement be granted in place of the right-of-way.

**Surveyors' comments:** This is vacant land. There are no existing utilities. Water, sewer, and electric can be served off of Vista Avenue and Ravina Street.

**Staff comments:** City of Seward's Resolution 2025-040 states the proposed Tract will have access to city water, sewer, and electricity and no city agreement is required.

8. Any other factors that are relevant to the vacation application or the area proposed to be vacated.

**Surveyor's comments:** Retaining these steep, undeveloped corridors creates undue maintenance burdens and does not support safe or feasible public use.

**Staff comments:** A driveway for Lot 1, Block 6, is encroaching into the platted right-of-way of First Avenue. Vacating the right-of-way and combining the adjacent lots into one large lot will eliminate the driveway encroachment and provide the owners better access to their property and future development.

A KPB Planning Commission decision denying a vacation application is final. A KPB Planning Commission decision to approve the vacation application is subject to consent or veto by the KPB Assembly, or City Council if located within City boundaries. The Seward City Council must hear the vacation within thirty days of the Planning Commission decision.

If approved, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite Walker Replat will finalize the proposed right of way vacations. The Plat Committee is scheduled to review the plat on July 14, 2025.

<b><u>KPB department / agency</u></b> Addressing	Reviewer: Pace, Rhealyn
	Affected Addresses:
	1312 VISTA AVE, 1305 FIRST AVE, 1303 FIRST AVE, 104 MILL ST, 112
	MILL ST, 1303 CHAMBERLIN RD
	Existing Street Names are Correct: Yes
	List of Correct Street Names:
	Existing Street Name Corrections Needed:
	All New Street Names are Approved: No
	List of Approved Street Names:
	List of Street Names Denied:
	Comments:
	CITY OF SEWARD WILL ADVISE ON ADDRESSING
Code Compliance	Reviewer: Ogren, Eric
·	Comments: No comments
Planner	Reviewer: Raidmae, Ryan
	There are not any Local Option Zoning District issues with this proposed
	plat.
	Material Site Comments:
	There are not any material site issues with this proposed plat.
	Review Not Required
Assessing	Reviewer: Windsor, Heather
	Comments: No comment

**Utility provider review:** 

HEA	Located outside HEA's Service Area. No Comments.
ENSTAR	No comment or recommendations
ACS	
GCI	Approved as shown
SEWARD	
ELECTRIC	
CHUGACH	
ELECTRIC	
TELALASKA	

CITY OF SEWARD	No Concerns
EMS	

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

CORRECTIONS / EDITS

Add corrections to be made to drawing as noted

- Drawing should include the labeling of adjacent lots shown
- ROW Width should be noted
- Easement note in Lot 1 block 9 needs to have the BK # corrected to 34

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on consideration of the merits as per KPB 20.65.050(D) as outlined by Staff comments, Staff recommends APPROVAL as petitioned, subject to:

- 1. Consent by Seward City Council.
- 2. Compliance with the requirements for preliminary plats per Chapter 20 of the KPB Code including a submittal to and approval by the Plat Committee.
- 3. Grant utility easements requested by the Seward City Council and utility providers.
- 4. Submittal of a final plat within a timeframe such that the plat can be recorded within one year of vacation consent (KPB 20.65.050(I)).

#### KPB 20.65.050 – Action on vacation application

- H. A planning commission decision to approve a vacation is not effective without the consent of the city council, if the vacated area to be vacated is within a city, or by the assembly in all other cases. The council or assembly shall have 30 days from the date of the planning commission approval to either consent to or veto the vacation. Notice of veto of the vacation shall be immediately given to the planning commission. Failure to act on the vacation within 30 days shall be considered to be consent to the vacation. This provision does not apply to alterations of utility easements under KPB 20.65.070 which do not require the consent of the assembly or city council unless city code specifically provides otherwise.
- I. Upon approval of the vacation request by the planning commission and no veto by the city council or assembly, where applicable, the applicant shall have a surveyor prepare and submit a plat including the entire area approved for vacation in conformance with KPB 20.10.080. Only the area approved for vacation by the assembly or council may be included on the plat. The final plat must be recorded within one year of the vacation consent.
- J. A planning commission decision denying a vacation application is final. No reapplication or petition concerning the same vacation may be filed within one calendar year of the date of the final denial action except in the case where new evidence or circumstances exist that were not available or present when the original petition was filed.
- K. An appeal of the planning commission, city council or assembly vacation action under this chapter must be filed in the superior court in accordance with the Alaska Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Page **6** of **7** 

The 2019 Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan adopted November, 2019 by Ordinance No. 2019-25. The relevant objectives are listed.

Goal 3. Preserve and improve quality of life on the Kenai Peninsula Borough through increased access to local and regional facilities, activities, programs and services.

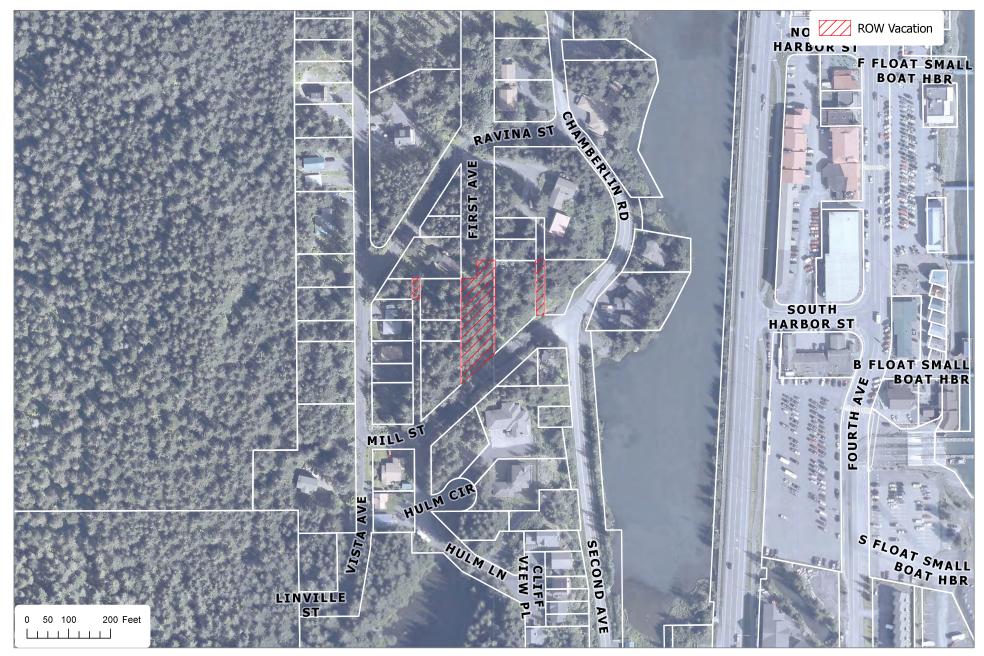
- Focus Area: Energy and Utilities
  - Objective A Encourage coordination or residential, commercial, and industrial development with extension of utilities and other infrastructure.
    - Strategy 1. Near Term: Maintain existing easements (especially section line easements) in addition to establishing adequate utility rights of way or easements to serve existing and future utility needs.
    - Strategy 2. Near Term: Maintain regular contact with utility operators to coordinate and review utility easement requests that are part of subdivision plat approval.
    - Strategy 3. Near Term: Identify potential utility routes on Borough lands.
- Housing
  - Objective D. Encourage efficient use of land, infrastructure and services outside incorporated cities by prioritizing future growth in the most suitable areas.
    - Strategy 1. Near Term: Collaborate with the AK Department of Transportation, incorporated cities within the borough, utility providers, other agencies overseeing local services, and existing communities located adjacent to the undeveloped areas that are appropriate for future growth, to align plans for future expansion of services to serve future residential development and manage growth.

Goal 4. Improve access to, from and connectivity within the Kenai Peninsula Borough

- Focus Area: Transportation
  - Objective B. Ensure new roads are developed in alignment with existing and planned growth and development.
    - Strategy 2. Near Term: Establish subdivision codes that dictate road construction standards to accommodate future interconnectivity and/or public safety.
    - Strategy 3. Near Term: Identify areas of anticipated growth to determine future access needs.

**END OF STAFF REPORT** 





Wetlands 6,

KPB File 2025-094V 6/16/2025

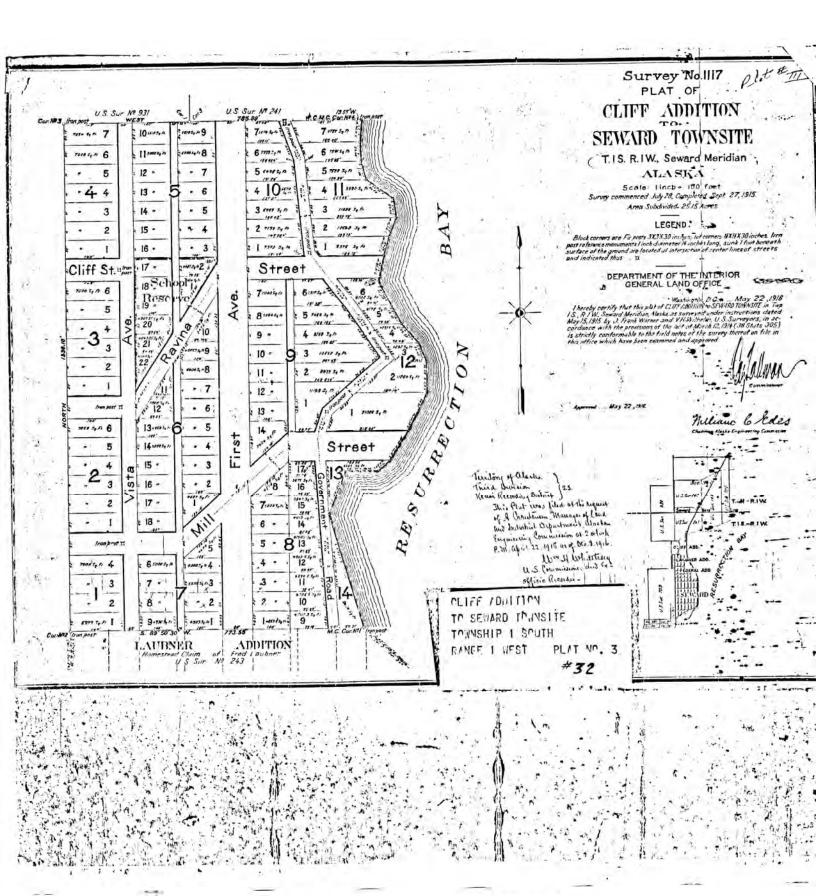




Aerial with 5-foot Contours

KPB File 2025-094V 6/16/2025 N N





2000 MS

## Planning & Zoning Commission

## Meeting Packet



# Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Council Chambers, City Hall

7:00 p.m.

# 1963 1965 2005

#### The City of Seward, Alaska

## PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA



City Council Chambers, 410 Adams Street

Please silence all cell phones and devices during the meeting

Chair Carol Griswold Vice Chair Brenan Hornseth Commissioner Nathaniel Charbonneau Commissioner Vanessa Verhey Commissioner Clare Sullivan

Commissioner Rhonda Hubbard Commissioner June Pemberton Community Development Director Daniel Meuninck City Planner Courtney Bringhurst Executive Assistant Clara Brown City Clerk Kris Peck

#### April 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. ROLL CALL
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY SUBJECT EXCEPT THOSE ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING (Those who have signed in will be given the first opportunity to speak. Time is limited to 3 minutes per speaker and 36 minutes total time for this agenda item.)
- 5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA (Approval of Consent Agenda passes all routine items listed under Item 6. Consent Agenda items are not considered separately unless a commissioner requests. No second or vote is needed. In the event of such a request, the item is returned to the Regular Agenda. Marked with \*.)
- 6. CONSENT AGENDA
  - A. Minutes of Preceding Meeting
    - 1)\* Approve March 4, 2025 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes......5
- 7. SPECIAL ORDERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND REPORTS
  - A. Proclamations and Awards None
  - B. City Administration Report
  - C. Other Reports and Announcements None
  - D. Presentations (Presentations are limited to ten minutes each, excluding Q&A, and are limited to two per meeting unless increased by the commission.) None
- 8. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Chair shall ask if any commissioner needs to declare a conflict of interest at this time. Public hearing comments are limited to five (5) minutes per person. After all speakers have spoken, a person may speak for a second time for no more than one (1) minute.)

#### A. Resolutions Requiring Public Hearing

- 3) Resolution 2025-015 of the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Seward, Alaska, Recommending City Council and Kenai Peninsula approval of the preliminary plat of 1312 Vista Avenue, 1305 First Avenue, 1303 First Avenue, 104 Mill Street, 112 Mill Street, and 1303 Chamberlin Road, vacating a portion of First Avenue right-of-way and alleyway rights-of-way and combining the six lots and vacated rights-of-way into one tract of land.

#### 9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. Resolutions

#### 10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolutions None
- B. Other New Business None

#### 11. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND REPORTS (No action required.)

- A. Reminder of upcoming P&Z Meetings
  - 1) **Canceled** work session on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 in lieu of Comprehensive Plan Town Hall meetings (see below).
  - Regular meeting on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers at City Hall.

#### B. Other Items

1) Comprehensive Town Hall workshops

- a. Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at 5:30pm at the K.M Rae Building
- b. Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025 at 5:30pm at the Bear Creek Fire Station
- c. Thursday, April 24th, 2025 at 5:30pm at the Seward High School library
- 12. FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS (There is no sign-in for this comment period. Time is limited to five (5) minutes per speaker.)
- 13. ADMINISTRATION AND COMMISSION COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 14. EXECUTIVE SESSION None
- 15. ADJOURNMENT

#### Planning and Zoning Agenda Statement

Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

To: Planning and Zoning Commission

Through: Daniel Meuninck, Community Development Director

From: Applicant

Agenda Item: Resolution 2025-015, of the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City

of Seward, Alaska, recommending Seward City Council and Kenai

Peninsula Borough approval of the preliminary plat of 1312 Vista Avenue, 1305 First Avenue, 1303 First Avenue, 104 Mill Street, 112 Mill Street, and 1303 Chamberlin Road, vacating a portion of First Avenue right-of-way and alleyway rights-of-way and combining the six lots and vacated

rights-of-way into one tract of land

#### Background and justification:

Attached for the Commission's review and recommendation to the Seward City Council and Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission is a preliminary plat submitted by AK Lands, Land Surveying LLC on behalf of the City of Seward.

The proposed plat is subdividing Lots 1-6 & 12, Block 6 and Lots 1 & 12-14, Block 9, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite with alleyway rights-of-way and First Avenue right-of-way vacations, creating Tract 1A, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite, Walker Replat.

The property owners began cutting a driveway into Lot 1, Block 6 (104 Mill Street) in early 2024. Due to the steep terrain, the construction of the driveway encroached onto the platted right-of-way (ROW) of First Avenue. Even though this is an undeveloped ROW, the development of a private driveway is not permitted in a ROW. The city does not have plans to develop this ROW due to the steep terrain, and recommended that the property owners work with a surveyor to vacate the ROW.

Vacating the ROW and creating one single parcel of land will allow the owners to complete the development of their driveway, which will give them better access to their land to explore the best locations for a residential dwelling and the necessary utility connections.

On August 28, 1984, the property owner of Lot 1, Block 9, Cliff Addition signed an agreement granting the City of Seward a portion of Lot 1 adjacent to Chamberlin Road for the construction, maintenance, repair and expansion of public utilities, roadway and embankment. As part of this agreement, the City agreed to support vacation of the alley right-of-way between Lots 1 and 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and the First Avenue right-of-way north of Mill Street between Lots 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Block 6, Cliff Addition in the future event of a replat being submitted for the above property.

Seward City Code §16.01.015(A) states that "No preliminary or final plat for the subdivision or resubdivision of land located within the city limits shall be approved by the city unless all of the required improvements set forth in section 16.05.010 are provided for by the subdivider, owner, proprietor or developer in the manner described in sections 16.05.015."

The proposed plat has access to developed rights-of-way and city water, sewer, and electricity. Thus, a subdivision agreement will not be required with this plat.

All conditions required by Seward City Code §16.01.015(C), Conditions to plat approval, were met. The property owners within 300 feet of the requested preliminary plat were notified of the proposed subdivision, and the property was posted with public notice signage.

Seward City Code §7.05.510(D) states that "The city manager may, at the direction of the City Council convey, quitclaim, release, cancel, or otherwise relinquish any real property easement, right-of-way, permit or license the city may have or hold for the purpose of installing, constructing or maintaining a public improvement or utility, whenever the interest is no longer used or useful for that purpose."

In accordance with City and Borough requirements, the Seward City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission must review and comment on a preliminary plat of city-owned land before submittal to the Borough for approval.

#### Subdivision Review:

**Zoning:** The property is currently zoned single-family residential (R1).

Size: Tract 1A will be 1.913 acres or 84,375 square feet.

Utilities: Tract 1A has access to city water, sewer, and electricity

Existing Use: Tract 1A is currently vacant.

<u>Access:</u> Tract 1A has access to Mill Street and the intersection of Ravina Street and Vista Avenue.

<u>Flood Zone</u>: The south edge of the property adjacent to Mill Street is located within the Seward Mapped Flood Data Area (SMFD). Development in this area is unlikely due to the very steep terrain, however, development within the SMFD may require additional permitting.

#### Comprehensive and Strategic Plan Consistency Information

This legislation is consistent with (citation listed):

Comprehensive

Vol 1, Chapter 2.2.11

Plan:

 "Promote infill development by encouraging and promoting construction on vacant sites in areas of the city which are already established."

Strategic Plan:

N/A

#### **Staff Comments**

Department	Comments	No	N/A
		Comment	
<b>Building Department</b>		X	
Fire Department		X	
Public Works		X	
Department			
Harbor Department		X	
Police Department		X	
Electric Department		X	
Telecommunications	7 4	X	

#### **Public Comment**

Property owners within three hundred (300) feet of the proposed platting action were notified of this public hearing. Public notice signs were posted on the property and all other public hearing requirements of Seward City Code §15.01.040 were complied with.

At the time of this publication the Community Development Department has received no public inquiries. If any correspondence is received after publication of this agenda statement, it will be submitted to the Commissioners for their review.

#### Recommendation

The Commission is required to provide a recommendation to City Council and the Kenai Peninsula Borough Commission if they feel it has met the requirements in Seward City Code Title 15 and 16. [SCC 16.01.015 B]

**Sponsored by:** Applicant **Public Hearing:** April 8, 2025

# CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RESOLUTION 2025-015

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA, RECOMMENDING SEWARD CITY COUNCIL AND KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH APPROVAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE TOTAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE SIX LOTS AND VACATING A PORTION OF FIRST AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND ALLEYWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND COMBINING THE SIX LOTS AND VACATED RIGHTS-OF-WAY INTO ONE TRACT OF LAND

WHEREAS, AK Lands, Land Surveying LLC has submitted a preliminary plat on behalf of the City of Seward for review and recommendation to the Seward City Council and Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plat is a subdivision of Lots 1-6 & 12, Block 6 and Lots 1 & 12-14, Block 9, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite with alleyway rights-of-way and First Avenue right-of-way vacations, creating Tract 1A, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite, Walker Replat; and

WHEREAS, all of the Lots are currently vacant and zoned single-family residential (R1); and

**WHEREAS**, the property owners began construction of a driveway from Mill Street in 2024;

WHEREAS, due to the steep terrain, the driveway ended up encroaching substantially into the First Avenue right-of-way (ROW); and

**WHEREAS,** the First Avenue ROW in the Cliff Addition is undeveloped and the City of Seward does not have plans to develop it; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Works Director and Community Development staff recommended that the property owner work with a surveyor to vacate the ROW; and

WHEREAS, vacating the ROW and creating one single parcel of land will allow the owners to complete the development of their driveway; and

WHEREAS, a completed driveway will give the owners better access to their land to explore the feasibility for residential dwellings and the necessary utility connections; and

#### CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA RESOLUTION 2025-015

WHEREAS, a portion of Lot 1, Block 9 was granted to the City of Seward in an agreement dated August, 28, 1984 for the construction, maintenance, repair and expansion of public utilities, roadway and embankment; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of this dedication of land for city use, the 1984 agreement stated that the City agrees to support vacation of the alley right-of-way between Lots 1 and 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and the First Avenue right-of-way north of Mill Street between Lots 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Block 6, Cliff Addition in the future event of a replat of the above property; and

**WHEREAS,** the size of proposed Tract 1A meets the required minimum lot size and lot width for the single-family residential zoning district; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Floodplain map, Tract 1A is not within a FEMA mapped flood zone; and

WHEREAS, the southern edge of Tract 1A is within the Seward Mapped Flood Data Area (SMFD); and

WHEREAS, development on the southern edge of Tract 1A is unlikely due to the steep terrain, however, development within the SMFD may require additional permitting; and

WHEREAS, Tract 1A has access to city water, sewer, and electricity; and

WHEREAS, Tract 1A has access to Mill Street and the intersection of Ravina Street and Vista Avenue; and

WHEREAS, a subdivision agreement will not be required with this plat; and

WHEREAS, all conditions required by Seward City Code §16.01.015, Conditions to plat approval, were met; the property owners within 300 feet of the requested replat were notified of the proposed subdivision, and the property was posted with public notice signage; and

WHEREAS, Seward City Code §7.05.510(D) states that "The city manager may, at the direction of the City Council convey, quitclaim, release, cancel, or otherwise relinquish any real property easement, right-of-way, permit or license the city may have or hold for the purpose of installing, constructing or maintaining a public improvement or utility, whenever the interest is no longer used or useful for that purpose"; and

WHEREAS, it is the Planning and Zoning Commission's responsibility to act in an advisory capacity to the Seward City Council and the Kenai Peninsula Borough regarding subdivision plat proposals within the City of Seward.

#### CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA RESOLUTION 2025-015

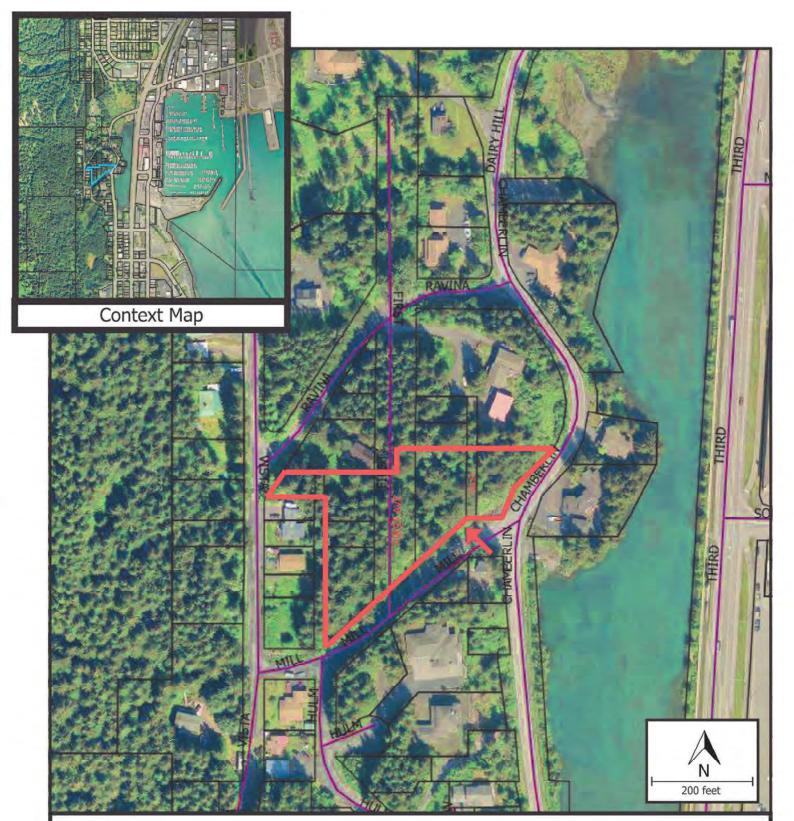
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Seward Planning and Zoning Commission, that:

**Section 1.** The Commission hereby recommends that in accordance with Seward City Code Section 16.01.015 (B), the Seward City Council and Kenai Peninsula Borough approve the submittal of the preliminary plat of Lots 1-6 & 12, Block 6 and Lots 1 & 12-14, Block 9, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite with alleyway rights-of-way and First Avenue right-of-way vacations, creating Tract 1A, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite, Walker Replat

**Section 2.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Seward Planning and Zoning Commission this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.

	THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA
	Carol Griswold, Chair
AYES: NOES: ABSENT: ABSTAIN:	
ATTEST:	
Kris Peck	
City Clerk	
(City Seal)	



## Preliminary Plat Application Property Map

RES 2025-015 - Vacating a portion of First Avenue ROW and alley to the east, and combining Lots 1-6 & 12, Block 6 and Lots 1 & 12-14, Block 9, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite

Location: 1312 Vista Ave, 1305 First Ave, 1303 First Ave, 104 Mill St, 112 Mill St, 1303 Chamberlin

Rd

Parcel #: 14705016, 14705008, 14705007, 14705006, 14721001, 14721007



### Community Development/ Planning & Zoning

410 Adams Street, Seward, Alaska 99664 \*(907) 224-4049 \* (907) 224-4020 or email: planning@cityofseward.net

#### **PRELIMINARY PLAT SUBMITTAL FORM**

☑PRELIMINARY PLAT ☐ REVISED PRELIMINAI	RY PLAT (no fee required)
PHASED PRELIMINARY PLAT PRELIMINARY	Y PLAT FOR PRIVATE STREETS / GATED SUBDIVISION
All requirements of Seward	d Code Title 16 apply and must be met.
SUBDIVISION PLAT NAME: must not include businessed	iness names, contact staff for assistance if needed.
LIFF ADDITION TO SEWARD TOWNS	SITE WALKER REPLAT
PROPERTY INFORMATION:	
	AND LOTS 1, AND 12-14, BLOCK 9 CLIFF ADDITION TO
SEWARD TOWNSITE PLAT N	10.3
	4 AND THE SW1/4 OF SEC 3, T1S, R1W
General area description West of Seward L	
City Seward	Total Acreage 1.916 acres
SURVEYOR	
Company: AK Lands Land Surveying	Contact Person: Stacy Wessel
Mailing Address: PO Box 110485	City, State, Zip Anchorage, AK 99511
Phone: (907) 744-LAND	e-mail: stacy@aklands.com
DDODOGED WASTEWATER AND WATER SURDI	w.
PROPOSED WASTEWATER AND WATER SUPPL WASTEWATER ✓ on site ✓ City	WATER <b>√</b> on site <b>√</b> City
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SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS	
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E3-27

The preliminary plat shall be drawn to scale of sufficient size to be clearly legible and shall clearly show the

	Within the title block:		Not applicable to my plat.	The required information has been shown/noted
	а.	Name of the subdivision which shall not be the same as an existing city, town, tract, or subdivision of land in the borough, of which a plat has been previously recorded, or so nearly the same as to mislead the public or cause confusion;		\ \ \
	b.	Legal description, location, date, and total area in acres of the proposed subdivision; and		
	c.	Name and address of owner(s), as shown on the KPB records and the certificate to plat, and registered land surveyor;		
2.	North	point;		
3.	public such	ocation, width and name of existing or platted streets and ways, railroad rights-of-way, and other important features as section lines or political subdivisions or municipal ration boundaries abutting the subdivision;		\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
4.	subdi	nity map, drawn to scale showing location of proposed vision, north arrow if different from plat orientation, township ange, section lines, roads, political boundaries, and prominent al and manmade features, such as shorelines or streams;		<b>/</b>
5.	and the for the togeth	rcels of land including those intended for private ownership nose to be dedicated for public use or reserved in the deeds a use of all property owners in the proposed subdivision, her with the purposes, conditions, or limitations of reservations could affect the subdivision;		<b>I</b>
6.		ames and widths of public streets and alleys and easements, ng and proposed, within the subdivision;		<b>\</b>
7.	Status of adjacent lands, including names of subdivisions, lot lines, block numbers, lot numbers, rights-of-way; or an indication that the adjacent land is not subdivided;			<b>\</b>
8.	Approximate locations of areas subject to inundation, flooding, or storm water overflow, the line of ordinary high water, wetlands when adjacent to lakes or non-tidal streams, and the appropriate study which identifies a floodplain, if applicable;		<b>/</b>	
9;	Approximate locations of areas subject to tidal inundation and the mean high water line;		J	
10.	Block and lot numbering approximate dimensions and total numbers of proposed lots;		- "	
11.	The approximate location of known existing municipal wastewater and water mains, and other utilities within the subdivision and immediately abutting thereto			<b>\</b>
12.	Contours at suitable intervals when any roads are to be dedicated unless the planning director or commission finds evidence that road grades will not exceed 6 percent on arterial streets, and 10 percent on other streets;			<b>/</b>
13.	Approximate locations of slopes over 20 percent in grade and if contours are shown, the areas of the contours that exceed 20 percent grade shall be clearly labeled as such;			<b>\</b>
	Appai	rent encroachments, with a statement indicating how the	. /	

Subdivision Name:	Date



Signature

PO Box 110485 Anchorage, AK 99515 (907) 744-LAND aklands@aklands.com http://aklands.com

January 16, 2025

City of Seward and Kenai Peninsula Borough Subject: CLIFF ADDITION TO SEWARD TOWNSITE WALKER REPLAT - Letter of Authorization To whom is may concern, KD We, GREGG GEORGE WALKER &KATHLEEN MARIE STUBBLEFIELD DAVIS are the owners, or authorized agents of LOTS 1-3, 5-6, BLOCK 6 and LOTS 1,12-14, BLOCK, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite Plat no. 3 and authorize AK Lands, Land Surveying LLC to represent us before the City of Seward and Kenai Peninsula Borough for all requests related to the platting action, right of way vacation, and its related activities. KATHLEEN MARIE DAVIS Name athleen Marie Davis Date Signature Name

Date



PO Box 110485 Anchorage, AK 99515 (907) 744-LAND aklands@aklands.com http://aklands.com

January 16, 2025

City of Seward and Kenai Peninsula Borough

Subject: CLIFF ADDITION TO SEWARD TOWNSITE WALKER REPLAT -- Letter of Authorization

To whom is may concern,

I, <u>ERIC JOHN WALKER</u>, is the owner, or authorized agent of LOTS 1-6, 12 BLOCK 6 and LOTS 1,12-14, BLOCK 9, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite Plat no. 3 and authorize AK Lands, Land Surveying LLC to represent us before the City of Seward and Kenai Peninsula Borough for all requests related to the platting action, right of way vacation, and its related activities.

Name

Signature

Date

1 of 1



PO Box 110485 Anchorage, AK 99515 (907) 744-LAND aklands@aklands.com http://aklands.com

January 16, 2025

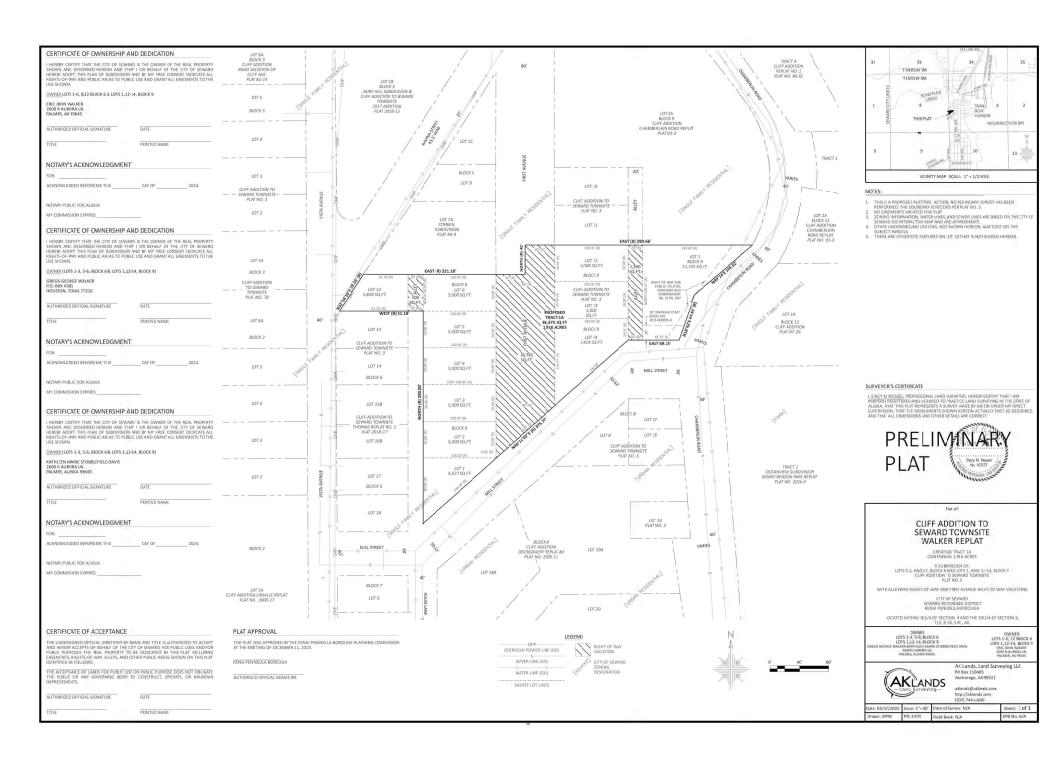
City of Seward and Kenai Peninsula Borough Subject: CLIFF ADDITION TO SEWARD TOWNSITE WALKER REPLAT – Letter of Authorization To whom is may concern,

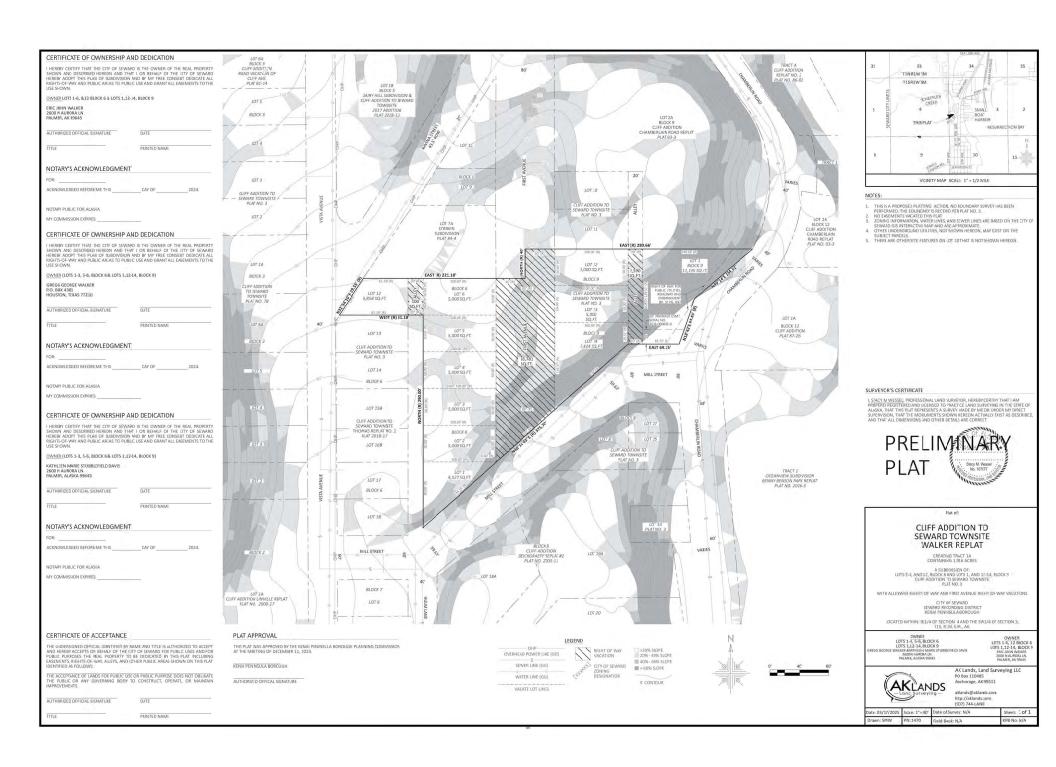
We, \_\_GREGG GEORGE WALKER &KATHLEEN MARIE STUBBLEFIELD DAVIS\_, are the owners, or authorized agents of LOTS 1-3, 5-6, BLOCK 6 and LOTS 1,12-14, BLOCK, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite Plat no. 3 and authorize AK Lands, Land Surveying LLC to represent us before the City of Seward and Kenai Peninsula Borough for all requests related to the platting action, right of way vacation, and its related activities.

Gregg Geo	ree WALKER
Name	
Dregg Boorge	u/celh-
- 11	1-18-2025
Signature	Date

Name
Signature 58 Date

E3-31







PO Box 110485 Anchorage, AK 99515 (907) 744-LAND aklands@aklands.com http://aklands.com

March 17, 2025

City of Seward Planning Commission 410 Adams St. Seward, AK 99664

Subject: Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite-ROW Vacation

Dear Kenai Peninsula Borough and City of Seward,

On behalf of AK Lands and the Walker family, I am pleased to submit this request for a **replat** of multiple parcels located within the **Cliff Addition to the Seward Townsite**, **Plat No. 3**. Our goal is to consolidate several steep and largely inaccessible lots into one lot that meets single-family residential zoning requirements while addressing the challenges posed by the area's extreme topography.

#### Overview of Proposed Replat

The replat involves two blocks, and the vacation of First Avenue right-of-way and 2 alleyways into one newly configured lot, specifically:

#### 1. Proposed Tract A-1-1.916 acres

 Created by combining Lots 1-6, and 12, Block 6, plus the adjoining alleyway and a portion of First Avenue and combining Lots 12-14, and 1, Block 9, plus the remaining portion of First Avenue and the alleyway.

#### **Supporting Materials**

- · Three Preliminary Plats:
  - 1. Without contours or slope shading (to clearly depict the subdivision boundaries)
  - 2. With topographic contours
  - 3. With both contours and hatched slope areas
- Additionally, an exhibit is provided as a close-up view of the proposed parcel, highlighting contours and slope hatch areas that exceed 20%, 40%, and even 60% in some places.
- Easement Document (Book 34, Page 897, dated August 24, 1984)
  In 1984, an easement was granted to the City for the expansion of public utilities, roadway, and embankment. Within this document, the City expressed support for vacating the alley right-of-way between Lots 1 and 12, 13, 14, Block 9 and the First Avenue right-of-way north of Mill Street between Lots 12, 13, 14, Block 9 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Block 6. The current request aligns with that earlier intent by consolidating steep, underutilized corridors and providing more manageable access.

#### Reason for Replat and Right-of-Way Vacations

#### Steep Terrain and Inaccessibility

- Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 6:
  - \$arah Walker intends to build a single-family home on these lots, yet access is currently impractical. The slopes approach 30% to the north (where First Avenue is platted) and over 60% to the south (where we are vacating), making a driveway virtually impossible. Alley access is also rendered unsafe by similarly treep grades.
- Lots 12, 13, 14, and 1, Block 9:

These lots face comparable challenges, with slopes exceeding 60%. Road connections from Mill Street or Chamberlain Road cannot be developed feasibly due to extreme terrain, which is in some places essentially a cliff.

Lots 6, 5, and 4, Block 6:
 These lots also lack viable access from either First Avenue or existing alleys because of the high grades.

Because of this topography, maintaining platted but undeveloped roads and alleys is neither practical nor beneficial to the public. Currently, there are no existing utilities within the lots and vacated rights-of-ways. Sewer, water and electric utilities will be served from Vista Avenue and Ravina Street.

#### Responses to Right-of-Way Vacation Criteria

- Current Use: The rights-of-way to be vacated are not being used and are unlikely to be developed for public traffic due to severe slopes.
- Construction Impracticality: Road construction on 20%-60%+ grades is impossible or unreasonably hazardous; therefore, alternative access has been proposed through private easements.
- Fully Developed Surrounding Area: The steep topography limits further road network expansion, Combining parcels into one makes them more suitable for single-family use.
- Public Access to Valued Resources: No public resources (lakes, rivers, etc.) exist here, so vacating these
  unused rights-of-way does not affect public access.
- Potential Interconnectivity: Prospects of interconnection with adjacent parcels are impractical due to intense slopes. Other property owners in this area may similarly vacate First Ave. and reconfigure, if needed.
- 6. Alternative Access: The proposed lot has access off of Vista Avenue and Ravina St.
- Utility Requirements: This is vacant land. There are no existing utilities. Water, sewer, and electric can be served off of Vista Avenue and Ravina St.
- No Other Public Need: Retaining these steep, undeveloped corridors creates undue maintenance burdens and does not support safe or feasible public use.

#### Conclusion and Request

Due to the extreme terrain, current parcel boundaries and rights-of-way are not conducive to practical development. By reconfiguring the lots into Proposed Tract A-1, we will ensure a suitable residential parcel that is safer to develop and access. We therefore respectfully request:

- 1. Approval of the Replat: Adoption of the attached preliminary plat configuration.
- 2. Right-of-Way Vacations: Allowance for vacation of unused, steep portions of alleys and First Avenue.

2 of 3

Thank you for considering our proposal. We look forward to working with the City of Seward and the Kenal Peninsula Borough to ensure a successful and responsible subdivision.

Stacy Wessel

AK Lands, Land Surveying by

Stacy Wessel, Professional Land Surveyor

#### RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMIT

BOOK 34 PAGE 897

Seward Recording District

This agreement is made this 24 day of Occupant, 1984, by and between Gregg G. Walker, Executor for the estate of Mark C. Walker, hereinafter referred to as "Grantor", and the City of Seward, Alaska, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Alaska, hereinafter referred to as "City".

#### WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Grantor is the fee simple owner of certain real property described below which is located within the City of Seward, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to construct improvements to the public road on grantor's property, and install public utilities in the roadway;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

- Grantor does hereby grant to the City a Right-of-Entry in the real property described below for the location, construction, maintenance, repair and expansion of public utilities, roadway and embankment.
- The said Right-of-Entry shall exist in favor of City, its successors and assigns for so long as the City, its successors or assigns deem the presence of public utilities, roadway and embankment.
- The said agreement shall and does hereby exist in the following described real property:

#### PARCEL 7A

2

Real property in the City of Seward, Alaska, being a portion of Lot 1, Block 9, Cliff Addition as described on Survey Plat #1117 recorded at the Seward Recording Office; more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot 1 and also being on the South line of Lot 2, Block 9, Cliff Addition and West line of Government Road; thence along the North line of Lot 1 West 26.69 feet; thence leaving said North line South 37°33'26" West 86.12 feet to the angle point of the East line of Lot 1 and the West line of Government Road; thence leaving said East and West lines South 31°58'29" West 72.19 feet to the South line of Lot 1; thence along the South line of Lot 1 East 17.5 feet to the East line of Lot 1; thence leaving said South line along the East line of Lot 1, also being the West line of Government Road North 18°42' East 64.65 feet to the angle point of the East line of Lot 1 and North 49°14' East 104.55 feet to the North line of Lot 1 and the point of beginning; containing 1446.9 square feet.

- 4. City agrees to hold Grantor harmless from claims arising out of injuries to persons or property caused by City's defective utility fixtures, construction and repairs to roadway and embankment.
- 5. In consideration of the foregoing, the City agrees to support vacation of the alley Right-of-Way between Lots I and 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and the First Avenue Right-of-Way North of Mill Street between Lots 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Block 6, Cliff Addition at the time application for a replat of the above property is submitted to the Kenai Peninsula Planning Commission.
- 6. Grantor agrees to grant to the City title and all rights to the property described as Parcel 7A above at such time when the property is replatted by owner.

RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMIT (Cont'd) PAGE 898 Seward Recording District **GRANTOR:** CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA: Estate of Mark C. Walker. ATTEST: STATE OF ALASKA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT ) ss. BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, , known to me and instrument and who acknowledged to me that <u>ho</u> signed and se same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 2 / th day of Current, 198 signed and sealed the NOTARY PUBLIC in and for Alaska My Commission Expires: 4-18. STATE OF ALASKA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT ) ss. BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, sealed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 38 day of AUCUST , 1954. Chickey.

RECORFED TILED My Commiss
SENATO TECORDING
DISTRICT

NOTARY PUBLIC in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4 21 3

Auc 28 8 25 AH '84

ADDRESS Box 167, Seward AK 99664

4 7.10 4160



April 2, 2025

City of Seward Planning Commission 410 Adams St. Seward, AK 99664

Subject: Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite-KPB exception Request

#### Dear Kenai Peninsula Borough and City of Seward Officials:

On behalf of AK Lands and the Walker family, I am pleased to submit this request for a replat of multiple parcels within the Cliff Addition to the Seward Townsite, Plat No. 3. Our goal is to consolidate several steep and largely inaccessible lots into a single lot that meets single-family residential zoning requirements while addressing the area's extreme topography.

In conjunction with this replat, we respectfully request an exception to Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Code 20.30.120—which generally requires a 60-foot right-of-way (ROW) width for streets—due to the following unique conditions:

#### 1. Overview of Proposed Replat

#### 1. Proposed Tract A-1 (1.916 Acres)

- Combines Lots 1–6 and 12 of Block 6 (including the adjoining alleyway and part of First Avenue) with Lots 12–14 and 1 of Block 9 (including the remaining portion of First Avenue and an alleyway).
- Vacating First Avenue and two alleyways will create one consolidated parcel better suited for single-family residential use.

#### 2. Request for Exception to ROW Widths

- Vista Avenue: 40–46.5 feet wide (Plats 2018-17, 2018-13)
- o Mill Street: 59.62 feet wide (Plats 2002-21, 2005-11)
- Ravina Street: 43.5 feet wide (Plat 2018-3)
- Chamberlain Road: 59.7 feet wide plus an embankment/utility easement effectively exceeding
   60 feet

#### 2. Responses to Required Criteria for Exception (KPB Code)

Criterion 1: "That special circumstances or conditions affecting the property have been shown by application."

- Extreme Topography: Slopes range from 30% to over 60%, making standard road construction infeasible.
- Minimal Traffic: These segments do not serve high-traffic corridors.
- Existing Infrastructure: Roads such as Mill Street, Chamberlain Road, and Vista Avenue already provide
  utilities and drainage; requiring a few extra feet for ROW width offers little improvement.

**Criterion 2**: "That the exception is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right and is the most practical manner of complying with the intent of this title."

- Preservation of Usable Lot: Strictly enforcing a 60-foot ROW would force impractical dedication, preventing feasible construction on already steep parcels.
- Previously Granted Exceptions: Past plats (2002-21, 2005-11, 2018-17, 2018-3) have recognized similar challenges and provided exceptions ranging from 40 to 59.62 feet.

Criterion 3: "That the granting of the exception will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to other property in the area in which said property is situated."

- Not a Main Thoroughfare: Vista Avenue, Ravina Street, and other ROWs in question are low-traffic.
- No Public Need for Additional ROW: Fractional differences from 60 feet do not hinder public access or utility installation; existing infrastructure is sufficient.
- Steep, Undeveloped Corridors: Retaining unused steep ROWs creates maintenance liabilities without public benefit.

#### 3. Conclusion

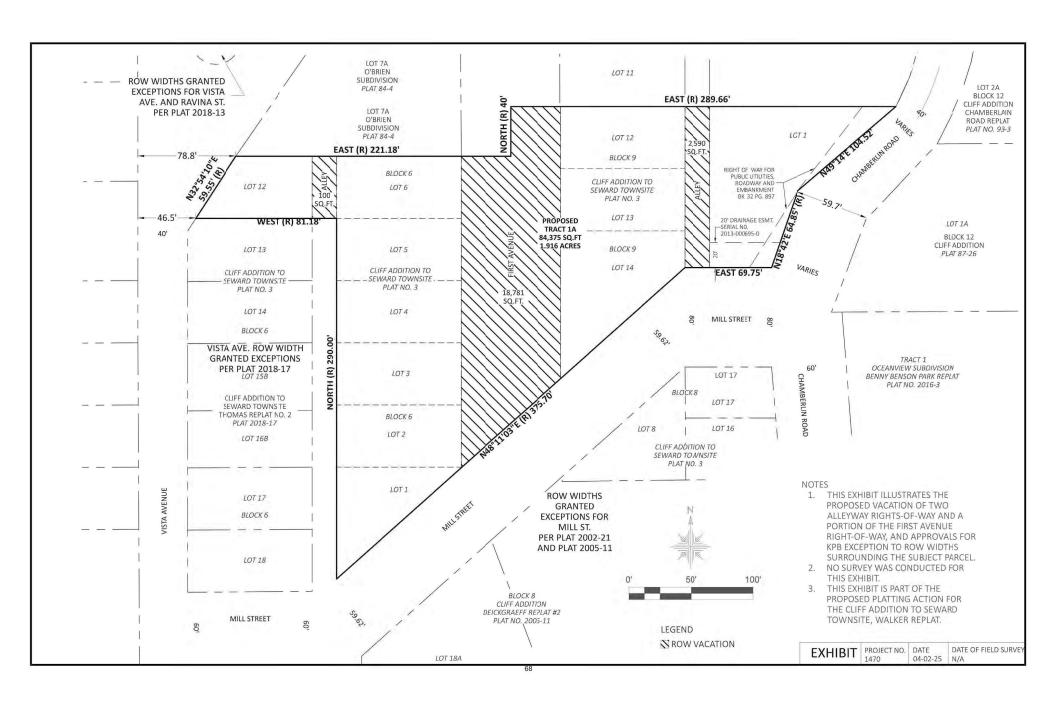
We believe the proposed replat and associated ROW exceptions serve both private and public interests. Extreme slopes, minimal traffic, and existing infrastructure, along with prior plat exceptions, confirm that strict 60-foot ROW compliance is unnecessary. Granting this request allows the property to be responsibly developed without compromising public safety or welfare.

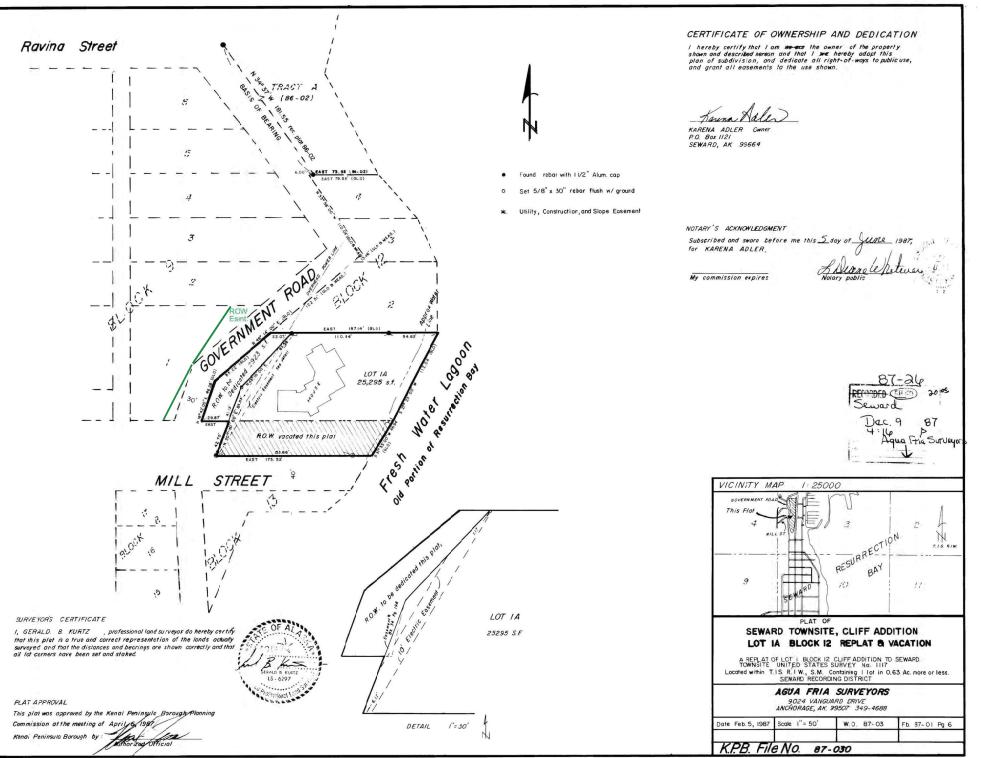
Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me with any questions or if further information is needed.

Stacy Wessel

AK Lands, Land Surveying by

Stacy Wessel, Professional Land Surveyor





# CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE



Clara Brown , upon oath, deposes and states:

That she is employed in the Community Development Office of the City of Seward, Alaska; and that on Nach 20, 2025 she mailed a Notice of Public Hearing to the real property owners within a 300-foot periphery of Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite, Lots 1-6 & 12, Block 6 and Lots 1 & 12-14, Block 9; Located at 1312 Vista Ave, 1305 First Ave, 1303 First Ave, 104 Mill St, 112 Mill St, 1303 Chamberline Rd as prescribed by Seward City Code 15.01.040/16.01.015.

Affirmed and signed this 20th day of March 2025.

Claro Boron

## AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE



Com Walker			
I, Sara Walker , hereby certify that I have posted a			
Notice of Public Hearing, as prescribed by Seward City Code 15.01.040 for the			
property located at Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite, Lots 1-6 &			
12, Block 6 and Lots 1 & 12-14, Block 9; Located at 1312 Vista			
Ave, 1305 First Ave, 1303 First Ave, 104 Mill St, 112 Mill St,			
1303 Chamberline Rd, the owners of which have petitioned for a Public			
Hearing to replat the above named property, vacating a portion of First			
Avenue ROW and alley to the east, and combining Lots 1-6 & 12, Block 6 and			
Lots 1 & 12-14, Block 9, creating Tract 1A, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite,			
Walker Replat.			
The notice was posted on March 20, 2025, which is 19			
days prior to the public hearing on this petition. I acknowledge this Notice			
must be posted in plain sight, maintained and displayed until all public			
hearings have been completed.			
Affirmed and signed this 20 day of March, 2025.			
Salvalte			
Signature			

#### CALL TO ORDER

The April 8, 2025, regular meeting of the Planning & Zoning Commission was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Carol Griswold.

#### OPENING CEREMONY

Commissioner Rhonda Hubbard led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

#### ROLL CALL

There were present:

Carol Griswold, presiding, and Brenan Hornseth
Nathaniel Charbonneau
Vanessa Verhey
Rhonda Hubbard
Clare Sullivan
June Pemberton

comprising a quorum of the Commission; and

Daniel Meuninck, Community Development Director Courtney Bringhurst, City Planner Clara Brown, Executive Assistant Jodi Kurtz, Deputy City Clerk

Excused – Verhey, Hornseth Absent – None

Vacant - None

#### CITIZEN COMMENTS ON ANY SUBJECT - None

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Charbonneau/Sullivan)

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Motion Passed

Unanimous

The clerk read the following approved consent agenda items:

Approve March 4, 2025, Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes

#### SPECIAL ORDERS, PRESENTATION, AND REPORTS

Proclamations and Awards - None

#### City Administration Report

Community Development Director Daniel Meuninck reminded everyone of the upcoming Comprehensive Plan Town Hall Workshops. He said a third-party facilitator will guide the workshops, and the surveys will remain open until May 31st. He also announced that the Kenai Peninsula Borough's Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan is open for public comment until April 30th. The Bureau of Land Management is also seeking input on revising the Iditarod National Historic Trail Management Plan. He added that the city is promoting e-notifications for more efficient communication on local projects and updates. Lastly, Meuninck shared some insights from his experience at the National Planning Conference in Denver. Seward had a theme of resiliency with geographical challenges and history of growth.

#### Other Reports and Announcements - None

Presentations - None

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS

#### Resolutions Requiring Public Hearing

Resolution 2025-013, of The Planning And Zoning Commission of the City of Seward, Alaska, Granting a Conditional Use Permit to Tirebrand LLC To Operate an Auto Repair Shop at 801 Third Avenue Within an Auto Commercial (AC) Zoning District

This is a quasi-judicial hearing. Commissioners may not discuss any items pertaining to this Resolution with the applicant, other commissioners, or the public:

City Planner Courtney Bringhurst explained that property at 801 Third Avenue has traditionally been an auto service business. It was purchased by Tirebrand LLC in 2023. The business initially offered tire and lube services which are allowed in the area. This year, Tirebrand added mechanical repairs to their services, which requires a CUP for auto repair business.

Notice of the public hearing being posted and published as required by law was noted and the public hearing was opened

Chad Higgins, inside city limits, stated that he owned Tirebrand and bought property in an autocommercial zone, expecting to run the Tirebrand automotive business without extra restrictions. He felt this CUP was unnecessary and should be removed. This process added costs and complications to his business. His business operates at a loss part of the year to provide a needed service in Seward, and he disagreed with this permit requirement. Charbonneau wanted clarification on the lots north of the business which were used for parking cars. The business owner said the lots are owned by a business partner of Maverick LLC, but there was confusion about the exact ownership and usage.

No one else appeared and the public hearing was closed,

#### Motion (Charbonneau/Hubbard)

#### Approve Resolution 2025-013

P&Z discussed the conditional use permit (CUP) for the business operating as an auto repair shop. They also discussed the parking and the different property boundaries and where Tirebrand parks the cars. The commissioners suggest that a formal parking agreement could clarify the situation.

Griswold proposed an amendment to add a condition for this CUP that would state: the two adjacent parcels to the north, Parcels 14714015 and 14714006, are required to comply with SCC §15.10.215 Parking E.2. This amendment was discussed and then failed.

#### Motion Passed

#### Unanimous

**Resolution 2025-014**, of the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Seward, Alaska, Recommending City Council and Kenai Peninsula Borough approval of the preliminary plat of 204 Lowell Canyon Road and 206 Lowell Court, vacating the eastern portion of the Lowell Court right-of-way and vacating the southern 10° of the property located at 204 Lowell Canyon Road

#### Motion (Charbonneau/Hubbard)

#### Approve Resolution 2025-014

Bringhurst referenced the 2023 Municipal Lands Inventory and Management Plan, and how the commission recommended vacating the 50-foot right-of-way and the southern 10 feet of 204 Lowell Canyon Road. She explained how this would benefit residential development and the landowners.

Notice of the public hearing being posted and published as required by law was noted and the public hearing was opened. No one else appeared and the public hearing was closed.

The commission discussed building a home or structure, easements and setbacks, and what was considered enough space for good-sized property. The goal was to make the land more useful and easier to sell. They discussed the right-of-way and how it will be split between the landowners.

Administration handed out a laydown from the AK Lands Surveying company for added clarification.

Resolution 2025-014 was amended to incorporate the AK Lands April 8, 2025 letter to replace the AK Lands October 18, 2024 letter in the packet backup materials.

#### Motion as Amended Passed

#### Unanimous

Resolution 2025-015, of the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Seward, Alaska, Recommending City Council and Kenai Peninsula Borough approval of the preliminary plat of 1312 Vista Avenue, 1305 First Avenue, 1303 First Avenue, 104 Mill Street, 112 Mill Street, and 1303 Chamberlin Road, vacating a portion of First Avenue right-of-way and alleyway rights-of-way and combining the six lots and vacated rights-of-way into one tract of land

#### Motion (Charbonneau/Sullivan)

#### Approve Resolution 2025-015

Bringhurst explained how the six lots are located west of the lagoon and are owned by three related people. She shared that the Community Development staff and Public Works Director made recommendations to create this preliminary plat to remove the right-of-way, which would give the owners full access to their property. She explained how it would help plan for utilities and future development.

Land Surveyor Stacey Wessel explained how vacating both rights-of-way was considered and how the city has already supported vacating the alley right-of-way. This would allow the property owners to develop the land for housing and utilities. She felt it was an important step in making the land usable.

Notice of the public hearing being posted and published as required by law was noted and the public hearing was opened. No one else appeared and the public hearing was closed.

The commission discussed removing the alleyway and part of First Avenue to make it easier for property owners to develop their land and that it would help both landowners and the overall area design. Approving the plat would help with housing development which was a main goal in the comprehensive plan.

#### Motion Passed

#### Unanimous

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### Resolutions

Resolution 2025-009, of the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Seward, Alaska, Recommending City Council approval of the land use amendment to rezone the property located at 1604 Phoenix Road from a Two-Family (R2) zoning district to an Auto Commercial (AC) zoning district.

[This is a quasi-legislative hearing. Commissioners may discuss items pertaining to this Resolution. This item was postponed until the March 4, 2025 meeting so the applicant and more commissioners could be present.]

Bringhurst explained that Jacob Bridges owns 1604 Phoenix Road, a 0.27 acre property, and had requested a rezoning from two-family residential to auto-commercial. Since the property just west of 1604 Phoenix Road is already auto commercial, the rezoning would make the property

## Seward City Council Agenda Packet



Photo by Kris Peck

### Monday, April 28, 2025

City Council Chambers

Beginning at 7:00 p.m.

## 1963 1965 2005 All-America City

#### The City of Seward, Alaska

#### CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA



City Council Chambers, 410 Adams Street

Please silence all cell phones and devices during the meeting

Mayor Sue McClure Vice Mayor John Osenga Council Member Randy Wells Council Member Kevin Finch Council Member Robert Barnwell Council Member Julie Crites Council Member Casie Warner City Manager Kat Sorensen Deputy City Manager Jason Bickling City Clerk Kris Peck City Attorney Sam Severin

	Monday, April 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.		
1.	CALL TO ORDER		
2.	PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE		
3.	ROLL CALL		
4.	PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS		
	A. Recognition of Service for HR Manager Tammy Nickell		
	B. Recognition of Service for Police Chief Alan Nickell		
	C. Recognition of Service for Sgt. Patrick Messmer		
5.	CITIZEN COMMENTS ON ANY SUBJECT EXCEPT THOSE ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING (Those who have signed in will be given the first opportunity to speak Time is limited to 3 minutes per speaker and 36 minutes total time for this agenda item)		
6.	APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA (*Approval of Consent Agenda passes all routine items listed. Consent Agenda items are not considered separately unless a council member requests an item be moved to New Business)		
	A. Minutes of Preceding Meeting		
	1) *Approval of the April 14, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes		
	B. Introduction of Ordinances – None		
	C. Resolutions		
	1) *Resolution 2025-038: Requesting the State of Alaska Legislators Make a Meaningful Increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for Public Schools		
	2) *Resolution 2025_039: Recommending Kenai Peninsula Borough Approval of the Preliminary Plat of 204 Lowell Canyon Road and 206 Lowell Court, Vacating the Eastern Portion of the Lowell Court Right-of-Way and Vacating the Southern 10' of the Property Located at 204 Lowell Canyon Road		

	3	*Resolution 2025-040: Recommending Kenai Peninsula Borough Approval of the Preliminary Plat of 1312 Vista Avenue, 1305 First Avenue, 1303 First Avenue, 104 Mill Street, 112 Mill Street, and 1303 Chamberlin Road, Vacating a Portion of First Avenue Right-of-Way and Alleyway Rights-of-Way and Combining the Six Lots and Vacated Rights-of-Way into One Tract of Land
	4	*Resolution 2025-041: Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase Electric Utility Materials from Anixter and General Pacific for the Electric Department's Annual Material Restocking in the Amount of \$138,676.94 with a 10% Contingency on Each Order Not to Exceed \$152,544.63 Total
	5	*Resolution 2025-042: Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Ingersoll Enterprises for Custodial Services at the Harbormaster's Office and Restrooms in the Harbor Area, in the Amount of \$45,345 Annually for a Term of Three Years
	6	*Resolution 2025-043: Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract for Custodial Services with Ravenquest Housing & Maintenance for the Seward Community Library & Museum in the Amount of \$72,000 Annually for a Term of Two Years.
	7	*Resolution 2025-044: Authorizing the City Manager to Accept the Proposal from KPFF Consulting Engineers to Provide Project Management for the Shore Power Project at the Port of Seward in the Amount of \$398,039 with a 5% Contingency with Funding Provided Entirely through the Environmental Protection Agency Grant111
	D. (	Other Items – None
7.	IN-P	ERSON REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS
	A. (	City Manager Report
	В. С	City Clerk Report – None
	C. (	City Attorney Report – None
	D. (	Other Reports and Announcements – None
	E. F	Presentations – None
8.	PUB	LIC HEARINGS – None



#### **RESOLUTION 2025-040**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA RECOMMENDING KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH APPROVAL OF THE PRELIMINARY PLAT OF 1312 VISTA AVENUE, 1305 FIRST AVENUE, 1303 FIRST AVENUE, 104 MILL STREET, 112 MILL STREET, AND 1303 CHAMBERLIN ROAD, VACATING A PORTION OF FIRST AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND ALLEYWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND COMBINING THE SIX LOTS AND VACATED RIGHTS-OF-WAY INTO ONE TRACT OF LAND

#### Documents:

- Agenda Statement
- Resolution 2025-040
- Attachments:
  - o Application



#### City Council Agenda Statement

Meeting Date: April 28, 2025

To: City Council

**Through:** Kat Sorensen, City Manager

From: Planning and Zoning Commission

Subject: Resolution 2025-040: Recommending Kenai Peninsula Borough

Approval of the Preliminary Plat of 1312 Vista Avenue, 1305 First Avenue, 1303 First Avenue, 104 Mill Street, 112 Mill Street, and 1303 Chamberlin Road, Vacating a Portion of First Avenue Right-of-Way and Alleyway Rights-of-Way and Combining the Six Lots

and Vacated Rights-of-Way into One Tract of Land

#### **Background and justification:**

Attached for the Council's review and recommendation to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission is a preliminary plat submitted by AK Lands, Land Surveying LLC on behalf of the City of Seward.

The proposed plat is subdividing Lots 1-6 & 12, Block 6 and Lots 1 & 12-14, Block 9, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite with alleyway rights-of-way and First Avenue right-of-way vacations, creating Tract 1A, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite, Walker Replat.

The property owners began cutting a driveway into Lot 1, Block 6 (104 Mill Street) in early 2024. Due to the steep terrain, the construction of the driveway encroached onto the platted right-of-way (ROW) of First Avenue. Even though this is an undeveloped ROW, the development of a private driveway is not permitted in a ROW. The city does not have plans to develop this ROW due to the steep terrain, and recommended that the property owners work with a surveyor to vacate the ROW.

Vacating the ROW and creating one single parcel of land will allow the owners to complete the development of their driveway, which will give them better access to their land to explore the best locations for a residential dwelling and the necessary utility connections.

On August 28, 1984, the property owner of Lot 1, Block 9, Cliff Addition signed an agreement granting the City of Seward a portion of Lot 1 adjacent to Chamberlin Road for the construction, maintenance, repair and expansion of public utilities, roadway and embankment. As part of this agreement, the City agreed to support vacation of the alley right-of-way between Lots 1 and 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and the First Avenue right-of-way north of Mill Street between Lots 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Block 6, Cliff Addition in the future event of a replat being submitted for the above property.

Seward City Code §16.01.015(A) states that "No preliminary or final plat for the subdivision or

resubdivision of land located within the city limits shall be approved by the city unless all of the required improvements set forth in section 16.05.010 are provided for by the subdivider, owner, proprietor or developer in the manner described in sections 16.05.015."

The proposed plat has access to developed rights-of-way and city water, sewer, and electricity. Thus, a subdivision agreement will not be required with this plat.

All conditions required by Seward City Code §16.01.015(C), Conditions to plat approval, were met. The property owners within 300 feet of the requested preliminary plat were notified of the proposed subdivision, and the property was posted with public notice signage.

On April 8, 2025, the Seward Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed this preliminary plat and recommended the City Council and Kenai Peninsula Borough approval through Resolution 2025-015.

Seward City Code §7.05.510(D) states that "The city manager may, at the direction of the City Council convey, quitclaim, release, cancel, or otherwise relinquish any real property easement, right-of-way, permit or license the city may have or hold for the purpose of installing, constructing or maintaining a public improvement or utility, whenever the interest is no longer used or useful for that purpose."

In accordance with City and Borough requirements, the Seward City Council must review and comment on a preliminary plat of city-owned land before submittal to the Borough for approval.

#### **Subdivision Review:**

**Zoning:** The property is currently zoned single-family residential (R1).

Size: Tract 1A will be 1.913 acres or 84,375 square feet.

**Utilities**: Tract 1A has access to city water, sewer, and electricity

**Existing Use:** Tract 1A is currently vacant.

<u>Access:</u> Tract 1A has access to Mill Street and the intersection of Ravina Street and Vista Avenue.

**Flood Zone:** The south edge of the property adjacent to Mill Street is located within the Seward Mapped Flood Data Area (SMFD). Development in this area is unlikely due to the very steep terrain, however, development within the SMFD may require additional permitting.

#### **Comprehensive and Strategic Plan Consistency Information**

This legislation is consistent with (citation listed):

Comprehensive Plan: Vol 1, Chapter 2.2.11

 "Promote infill development by encouraging and promoting construction on vacant sites in areas of the city which are already established."

Strategic Plan: N/A					
Other:					
Ce	ertification of Funds				
Total amount of funds listed in this legislation	: \$ <u>0</u>				
This legislation ( $\checkmark$ ):  Creates revenue in the amount of:  Creates expenditure in amount of:  Creates a savings in the amount of:  Has no fiscal impact	\$ \$ \$				
Not builded a					
Fund	Balance Information				
Affected Fund (✓):  General SMIC Boat Harbor Parking Motor Pool Other	Electric Wastewater Water Healthcare				
Available Fund Balance	Note: amounts are unaudited  \$				
	Finance Director Signature:				
Attorney Review					
Yes Attorney Signature: Not applicable Comments:					
Administration Recommendation					
Adopt Resolution Other:					

**Sponsored by:** Planning and Zoning Commission **Public Hearing:** April 28, 2025

**Enacted:** 

#### CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA RESOLUTION 2025-040

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA, RECOMMENDING KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH APPROVAL OF THE PRELIMINARY PLAT OF 1312 VISTA AVENUE, 1305 FIRST AVENUE, 1303 FIRST AVENUE, 104 MILL STREET, 112 MILL STREET, AND 1303 CHAMBERLIN ROAD, VACATING A PORTION OF FIRST AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND ALLEYWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND COMBINING THE SIX LOTS AND VACATED RIGHTS-OF-WAY INTO ONE TRACT OF LAND

WHEREAS, AK Lands, Land Surveying LLC has submitted a preliminary plat on behalf of the City of Seward for review and recommendation to the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed plat is a subdivision of Lots 1-6 & 12, Block 6 and Lots 1 & 12-14, Block 9, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite with alleyway rights-of-way and First Avenue right-of-way vacations, creating Tract 1A, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite, Walker Replat; and

**WHEREAS**, all of the Lots are currently vacant and zoned single-family residential (R1); and

**WHEREAS**, the property owners began construction of a driveway from Mill Street in 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the steep terrain, the driveway ended up encroaching substantially into the First Avenue right-of-way (ROW); and

**WHEREAS,** the First Avenue ROW in the Cliff Addition is undeveloped and the City of Seward does not have plans to develop it; and

**WHEREAS,** the Public Works Director and Community Development staff recommended that the property owner work with a surveyor to vacate the ROW; and

WHEREAS, vacating the ROW and creating one single parcel of land will allow the owners to complete the development of their driveway; and

WHEREAS, a completed driveway will give the owners better access to their land to explore the feasibility for residential dwellings and the necessary utility connections; and

**WHEREAS,** a portion of Lot 1, Block 9 was granted to the City of Seward in an agreement dated August 28, 1984, for the construction, maintenance, repair and expansion of public utilities, roadway and embankment; and

#### CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA RESOLUTION 2025-040

WHEREAS, in consideration of this dedication of land for city use, the 1984 agreement stated that the City agrees to support vacation of the alley right-of-way between Lots 1 and 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and the First Avenue right-of-way north of Mill Street between Lots 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Block 6, Cliff Addition in the future event of a replat of the above property; and

**WHEREAS,** the size of proposed Tract 1A meets the required minimum lot size and lot width for the single-family residential zoning district; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Floodplain map, Tract 1A is not within a FEMA mapped flood zone; and

**WHEREAS,** the southern edge of Tract 1A is within the Seward Mapped Flood Data Area (SMFD); and

**WHEREAS**, development on the southern edge of Tract 1A is unlikely due to the steep terrain, however, development within the SMFD may require additional permitting; and

WHEREAS, Tract 1A has access to city water, sewer, and electricity; and

**WHEREAS,** Tract 1A has access to Mill Street and the intersection of Ravina Street and Vista Avenue; and

WHEREAS, a subdivision agreement will not be required with this plat; and

WHEREAS, all conditions required by Seward City Code §16.01.015, Conditions to plat approval were met; the property owners within 300 feet of the requested replat were notified of the proposed subdivision, and the property was posted with public notice signage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Seward Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed this preliminary plat on April 8, 2025, and recommended the City Council and Kenai Peninsula Borough approval through Resolution 2025-015; and

WHEREAS, Seward City Code §7.05.510(D) requires City Council approval for the vacation of city-owned rights-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, the Seward City Council must review and comment on a preliminary plat of city-owned land before submittal to the Borough for approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA, that:

**Section 1.** The Council hereby recommends that, in accordance with Seward City Code Section 16.01.015, the Kenai Peninsula Borough approves the submittal of the preliminary plat of

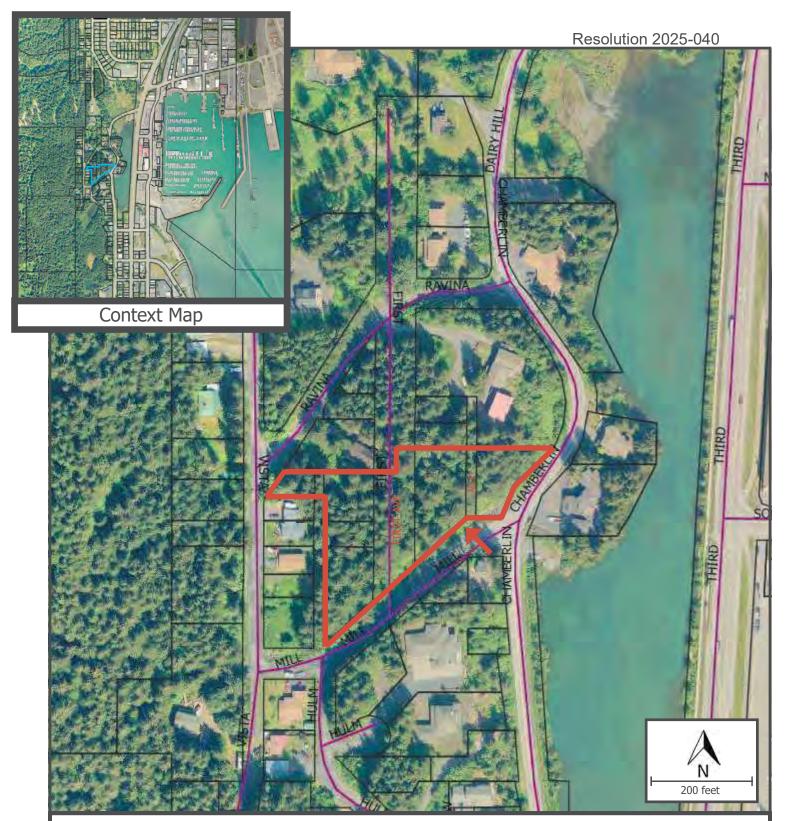
### CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA RESOLUTION 2025-040

Lots 1-6 & 12, Block 6 and Lots 1 & 12-14, Block 9, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite with alleyway rights-of-way and First Avenue right-of-way vacations, creating Tract 1A, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite, Walker Replat.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of Seward, Alaska, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

	THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA
	Sue McClure, Mayor
AYES: NOES: ABSENT: ABSTAIN:	
ATTEST:	
Kris Peck	
City Clerk	
(City Seal)	



#### Preliminary Plat Application Property Map

RES 2025-0XX - Vacating a portion of First Avenue ROW and alley to the east, and combining Lots 1-6 & 12, Block 6 and Lots 1 & 12-14, Block 9, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite

Location: 1312 Vista Ave, 1305 First Ave, 1303 First Ave, 104 Mill St, 112 Mill St, 1303 Chamberlin

Rd

Parcel #: 14705016, 14705008, 14705007, 14705006, 14721001, 14721007



#### Community Development/ Planning & Zoning

410 Adams Street, Seward, Alaska 99664 • (907) 224-4049 • (907) 224-4020 or email: planning@cityofseward.net

#### **PRELIMINARY PLAT SUBMITTAL FORM**

✓ PRELIMINARY PLAT REVISED PRELIMINARY PLAT (no fee required)					
PHASED PRELIMINARY PLAT PRELIMINARY PLAT FOR PRIVATE STREETS / GATED SUBDIVISION					
All requirements of Seward Code Title 16 apply and must be met.					
SUBDIVISION PLAT NAME: must not include business names, contact staff for assistance if needed.					
CLIFF ADDITION TO SEWARD TOWNSITE	WALKER REPLAT				
DD ODEDTY IN FORMATION.					
PROPERTY INFORMATION:    legal description	LOTS 1, AND 12-14, BLOCK 9 CLIFF ADDITION TO				
SEWARD TOWNSITE PLAT NO. 3	LOTS 1, AND 12-14, BLOCK 9 CLIFF ADDITION TO				
Section, Township, Range SE1/4 OF SEC. 4 AN	ID THE SW1/4 OF SEC 3, T1S, R1W				
General area description West of Seward Lago					
City Seward	Total Acreage 1.916 acres				
SURVEYOR					
Company: AK Lands Land Surveying	Contact Person: Stacy Wessel				
Mailing Address: PO Box 110485	City, State, Zip Anchorage, AK 99511				
Phone: (907) 744-LAND	e-mail: stacy@aklands.com				
PROPOSED WASTEWATER AND WATER SUPPLY WASTEWATER ✓ on site ✓ City	WATER on site City				
SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS	d				
a complete application has been received.	the next available Planning and Zoning meeting after				
Electronic file of Plat and					
Preliminary plat NON-REFUNDABLE submittal fee	\$200.00-				
Certificate to plat for ALL parcels included in the su					
Documentation showing proof of signatory author etc.)	ity (partnerships, corporations, estates, trusts,				
□ Public Notice Sign(s) Posted on property - <i>City stay</i>	ff will contact you to pick up sign				
EXCEPTIONS REQUESTED TO PLATTING CODE: A let	ter, to be presented to the Planning and Zoning				
commission, with substantial evidence justifying the	· · · · ·				
grounds for the exception request, and the facts relie	ed upon, MUST be attached to this submittal.				
1. 2.	3.				
KPB Code 20.130.120	OMANIERO ARE REQUIRED. Additional circulation				
APPLICANT: SIGNATURES OF ALL LEGAL PROPERTY sheets can be attached. When signing on behalf of					
partnership, etc., documentation is required to sho					
Contact KPB staff for clarification if needed.					
OWNER(s)					
Name (printed): Stacy Wessel	Signature: Stacy Wessel				
Phone: (907) 744-LAND	e-mail: stacy@aklands.com				
Name (printed):	Signature:				
Phone	o maile				
Phone:	e-mail:				
Name (printed):	Signature:				
Phone:	e-mail:				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIVED BY DATE SUBP	Receipt #				

E3-60

The preliminary plat shall be drawn to scale of sufficient size to be clearly legible and shall clearly show the following:

1.	Within	the title block:	Not applicable to my plat.	The required information has been shown/noted.
	a.	Name of the subdivision which shall not be the same as an existing city, town, tract, or subdivision of land in the borough, of which a plat has been previously recorded, or so nearly the same as to mislead the public or cause confusion;		<b>√</b>
	b.	Legal description, location, date, and total area in acres of the proposed subdivision; and		/
	C.	Name and address of owner(s), as shown on the KPB records and the certificate to plat, and registered land surveyor;		<b>/</b>
2.	North	point;		
3.	public such a	cation, width and name of existing or platted streets and ways, railroad rights-of-way, and other important features is section lines or political subdivisions or municipal ation boundaries abutting the subdivision;		<b>\</b>
4.	subdiv and ra	ity map, drawn to scale showing location of proposed ision, north arrow if different from plat orientation, township nge, section lines, roads, political boundaries, and prominent I and manmade features, such as shorelines or streams;		<b>/</b>
5.	and th for the togeth	cels of land including those intended for private ownership ose to be dedicated for public use or reserved in the deeds use of all property owners in the proposed subdivision, er with the purposes, conditions, or limitations of reservations ould affect the subdivision;		<b>/</b>
6.		ames and widths of public streets and alleys and easements, g and proposed, within the subdivision;		$\checkmark$
7.	block r	of adjacent lands, including names of subdivisions, lot lines, numbers, lot numbers, rights-of-way; or an indication that the ent land is not subdivided;		<b>/</b>
8.	storm when	ximate locations of areas subject to inundation, flooding, or water overflow, the line of ordinary high water, wetlands adjacent to lakes or non-tidal streams, and the appropriate which identifies a floodplain, if applicable;	/	
9.		ximate locations of areas subject to tidal inundation and the high water line;	V	
10.		and lot numbering approximate dimensions and total ers of proposed lots;		/
11.	and wa	oproximate location of known existing municipal wastewater ater mains, and other utilities within the subdivision and liately abutting thereto		<b>√</b>
12.	unless grades	urs at suitable intervals when any roads are to be dedicated the planning director or commission finds evidence that road s will not exceed 6 percent on arterial streets, and 10 percent er streets;		<b>/</b>
13.	contou	ximate locations of slopes over 20 percent in grade and if irs are shown, the areas of the contours that exceed 20 it grade shall be clearly labeled as such;		<b>\</b>
14.		ent encroachments, with a statement indicating how the achments will be resolved prior to final plat approval	V	
			l .	<u> </u>

Subdivision Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



January 16, 2025

City of Seward and Kenai Peninsula Borough Subject: CLIFF ADDITION TO SEWARD TOWNSITE WALKER REPLAT – Letter of Authorization To whom is may concern, KD We, \_\_\_GREGG GEORGE WALKER &KATHLEEN MARIE STUBBLEFIELD DAVIS , are the owners, or authorized agents of LOTS 1-3, 5-6, BLOCK 6 and LOTS 1,12-14, BLOCK, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite Plat no. 3 and authorize AK Lands, Land Surveying LLC to represent us before the City of Seward and Kenai Peninsula Borough for all requests related to the platting action, right of way vacation, and its related activities. KATHLEEN MARIE DAVIS Name athleen Marie Davis Date Signature Name Date Signature



January 16, 2025

City of Seward and Kenai Peninsula Borough

Subject: CLIFF ADDITION TO SEWARD TOWNSITE WALKER REPLAT - Letter of Authorization

To whom is may concern,

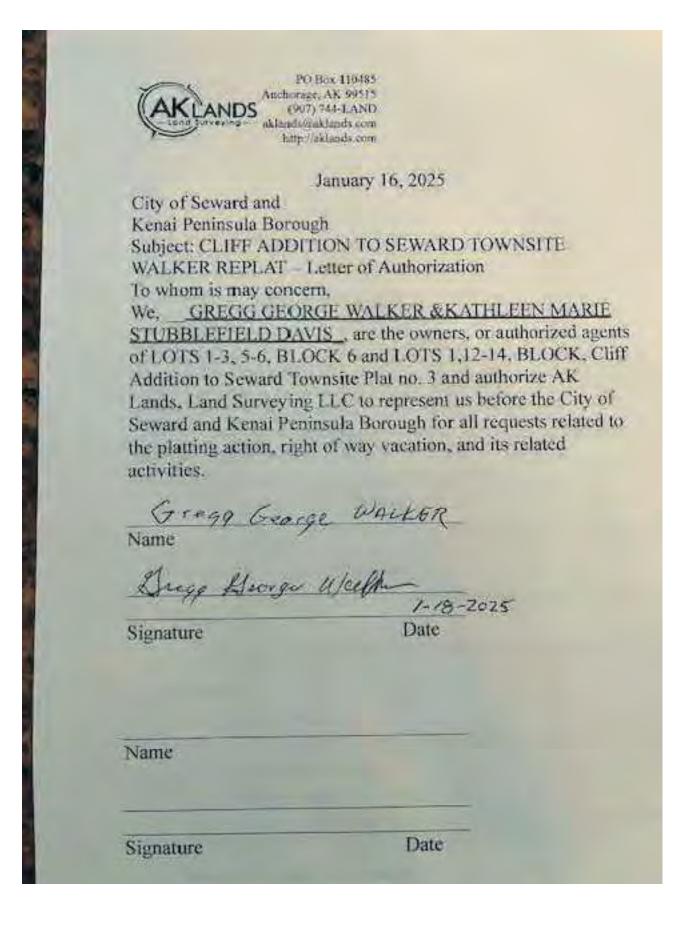
I, <u>\_\_ERIC JOHN WALKER\_</u>, is the owner, or authorized agent of LOTS 1-6, 12 BLOCK 6 and LOTS 1,12-14, BLOCK 9, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite Plat no. 3 and authorize AK Lands, Land Surveying LLC to represent us before the City of Seward and Kenai Peninsula Borough for all requests related to the platting action, right of way vacation, and its related activities.

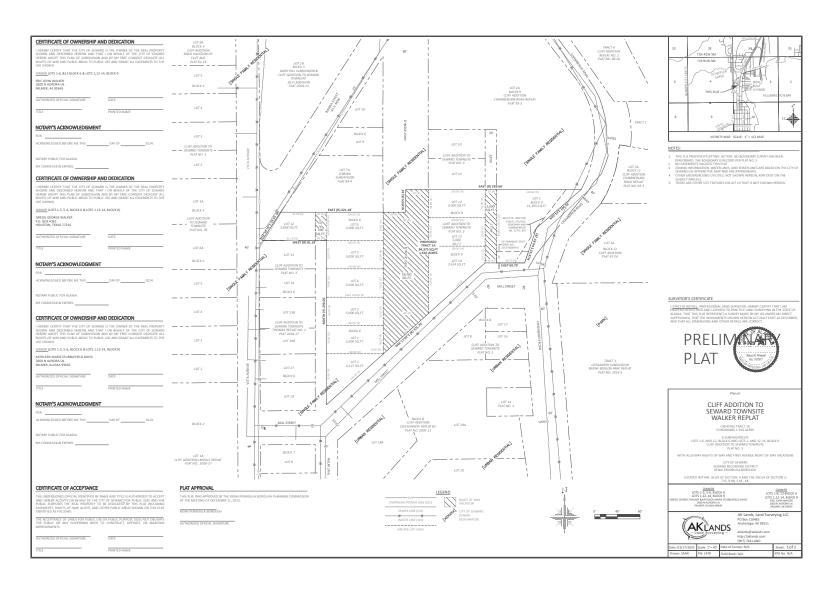
Name

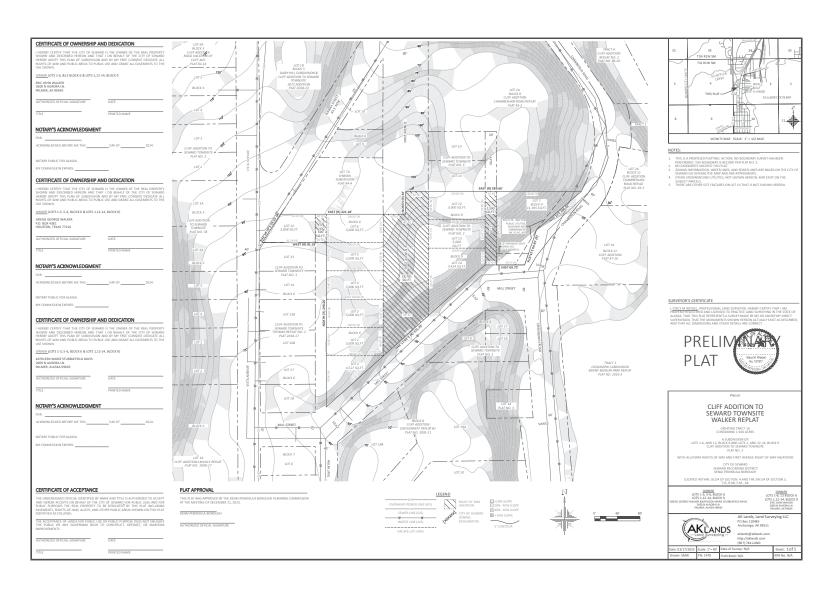
Signature

Date

1 of 1









March 17, 2025

City of Seward Planning Commission 410 Adams St. Seward, AK 99664

Subject: Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite-ROW Vacation

Dear Kenai Peninsula Borough and City of Seward,

On behalf of AK Lands and the Walker family, I am pleased to submit this request for a **replat** of multiple parcels located within the **Cliff Addition to the Seward Townsite**, **Plat No. 3**. Our goal is to consolidate several steep and largely inaccessible lots into one lot that meets single-family residential zoning requirements while addressing the challenges posed by the area's extreme topography.

#### Overview of Proposed Replat

The replat involves two blocks, and the vacation of First Avenue right-of-way and 2 alleyways into one newly configured lot, specifically:

#### 1. Proposed Tract A-1-1.916 acres

 Created by combining Lots 1-6, and 12, Block 6, plus the adjoining alleyway and a portion of First Avenue and combining Lots 12-14, and 1, Block 9, plus the remaining portion of First Avenue and the alleyway.

#### **Supporting Materials**

- Three Preliminary Plats:
  - 1. Without contours or slope shading (to clearly depict the subdivision boundaries)
  - 2. With topographic contours
  - 3. With both contours and hatched slope areas
- Additionally, an exhibit is provided as a close-up view of the proposed parcel, highlighting contours and slope hatch areas that exceed 20%, 40%, and even 60% in some places.
- Easement Document (Book 34, Page 897, dated August 24, 1984)
  In 1984, an easement was granted to the City for the expansion of public utilities, roadway, and embankment. Within this document, the City expressed support for vacating the alley right-of-way between Lots 1 and 12, 13, 14, Block 9 and the First Avenue right-of-way north of Mill Street between Lots 12, 13, 14, Block 9 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Block 6. The current request aligns with that earlier intent by consolidating steep, underutilized corridors and providing more manageable access.

#### Reason for Replat and Right-of-Way Vacations

#### Steep Terrain and Inaccessibility

- Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 6:
  - Sarah Walker intends to build a single-family home on these lots, yet access is currently impractical. The slopes approach 30% to the north (where First Avenue is platted) and over 60% to the south (where we are vacating), making a driveway virtually impossible. Alley access is also rendered unsafe by similarly steep grades.
- Lots 12, 13, 14, and 1, Block 9:

These lots face comparable challenges, with slopes exceeding **60%**. Road connections from Mill Street or Chamberlain Road cannot be developed feasibly due to extreme terrain, which is in some places essentially a cliff.

Lots 6, 5, and 4, Block 6:
 These lots also lack viable access from either First Avenue or existing alleys because of the high grades.

Because of this topography, maintaining platted but undeveloped roads and alleys is neither practical nor beneficial to the public. Currently, there are no existing utilities within the lots and vacated rights-of-ways. Sewer, water and electric utilities will be served from Vista Avenue and Ravina Street.

#### Responses to Right-of-Way Vacation Criteria

- Current Use: The rights-of-way to be vacated are not being used and are unlikely to be developed for public traffic due to severe slopes.
- 2. **Construction Impracticality**: Road construction on 20%–60%+ grades is impossible or unreasonably hazardous; therefore, alternative access has been proposed through private easements.
- 3. Fully Developed Surrounding Area: The steep topography limits further road network expansion. Combining parcels into one makes them more suitable for single-family use.
- 4. Public Access to Valued Resources: No public resources (lakes, rivers, etc.) exist here, so vacating these unused rights-of-way does not affect public access.
- Potential Interconnectivity: Prospects of interconnection with adjacent parcels are impractical due to intense slopes. Other property owners in this area may similarly vacate First Ave. and reconfigure, if needed.
- 6. Alternative Access: The proposed lot has access off of Vista Avenue and Ravina St.
- 7. **Utility Requirements**: This is vacant land. There are no existing utilities. Water, sewer, and electric can be served off of Vista Avenue and Ravina St.
- 8. **No Other Public Need**: Retaining these steep, undeveloped corridors creates undue maintenance burdens and does not support safe or feasible public use.

#### **Conclusion and Request**

Due to the extreme terrain, current parcel boundaries and rights-of-way are not conducive to practical development. By reconfiguring the lots into Proposed Tract A-1, we will ensure a suitable residential parcel that is safer to develop and access. We therefore respectfully request:

- 1. Approval of the Replat: Adoption of the attached preliminary plat configuration.
- 2. Right-of-Way Vacations: Allowance for vacation of unused, steep portions of alleys and First Avenue.

2 of 3

Thank you for considering our proposal. We look forward to working with the City of Seward and the Kenai Peninsula Borough to ensure a successful and responsible subdivision.

Stacy Wessel

AK Lands, Land Surveying by

Stacy Wessel, Professional Land Surveyor

BOOK 3 Resolution 2925-040 Description District

This agreement is made this 24 day of Occupant, 1984, by and between Gregg G. Walker, Executor for the estate of Mark C. Walker, hereinafter referred to as "Grantor", and the City of Seward, Alaska, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Alaska, hereinafter referred to as "City".

#### WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Grantor is the fee simple owner of certain real property described below which is located within the City of Seward, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to construct improvements to the public road on grantor's property, and install public utilities in the roadway;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. Grantor does hereby grant to the City a Right-of-Entry in the real property described below for the location, construction, maintenance, repair and expansion of public utilities, roadway and embankment.
- 2. The said Right-of-Entry shall exist in favor of City, its successors and assigns for so long as the City, its successors or assigns deem the presence of public utilities, roadway and embankment.
- The said agreement shall and does hereby exist in the following described real property:

#### PARCEL 7A

Real property in the City of Seward, Alaska, being a portion of Lot 1, Block 9, Cliff Addition as described on Survey Plat #1117 recorded at the Seward Recording Office; more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot 1 and also being on the South line of Lot 2, Block 9, Cliff Addition and West line of Government Road; thence along the North line of Lot 1 West 26.69 feet; thence leaving said North line South 37°33'26" West 86.12 feet to the angle point of the East line of Lot 1 and the West line of Government Road; thence leaving said East and West lines South 31°58'29" West 72.19 feet to the South line of Lot 1; thence along the South line of Lot 1 East 17.5 feet to the East line of Lot 1; thence leaving said South line along the East line of Lot 1, also being the West line of Government Road North 18°42' East 64.65 feet to the angle point of the East line of Lot 1 and North 49°14' East 104.55 feet to the North line of Lot 1 and the point of beginning; containing 1446.9 square feet.

- 4. City agrees to hold Grantor harmless from claims arising out of injuries to persons or property caused by City's defective utility fixtures, construction and repairs to roadway and embankment.
- 5. In consideration of the foregoing, the City agrees to support vacation of the alley Right-of-Way between Lots 1 and 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and the First Avenue Right-of-Way North of Mill Street between Lots 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Block 6, Cliff Addition at the time application for a replat of the above property is submitted to the Kenai Peninsula Planning Commission.
- 6. Grantor agrees to grant to the City title and all rights to the property described as Parcel 7A above at such time when the property is replatted by owner.

RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMIT (Cont'd) TReschuti 8 12825-040 Seward Recording District GRANTOR: CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA: Estate of Mark C. Walker. ATTEST: STATE OF ALASKA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT ) ss. BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, Dress Walker personally appeared , known to me and to me known to be the Grantor herein named and who executed the foregoing instrument and who acknowledged to me that he signed and sealed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 2 1th day of Current, 198 august, 1984 NOTARY PUBLIC in and for Alaska My Commission Expires: 4-18. STATE OF ALASKA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT ) ss. BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, personally appeared FOMACDA CORESINI, known to me and to me known to be the City Manager of the City of Seward, Alaska, and who executed the foregoing instrument and who acknowledged to me that \_\_\_\_\_\_ signed and sealed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 28 day of AUCUST, 1954. NOTARY PUBLIC in and for

My Commission Expires: RECORTED TILED DISTRICT

Auc 28 8 29 AH '84 REQUESTED BY City of Seward AUDRESS Box 167, Seward AK 99664



PO Box 110485 Anchorage, AK 99515 (907) 744-LAND aklands@aklands.com http://aklands.com

April 2, 2025

City of Seward Planning Commission 410 Adams St. Seward, AK 99664

Subject: Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite-KPB exception Request

#### Dear Kenai Peninsula Borough and City of Seward Officials:

On behalf of AK Lands and the Walker family, I am pleased to submit this request for a replat of multiple parcels within the Cliff Addition to the Seward Townsite, Plat No. 3. Our goal is to consolidate several steep and largely inaccessible lots into a single lot that meets single-family residential zoning requirements while addressing the area's extreme topography.

In conjunction with this replat, we respectfully request an exception to Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Code 20.30.120—which generally requires a 60-foot right-of-way (ROW) width for streets—due to the following unique conditions:

# 1. Overview of Proposed Replat

#### 1. Proposed Tract A-1 (1.916 Acres)

- Combines Lots 1–6 and 12 of Block 6 (including the adjoining alleyway and part of First Avenue) with Lots 12–14 and 1 of Block 9 (including the remaining portion of First Avenue and an alleyway).
- Vacating First Avenue and two alleyways will create one consolidated parcel better suited for single-family residential use.

# 2. Request for Exception to ROW Widths

- o Vista Avenue: 40-46.5 feet wide (Plats 2018-17, 2018-13)
- o Mill Street: 59.62 feet wide (Plats 2002-21, 2005-11)
- Ravina Street: 43.5 feet wide (Plat 2018-3)
- Chamberlain Road: 59.7 feet wide plus an embankment/utility easement effectively exceeding
   60 feet

#### 2. Responses to Required Criteria for Exception (KPB Code)

Criterion 1: "That special circumstances or conditions affecting the property have been shown by application."

- Extreme Topography: Slopes range from 30% to over 60%, making standard road construction infeasible.
- Minimal Traffic: These segments do not serve high-traffic corridors.
- Existing Infrastructure: Roads such as Mill Street, Chamberlain Road, and Vista Avenue already provide utilities and drainage; requiring a few extra feet for ROW width offers little improvement.

**Criterion 2**: "That the exception is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right and is the most practical manner of complying with the intent of this title."

- Preservation of Usable Lot: Strictly enforcing a 60-foot ROW would force impractical dedication, preventing feasible construction on already steep parcels.
- Previously Granted Exceptions: Past plats (2002-21, 2005-11, 2018-17, 2018-3) have recognized similar challenges and provided exceptions ranging from 40 to 59.62 feet.

**Criterion 3**: "That the granting of the exception will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to other property in the area in which said property is situated."

- Not a Main Thoroughfare: Vista Avenue, Ravina Street, and other ROWs in question are low-traffic.
- No Public Need for Additional ROW: Fractional differences from 60 feet do not hinder public access or utility installation; existing infrastructure is sufficient.
- Steep, Undeveloped Corridors: Retaining unused steep ROWs creates maintenance liabilities without public benefit.

#### 3. Conclusion

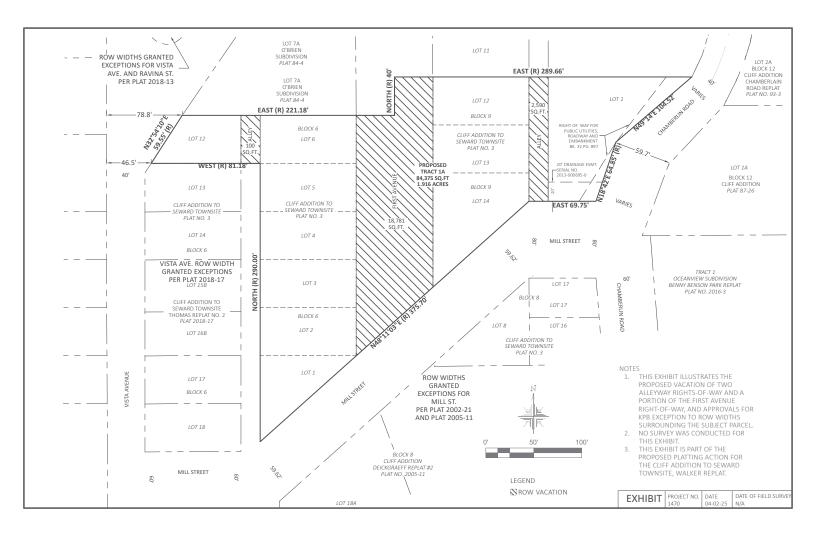
We believe the proposed replat and associated ROW exceptions serve both private and public interests. Extreme slopes, minimal traffic, and existing infrastructure, along with prior plat exceptions, confirm that strict 60-foot ROW compliance is unnecessary. Granting this request allows the property to be responsibly developed without compromising public safety or welfare.

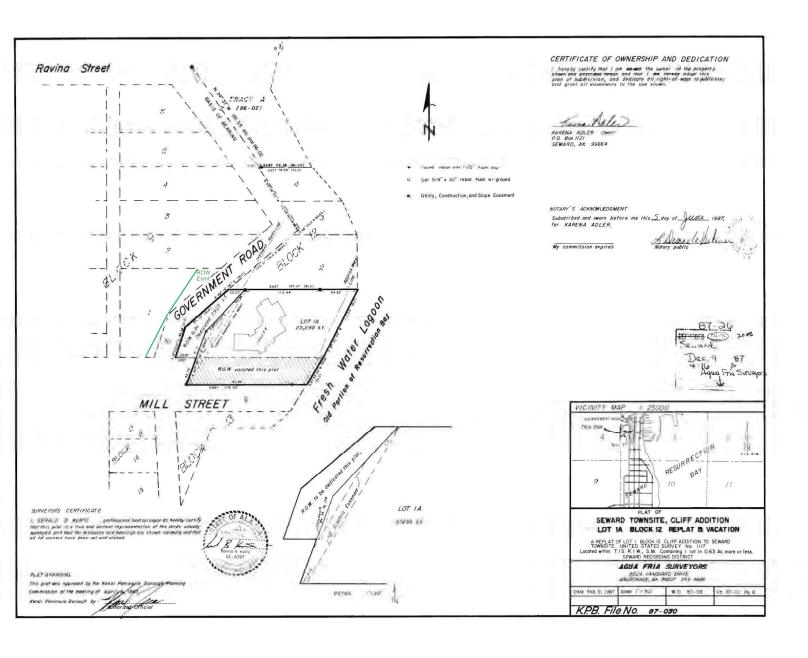
Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me with any questions or if further information is needed.

AK Lands, Land Surveying by

Stacy Wessel

Stacy Wessel, Professional Land Surveyor





#### CALL TO ORDER

The April 28, 2025, regular meeting of the Seward City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Sue McClure.

# **OPENING CEREMONY**

Police Chief Louis Tiner led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

#### ROLL CALL

There were present:

Sue McClure, presiding, and John Osenga Randy Wells Kevin Finch Robert Barnwell Julie Crites Casie Warner

comprising a quorum of the Council; and

Kat Sorensen, City Manager Jason Bickling, Deputy City Manager Kris Peck, City Clerk Jodi Kurtz, Deputy City Clerk

Excused – Barnwell Absent – None

# PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

Recognition of Service for HR Manager Tammy Nickell was read by Mayor McClure.

Recognition of Service for Police Chief Alan Nickell was read by Mayor McClure.

Recognition of Service for Sgt. Patrick Messmer was read by Vice Mayor Osenga.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON ANY SUBJECT EXCEPT THOSE ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING – None

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

# Motion (Osenga/Wells)

# Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Finch requested Resolution 2025-039 be removed from the consent agenda.

#### Motion as Amended Passed

Unanimous

The clerk read the following approved consent agenda items:

# Approval of the April 14, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes

**Resolution 2025-038**: Requesting the State of Alaska Legislators Make a Meaningful Increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for Public Schools

**Resolution 2025-040**: Recommending Kenai Peninsula Borough Approval of the Preliminary Plat of 1312 Vista Avenue, 1305 First Avenue, 1303 First Avenue, 104 Mill Street, 112 Mill Street, and 1303 Chamberlin Road, Vacating a Portion of First Avenue Right-of-Way and Alleyway Rights-of-Way and Combining the Six Lots and Vacated Rights-of-Way into One Tract of Land

**Resolution 2025-041**: Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase Electric Utility Materials from Anixter and General Pacific for the Electric Department's Annual Material Restocking in the Amount of \$138,676.94 with a 10% Contingency on Each Order Not to Exceed \$152,544.63 Total

**Resolution 2025-042**: Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Ingersoll Enterprises for Custodial Services at the Harbormaster's Office and Restrooms in the Harbor Area, in the Amount of \$45,345 Annually for a Term of Three Years

**Resolution 2025-043**: Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract for Custodial Services with Ravenquest Housing & Maintenance for the Seward Community Library & Museum in the Amount of \$72,000 Annually for a Term of Two Years

**Resolution 2025-044**: Authorizing the City Manager to Accept the Proposal from KPFF Consulting Engineers to Provide Project Management for the Shore Power Project at the Port of Seward in the Amount of \$398,039 with a 5% Contingency with Funding Provided Entirely through the Environmental Protection Agency Grant

#### IN-PERSON REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

## City Manager Report

City Manager Kat Sorensen said that city staff had recently attended training on effective communication and emotional intelligence. In addition to the training, Sorensen noted it had been a whirlwind week with lots of events including the Chugachmiut open house and the US Coast Guard *Mustang* decommissioning ceremony. In between all the events and training, the city conducted interviews for the Chief of Police and she introduced Louis Tiner to council.

**Deputy City Manager Jason Bickling** updated council on the Jesee Lee Home site. There would be more core samples required. There will be a work session in the near future for council input on the site.

Electric Operations Supervisor Taylor Crocker updated council on the recent power outage that was caused by falling trees during a windstorm. This was a continual hazard because the trees kept blowing down in the Kenai Lake area. The city was back on backup generators in 40 minutes.

Sorensen added that it was one of the windiest, scariest drives back from Anchorage that day.

City Clerk Report - None

City Attorney Report - None

Other Reports and Announcements- None

**Presentations** - None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS - None** 

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Ordinances for Enactment** 

**Ordinance 2025-007**: Amending Seward City Code §15.10.140 Definition of an Efficiency Apartment; §15.10.226 Land Uses Allowed Table, Adding Attached and Detached Accessory Dwelling Units; and Updating §15.10.215 Parking for Accessory Dwelling Units

[This item had a public hearing on April 14, 2025, and was postponed]

Motion (already on the floor)

**Approve Ordinance 2025-007** 

Sorensen explained the two laydowns provided by Community Development that were labeled as Substitute Ordinance 2025-007 Version 1 and Substitute Ordinance 2025-007 Version 2.

McClure motioned to amend Ordinance 2025-007 by adopting the changes in Substitute Ordinance 2025-007 Version 2. This amendment passed.

**Main Motion as Amended Passed** 

Unanimous

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Resolutions

**Resolution 2025-037:** Authorizing the City Manager to Create the Full-Time Position of Utility Billing Specialist in the Electric Department to Provide Services Currently Outsourced to the Util-Assist Contractor

# Motion (Osenga/Wells)

### **Approve Resolution 2025-037**

Crocker explained how the city was outsourcing billing services to Util-Assist in Canada and how customers had to call a 1-800 number for billing questions. He would rather see this money spent towards hiring a local to fill this position. This newly hired billing specialist could also provide backup support to the front desk staff at the Electric Department.

Wells recalled being on council in 2023 when the billing services was outsourced to Util-Assist. He said it was mainly done out of desperation because the job posting was vacant for such a long time. He wondering what the current odds were of being able to fill this position.

Sorensen said she was confident the city would be able to fill the position this time around due to the wage increase.

Crocker added with a smile that people also knew how great the Electric Department was now.

#### **Motion Passed**

#### Unanimous

**Resolution 2025-039**: Recommending Kenai Peninsula Borough Approval of the Preliminary Plat of 204 Lowell Canyon Road and 206 Lowell Court, Vacating the Eastern Portion of the Lowell Court Right-of-Way and Vacating the Southern 10' of the Property Located at 204 Lowell Canyon Road

# Motion (Osenga/Wells)

#### **Approve Resolution 2025-039**

City Planner Courtney Bringhurst stated this was a recommendation in the 2023 Muni Lands Plan. She summarized from the agenda statement in the packet.

Finch declared a potential conflict of interest due to being one of the affected property owners. McClure ruled a conflict of interest did exist and she excused Finch from discussion and voting.

**Motion Passed** 

Yes: Osenga, Warner, Wells, Crites,

**McClure** 

No: None

Abstain: Finch

#### Other New Business

# Initiate by Council a Special Improvement District for Forest Acres Afognak Subdivision [City Administration]

Bickling described the Special Improvement District by petition that had been done twice already and failed. He said per code for council to initiate an improvement district there needed to be an official motion made by council. This would save time compared to the property owners doing another petition.

Motion (McClure/Osenga)

Initiate by Council a Special Improvement

District for Forest Acres Afognak

Subdivision

Motion Passed Unanimous

# INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND REPORTS

#### **Other Items**

Timely Receipt of Annual Financial Disclosure Forms [City Clerk]

Upcoming City Council Meetings - City Council Meeting Monday, May 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

# **CITIZEN COMMENTS** – None

# COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS & RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS

**Bickling** said he had already been working on the Special Improvement District and just needed this official go ahead.

**Sorensen** thanked all the retirees tonight for their service. This weekend she will be heading to Washington, D.C. with Vice Mayor Osenga, and they had lots of good meetings lined up.

**Crites** congratulated the retirees and said welcome to Police Chief Tiner.

Warner echoed the previous comments from Crites.

**Finch** thanked the US Coast Guard *Mustang* for years of service to Seward. He congratulated the retirees and welcomed Police Chief Tiner.

Wells said he also drove on the Seward Highway during that windstorm and saw the electric crews on site working to restore the power. He was impressed with their scary job and was grateful for their work. He attended the town hall meeting at bear creek and gave a shout out to comm dev. The presentations were incredible and community participation. The first cruise ship has come and

gone and it was a great couple days for local businesses. It was very busy and he was looking forward to a busy summer season.

**Osenga** echoed previous comments and thanked the retirees and wished them the best in future endeavors. He appreciated the *Mustang* for the years of service in Seward. Lastly, he extended a warm welcome to Police Chief Tiner.

**McClure** echoed previous comments and congratulated the retirees and welcomed Police Chief Tiner. She attended several events lately such as: the decommissioning of the *Mustang*, the Chugachmiut open house, and the Comprehensive Plan town hall meetings. She noted the town halls were very well run, and May 3, 2025 was last chance for comments on the surveys. McClure was already looking ahead to the Solstice Cemetery Tour in June, and she has a great lineup planned out for the tour.

# ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. Kris Peck City Clerk (City Seal)

Sponsored by: Planning and Zoning Commission

# CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA RESOLUTION 2025-040

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA, RECOMMENDING KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH APPROVAL OF THE PRELIMINARY PLAT OF 1312 VISTA AVENUE, 1305 FIRST AVENUE, 1303 FIRST AVENUE, 104 MILL STREET, 112 MILL STREET, AND 1303 CHAMBERLIN ROAD, VACATING A PORTION OF FIRST AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND ALLEYWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND COMBINING THE SIX LOTS AND VACATED RIGHTS-OF-WAY INTO ONE TRACT OF LAND

WHEREAS, AK Lands, Land Surveying LLC has submitted a preliminary plat on behalf of the City of Seward for review and recommendation to the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plat is a subdivision of Lots 1-6 & 12, Block 6 and Lots 1 & 12-14, Block 9, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite with alleyway rights-of-way and First Avenue right-of-way vacations, creating Tract 1A, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite, Walker Replat; and

WHEREAS, all of the Lots are currently vacant and zoned single-family residential (R1); and

WHEREAS, the property owners began construction of a driveway from Mill Street in 2024; and

WHEREAS, due to the steep terrain, the driveway ended up encroaching substantially into the First Avenue right-of-way (ROW); and

**WHEREAS**, the First Avenue ROW in the Cliff Addition is undeveloped and the City of Seward does not have plans to develop it; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Director and Community Development staff recommended that the property owner work with a surveyor to vacate the ROW; and

WHEREAS, vacating the ROW and creating one single parcel of land will allow the owners to complete the development of their driveway; and

WHEREAS, a completed driveway will give the owners better access to their land to explore the feasibility for residential dwellings and the necessary utility connections; and

WHEREAS, a portion of Lot 1, Block 9 was granted to the City of Seward in an agreement dated August 28, 1984, for the construction, maintenance, repair and expansion of public utilities, roadway and embankment; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of this dedication of land for city use, the 1984 agreement stated that the City agrees to support vacation of the alley right-of-way between Lots 1 and 12, 13,

# CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA RESOLUTION 2025-040 Page 2 of 3

and 14 of Block 9 and the First Avenue right-of-way north of Mill Street between Lots 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Block 6, Cliff Addition in the future event of a replat of the above property; and

**WHEREAS**, the size of proposed Tract 1A meets the required minimum lot size and lot width for the single-family residential zoning district; and

WHEREAS, according to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Floodplain map, Tract 1A is not within a FEMA mapped flood zone; and

WHEREAS, the southern edge of Tract 1A is within the Seward Mapped Flood Data Area (SMFD); and

WHEREAS, development on the southern edge of Tract 1A is unlikely due to the steep terrain, however, development within the SMFD may require additional permitting; and

WHEREAS, Tract 1A has access to city water, sewer, and electricity; and

WHEREAS, Tract 1A has access to Mill Street and the intersection of Ravina Street and Vista Avenue; and

WHEREAS, a subdivision agreement will not be required with this plat; and

WHEREAS, all conditions required by Seward City Code §16.01.015, Conditions to plat approval were met; the property owners within 300 feet of the requested replat were notified of the proposed subdivision, and the property was posted with public notice signage; and

WHEREAS, the Seward Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed this preliminary plat on April 8, 2025, and recommended the City Council and Kenai Peninsula Borough approval through Resolution 2025-015; and

WHEREAS, Seward City Code §7.05.510(D) requires City Council approval for the vacation of city-owned rights-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, the Seward City Council must review and comment on a preliminary plat of city-owned land before submittal to the Borough for approval.

# NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA, that:

**Section 1.** The Council hereby recommends that, in accordance with Seward City Code Section 16.01.015, the Kenai Peninsula Borough approves the submittal of the preliminary plat of Lots 1-6 & 12, Block 6 and Lots 1 & 12-14, Block 9, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite with

# CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA RESOLUTION 2025-040 Page 3 of 3

alleyway rights-of-way and First Avenue right-of-way vacations, creating Tract 1A, Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite, Walker Replat.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Seward, Alaska, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA

Sup McClure, Mayor

AYES:

Osenga, Finch, Crites, Warner, Wells, McClure

NOES:

None

ABSENT:

Barnwell

ABSTAIN:

None

ATTEST:

Kris Peck City Clerk

(City Seal)



PO Box 110485 Anchorage, AK 99515 (907) 744-LAND aklands@aklands.com http://aklands.com

March 17, 2025

City of Seward Planning Commission 410 Adams St. Seward, AK 99664

Subject: Cliff Addition to Seward Townsite-ROW Vacation

Dear Kenai Peninsula Borough and City of Seward,

On behalf of AK Lands and the Walker family, I am pleased to submit this request for a **replat** of multiple parcels located within the **Cliff Addition to the Seward Townsite**, **Plat No. 3**. Our goal is to consolidate several steep and largely inaccessible lots into one lot that meets single-family residential zoning requirements while addressing the challenges posed by the area's extreme topography.

#### Overview of Proposed Replat

The replat involves two blocks, and the vacation of First Avenue right-of-way and 2 alleyways into one newly configured lot, specifically:

- 1. Proposed Tract A-1-1.916 acres
  - Created by combining Lots 1-6, and 12, Block 6, plus the adjoining alleyway and a portion of First Avenue and combining Lots 12-14, and 1, Block 9, plus the remaining portion of First Avenue and the alleyway.

# Supporting Materials

- Three Preliminary Plats:
  - Without contours or slope shading (to clearly depict the subdivision boundaries)
  - With topographic contours
  - 3. With both contours and hatched slope areas
- Additionally, an exhibit is provided as a close-up view of the proposed parcel, highlighting contours and slope hatch areas that exceed 20%, 40%, and even 60% in some places.
- Easement Document (Book 34, Page 897, dated August 24, 1984)
   In 1984, an easement was granted to the City for the expansion of public utilities, roadway, and embankment. Within this document, the City expressed support for vacating the alley right-of-way between Lots 1 and 12, 13, 14, Block 9 and the First Avenue right-of-way north of Mill Street between Lots 12, 13, 14, Block 9 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Block 6. The current request aligns with that earlier intent by consolidating steep, underutilized corridors and providing more manageable access.

#### Reason for Replat and Right-of-Way Vacations

#### Steep Terrain and Inaccessibility

- Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 6:
  - Sarah Walker intends to build a single-family home on these lots, yet access is currently impractical. The slopes approach 30% to the north (where First Avenue is platted) and over 60% to the south (where we are vacating), making a driveway virtually impossible. Alley access is also rendered unsafe by similarly steep grades.
- Lots 12, 13, 14, and 1, Block 9:
  - These lots face comparable challenges, with slopes exceeding 60%. Road connections from Mill Street or Chamberlain Road cannot be developed feasibly due to extreme terrain, which is in some places essentially a cliff.
- Lots 6, 5, and 4, Block 6:
   These lots also lack viable access from either First Avenue or existing alleys because of the high grades.

Because of this topography, maintaining platted but undeveloped roads and alleys is neither practical nor beneficial to the public. Currently, there are no existing utilities within the lots and vacated rights-of-ways. Sewer, water and electric utilities will be served from Vista Avenue and Ravina Street.

#### Responses to Right-of-Way Vacation Criteria

- Current Use: The rights-of-way to be vacated are not being used and are unlikely to be developed for public traffic due to severe slopes.
- Construction Impracticality: Road construction on 20%-60%+ grades is impossible or unreasonably hazardous; therefore, alternative access has been proposed through private easements.
- Fully Developed Surrounding Area: The steep topography limits further road network expansion.
   Combining parcels into one makes them more suitable for single-family use.
- Public Access to Valued Resources: No public resources (lakes, rivers, etc.) exist here, so vacating these
  unused rights-of-way does not affect public access.
- Potential Interconnectivity: Prospects of interconnection with adjacent parcels are impractical due to intense slopes. Other property owners in this area may similarly vacate First Ave. and reconfigure, if needed.
- 6. Alternative Access: The proposed lot has access off of Vista Avenue and Ravina St.
  - Utility Requirements: This is vacant land. There are no existing utilities. Water, sewer, and electric can be served off of Vista Avenue and Ravina St.
- No Other Public Need: Retaining these steep, undeveloped corridors creates undue maintenance burdens and does not support safe or feasible public use.

#### **Conclusion and Request**

Due to the extreme terrain, current parcel boundaries and rights-of-way are not conducive to practical development. By reconfiguring the lots into Proposed Tract A-1, we will ensure a suitable residential parcel that is safer to develop and access. We therefore respectfully request:

- 1. Approval of the Replat: Adoption of the attached preliminary plat configuration.
- 2. Right-of-Way Vacations: Allowance for vacation of unused, steep portions of alleys and First Avenue.

Thank you for considering our proposal. We look forward to working with the City of Seward and the Kenai Peninsula Borough to ensure a successful and responsible subdivision.

AK Lands, Land Surveying by

Stacy Wessel, Professional Land Surveyor

BOOK 34 PAGE 897

This agreement is made this 24 day of Acquest, 1984, by and between Gregg G. Walker, Executor for the estate of Mark C. Walker, hereinafter referred to as "Grantor", and the City of Seward, Alaska, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Alaska, hereinafter referred to as "City".

#### WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Grantor is the fee simple owner of certain real property described below which is located within the City of Seward, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to construct improvements to the public road on grantor's property, and install public utilities in the roadway;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

- Grantor does hereby grant to the City a Right-of-Entry in the real property described below for the location, construction, maintenance, repair and expansion of public utilities, roadway and embankment.
- The said Right-of-Entry shall exist in favor of City, its successors and assigns for so long as the City, its successors or assigns deem the presence of public utilities, roadway and embankment.
- The said agreement shall and does hereby exist in the following described real property:

#### PARCEL 7A

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Real property in the City of Seward, Alaska, being a portion of Lot 1, Block 9, Cliff Addition as described on Survey Plat #1117 recorded at the Seward Recording Office; more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot 1 and also being on the South line of Lot 2, Block 9, Cliff Addition and West line of Government Road; thence along the North line of Lot 1 West 26.69 feet; thence leaving said North line South 37°33'26" West 86.12 feet to the angle point of the East line of Lot 1 and the West line of Government Road; thence leaving said East and West lines South 31°58'29" West 72.19 feet to the South line of Lot 1; thence along the South line of Lot 1 East 17.5 feet to the East line of Lot 1; thence leaving said South line along the East line of Lot 1, also being the West line of Government Road North 18°42' East 64.65 feet to the angle point of the East line of Lot 1 and North 49°14' East 194.55 feet to the North line of Lot 1 and the point of beginning; containing 1446.9 square feet.

- 4. City agrees to hold Grantor harmless from claims arising out of injuries to persons or property caused by City's defective utility fixtures, construction and repairs to roadway and embankment.
- 5. In consideration of the foregoing, the City agrees to support vacation of the alley Right-of-Way between Lots I and 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and the First Avenue Right-of-Way North of Mill Street between Lots 12, 13, and 14 of Block 9 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Block 6, Cliff Addition at the time application for a replat of the above property is submitted to the Kenai Peninsula Planning Commission.
- Grantor agrees to grant to the City title and all rights to the property described as Parcel 7A above at such time when the property is replatted by owner.

E3-88

RIGHT-OF-ENTRY PERMIT (Cont'd) Seward Recording Disariet GRANTOR: CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA: Estate of Mark C. Walker. ATTEST: STATE OF ALASKA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT ) 85. BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, Auga Walker personally appeared to me known to be the Grantor herein named and who executed the foregoing instrument and who acknowledged to me that 40 signed and sealed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.
WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 2 / the day of Caugust, 198 My Commission Expires: 4-18-F STATE OF ALASKA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT ) 88. BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, personally appeared FONALD A. CORENII, known to me and to me known to be the City Manager of the City of Seward, Alaska, and who executed the foregoing instrument and who acknowledged to me that witness MY HAND AND SEAL this 38 day of August 1954. NOTARY PUBLIC in and for My Commission Expires: RECORTED TILED DISTRICT

Auc 28 8 29 AH '84

REQUESTED BY City of Seward

ADDRESS Box 167, Seward AK 99664