

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Donald E. Gilman River Center

MEMORANDUM

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

THRU: Peter Micciche, Mayor *PAM*
Robert Ruffner, Planning Director *RR*

FROM: Samantha Lopez, River Center Manager *SL*

DATE: March 23, 2023

RE: Ordinance 2023- *09*, Amending KPB 21.04.020 to Clarify Required Notice to Property Owners Within a Zoning District When There is a Proposal to Change the District Boundary (Mayor)

The Donald E. Gilman River Center (the "River Center") administers the Kenai Peninsula Borough (the "Borough") Floodplain Management Program. One facet of this program is that KPB periodically updates its regulatory floodplain maps, called Flood Insurance Rate Maps ("FIRMs"). The current FIRMs for the Kenai River were drafted in the late 1970's, adopted in 1981, and are woefully outdated. River Center staff have been working closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") to update the Kenai River FIRMs, and are nearing the public outreach phase of the project.

Because these updated FIRMs will amend the zoned boundaries of the Kenai River floodplain, River Center staff must follow the public noticing requirements in KPB 21.04.020. This section of code is unclear, and could be interpreted to mean that properties in all floodplains must be mailed a public notice regarding the proposed changes to the Kenai River floodplain. This would result in over 8,100 properties receiving notice when the changed boundaries will only affect 4,000 Kenai River properties.

Not only will this amendment avoid sending thousands of notices to unaffected properties, but it will also save the Borough at least \$6,000.00 over the course of the Kenai River FIRM project.

Your consideration is appreciated.