



THE STATE  
of ALASKA  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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February 20, 2015

Toby Burke  
Petitioner Representative  
Co-Chair, K-Beach High Water Drainage Task Force  
51135 Buoy Avenue  
Kenai, AK 99611

Re: August 2014 Petition regarding K-Beach Road Flooding Relief Task Force

Dear Mr. Burke:

This letter is in response to your August 8, 2014 email to which you attached the above referenced petition requesting the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) convene or participate in a K-Beach Road Flooding Relief Task Force. From discussions with staff, I know there has continued to be focus on this issue from both the Kenai Peninsula Borough Administration and the Department. DNR is very aware of the concerns of the petitioners and other property owners in the K-Beach Road area who were or are currently being impacted by flooding or high water events, and the threat future events pose.

DNR is currently very engaged with the Kenai Peninsula Borough on this issue. The Division of Mining, Land and Water's Water Resources Section staff have made over 10 trips to the area to collect data and share information with the Borough Administration, the Borough Assembly and the public.

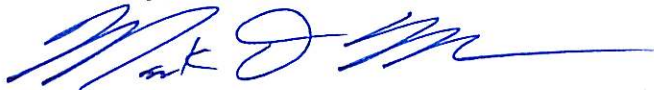
Within the authority of the Department and consistent with the available staff time and resources, DNR will continue the well-established and ongoing cooperation with the Kenai Peninsula Borough on efforts to comprehensively understand the nature of the flooding problems that have occurred in the area. DNR will continue to support hydrologic data collection so that the issues can be well-understood, as well as provide interpretative work as necessary. Any permit applications that are submitted pursuant to the work in K-Beach area will be reviewed expeditiously.

Since the petition request was submitted, it appears members of the public have banded together to form an independent "K-Beach High-Water Drainage Task Force". DNR Water Resources Chief David W. Schade attended the January 26, 2015 meeting of this group, and DNR will be available to discuss and evaluate future proposals made by the group. Therefore, it does not appear that another "task force" would be appropriate at this time.

Further, as I understand from Mr. Schade, at the January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting, the members voted to send forward a proposal for a study to the KPMB Mayor, Assembly, and State Legislature for funding. This study would provide a better understanding of the area hydrology, geology and use

patterns so that properly engineered solutions can be developed. I appreciate the effort that your task force has undertaken and believe that the Borough will benefit from further active engagement of the public, and your task force, on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Myers', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark D. Myers  
Commissioner

Cc: Honorable Mike Navarre, KPB Mayor  
Honorable Kelly Wolfe, KPB Assembly Member District 1  
Honorable Dale Bagley, Assembly President  
Brent Goodrum, Director, DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water  
David W. Schade, Chief, DNR/DLWM Water Resources Section  
Jim Munter, Co-Chair, K-Beach High Water Drainage Task Force