

# Assembly on 2016-05-17 6:00 PM

Meeting Time: 05-17-16 18:00

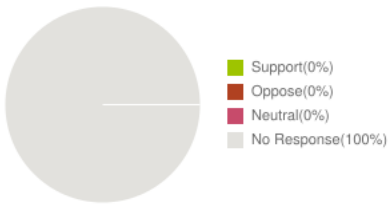
## eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Assembly on 2016-05-17 6:00 PM	05-17-16 18:00	61	1	0	0	0

### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment



## Assembly on 2016-05-17 6:00 PM

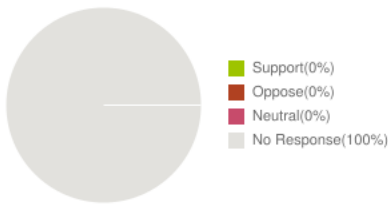
05-17-16 18:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
*b. 2016-031 A Resolution Classifying 29 +/- Acres of Borough Land in the Seldovia Area as Recreational (Mayor)	1	0	0	0

### Sentiments for All Agenda Items

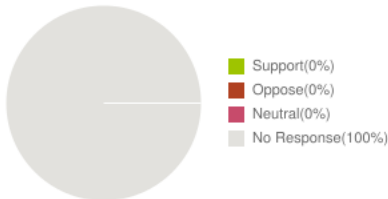
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment



#### Agenda Item: eComments for \*b. 2016-031 A Resolution Classifying 29 +/- Acres of Borough Land in the Seldovia Area as Recreational (Mayor)

#### Overall Sentiment



### Nancy Pease

Location:

Submitted At: 10:39pm 05-17-16

May 17, 2016

To: Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly  
144 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7599

RE: Case 2016-031

Classification of 29 acres for recreation, near Seldovia (KPB Parcel No. 191-130-68, lying east of Rocky Road near the landfill).

This parcel of Borough land merits classification as Recreational land. We look forward to community ideas for reasonable recreational development that is compatible with the Rocky Road neighborhood, and that will promote

public health and the local nature-based tourism economy. However, this parcel should not be leased for a shooting range. Therefore, we request that your classification include a condition of approval: "Recreation use and development excludes a shooting range or other noxious or hazardous uses that are incompatible with existing residential and recreational use of the area."

The Rocky Road location is unsuited for the Seldovia Sportsmen's Club (SSC) proposed shooting range for these reasons:

- It is located less than a mile from town, too-near existing residences and recreation areas;
- It straddles wetlands and a tributary of Fish Creek; and
- Lead contamination of the site is a 100% certainty, with likely public monetary and health costs. Clean-up of a former biathlon range within Anchorage's Kincaid Park cost over \$1 million in 2011. (see attached Anchorage daily News article Dec 2012).

Detailed explanations of several negative impacts are provided below:

#### 1. Public health.

- Lead exposure on-site.

Lead-contamination of the soils and water pose a serious, irreversible public health risk. Lead at shooting ranges is a well-documented health hazard, and the most common cause of non-workplace lead poisoning. Exposure includes inhalation of lead dust or absorption through contact with lead-covered surfaces (See the website [projects.seattletimes.com](http://projects.seattletimes.com)). There is no safe lead level for children: lead produces permanent loss of cognitive function and behavioral control. Lead in adults can also cause permanent sensory and organ damage, and even death.

Eventual clean-up of a shooting range is costly.

- Lead contamination off-site.

It is unrealistic to propose that lead shot and bullets can be collected. In addition, firing produces lead dust. The proposed shooting range would almost certainly cause lead contamination of wetlands that drain into Fish Creek. The shallow, fractured bedrock and the acidic soils of the spruce rainforests (spodosol soil types (3)) will accelerate the leaching of lead into the wetlands and the tributary of Fish Creek that intersect this property. (See attached article on soils and lead transport). Heavy rainfall events and annual precipitation, create a high risk of lead particles entering the stream and groundwater.

Fish Creek crosses several residential properties and discharges into the salmon fishing hole at the airport, and Seldovia slough. It is inevitable that lead contamination of Fish Creek will expose residents and visitors off-site.

#### 2. Noise impacts

- Chronic noise exposure. Noise complaints from a previous adjoining subdivision (Barabara Heights) are a primary reason the SSC is looking for a site. This site does not solve the noise nuisance, just imposes it on several different neighborhoods and on users of the bay. The nearby residences would be exposed to a repeated soundtrack of gunfire.

- Incidental public exposure to noise is also hazardous. Exposure to noise greater than 140 dB can permanently damage hearing. A small .22-caliber rifle can produce noise around 140 dB, while big-bore rifles and pistols can produce sound over 175 dB\*.

#### 3. Environmental clean-up costs

- Any shooting range requires clean-up, whether during or after the shooting range's active use. As a cautionary tale, Anchorage had a multi-million dollar public shooting range cleanup at Kincaid Park. Monitoring, remediation and restoration of the Rocky Road public lands should not become a public expense.

Summary: A shooting range is a high-impact use: past shooting sites in the area have stirred a range of complaints, including noise, litter, property damage and trespass. Noise impacts, environmental impacts, and devaluation of the character of the area cannot be mitigated. In addition, there are many unfunded public costs, including law enforcement, environmental monitoring, and eventual site clean-up. The site on Rocky Road would be a net-cost to the public.

We support the Borough's classification of the Rocky Road parcel as Recreation land, with the specific condition

of approval that "Recreation use and development excludes a shooting range or other noxious or hazardous uses that are incompatible with existing residential and recreational use of the area."

Signed, Seldovia property owners and family:

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