

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Planning Department – Land Management Division

MEMORANDUM

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

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *CP*
Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director *BH*
Robert Ruffner, Planning Director *RR*
Lee Frey, Solid Waste Director *LF*

FROM: Marcus A Mueller, Land Management Officer *RRFMM*
Dakota Truitt, Land Management Agent *RRFT*

DATE: June 9, 2022

RE: Ordinance 2022-19- 01, Appropriating \$300,000 from the General Fund to Establish Temporary Firewise Slash Disposal Sites (Mayor)

KPB Land Management Division, in collaboration with the City of Kenai, has identified the need for Firewise slash disposal sites to reasonably serve each community within the Central Peninsula in light of the increasing woody debris resulting from spruce bark beetle mortality. The need for public slash disposal facilities is categorized as a high-priority mitigation strategy in the recently updated 2022 Kenai Peninsula Community Wildfire Protection Plan (see, Chapter 4).

The Land Management Division is proposing utilizing contracts to develop slash disposal sites for residential woody debris disposal. The City of Kenai has agreed to commit \$50,000 to develop a slash disposal site within its area to assist in decreasing the burden at the Central Peninsula Landfill (CPL), as well as make slash disposal sites more accessible to its community. By increasing accessibility of Firewise slash disposal sites, we incentivize the appropriate and safe disposal of woody debris, instead of relying on each individual to safely burn slash, at an increased risk of fire escapement, dispersed across the Central Peninsula.

Brush disposal has become an increasing burden on the Solid Waste Department and mainly at CPL. The management of the brush piles throughout the year and burning operations in the winter have become burdensome and caused smoke complaints nearby. Volumes of brush delivered to CPL continue to increase each year and space to store brush will become an issue when construction of Cell 4 begins in a few years.

Selection of these sites will be based on competitive bids, best locations, ease of access, appropriate signage, hours of operability, and safe accommodation/

Page -2-
June 9, 2022
Re: O2019-22- 01

regulation of slash acceptance, slash pile maintenance, and slash pile ignition to dispose via burning at least once per year. All contractors will need to abide by burn regulations set by the Fire Safety Program, State of Alaska.

The Land Management Division would act as the project managers for these contracts and will facilitate the internal processes needed to support these sites. Contracts are a forward-thinking solution to increasing capacity to address this issue. The borough is actively pursuing grants which, if received, could provide alternative and longer duration project funding.

This ordinance appropriates General Fund fund balance of \$300,000 to support the Firewise Slash Disposal project.

Your consideration of this ordinance is appreciated.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT FUNDS/ACCOUNT VERIFIED	
Account:	<u>100.27910</u>
Amount:	<u>\$ \$300,000</u>
By: <u>CS</u>	Date: <u>6/9/2022</u>