

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION 2022-14

**A RESOLUTION GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PURSUANT TO KPB 21.18 FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A ROOT WAD DIVERSION STRUCTURE WITHIN THE 50-FOOT HABITAT
PROTECTION DISTRICT OF THE CHUITNA RIVER**

- WHEREAS,** Chapter 21.18 provides for the approval of Conditional Use Permits for certain activities within the habitat protection district; and
- WHEREAS,** KPB 21.18.081 provides that a conditional use permit is required for construction not meeting the standards of KPB 21.18.071; and
- WHEREAS,** KPB 21.18.091 provides for mitigation measures by the planning department staff to address impacts to the Habitat Protection District from a proposed, ongoing, or completed project; and
- WHEREAS,** public notice was sent to all property owners within a 300-foot radius of the proposed activity as provided in Section 21.11.030; and
- WHEREAS,** public notice was published in the Peninsula Clarion on March 31, 2022 and April 7, 2022 as provided in Section 21.11.020; and
- WHEREAS,** public testimony was received at the April 11, 2022 meeting of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE KENAI
PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

That the Planning Commission makes the following findings of fact pursuant to KPB 21.18:

Section 1. Project Details Within the 50-foot Habitat Protection District

1. Approximately 2,425 cubic yards of sediment will be excavated from the historic channel to redirect the flow of water away from the exposed pipeline.
2. A temporary diversion structure will also be installed to direct any remaining flows away from the pipeline and toward the newly excavated channel. This temporary structure will be removed once the project is complete.
3. After de-watering, the pipeline will be armored with approximately 400 biodegradable bags of Seacrete, and then backfilled with the sediment excavated from the historic channel.
4. Root wads will be sourced from existing log jams and used to construct an approximately 250-300 foot-long root wad revetment that will be backfilled with on-site sand and gravel.
5. The surface of the revetment structure will be covered with vegetative mat and replanted with willow and alders harvested from nearby gravel bars.

Section 2. Findings of fact pursuant to KPB 21.18.081

1. Portions of this proposed project are within the 50-foot habitat protection district as defined by KPB 21.18.040.
2. Pursuant to KPB 21.18.081(B)(5), construction of transportation and utility infrastructure may be approved as a conditional structure/use within the habitat protection district.
3. Pursuant to 21.18.081(D) General Standards, staff finds that the proposed project meets the five general standards.
4. Pursuant to KPB 21.18.020(A), this chapter was established to protect and preserve the stability of anadromous fish through controlling shoreline alterations and disturbances along anadromous waters and to preserve nearshore habitat.
5. Pursuant to KPB 21.18.20(B)(5), one purpose of this chapter was established to separate conflicting land uses.
6. The installation of the root wad diversion will prevent future exposure of the pipeline.
7. Vegetative mat will be placed on top of the root wad diversion and staked with live alder and willow plantings.
8. Pursuant to KPB 21.06.081(D)(3), the proposed work will occur on the applicant's property and shall not have an adverse effect on adjoining properties.
9. Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission Resolution 2015-35 defines water-dependent as:
"...a use or structure located on, in or adjacent to water areas because the use requires access to the waterbody. The definition is applicable to facilities or activities that must be located at or near the shoreline and within the 50-foot buffer. An activity is considered water dependent if it is dependent on the water as part of the intrinsic nature of its operation. Examples of water dependent facilities may include, but are not limited to, piers, boat ramps, and elevated walkways."
10. While utility services are not a water-dependent use as described in Resolution 2015-35, they are listed as a permissible Conditional Use under KPB 21.18.081(B)(5).
11. The River Center found the application complete and scheduled a public hearing for April 11, 2022.
12. Agency review was distributed on March 28, 2022. No comments or objections have been received from resource agencies to date.
13. Pursuant to KPB 21.11.030, public notice was mailed to all property owners within a radius of 300 feet of the project on March 28, 2022. A total of 2 mailings were sent. Comments not received.
14. Pursuant to KPB 21.11.020, public notice was published in the Peninsula Clarion on March 31, 2022 and April 7, 2022.
15. The applicant is currently in compliance with Borough permits and ordinances.

Section 3. Permit Conditions

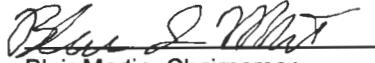
1. Construction techniques and best management practices shall be utilized to ensure that land disturbing activities do not result in runoff or sedimentation to the Chuitna River.
2. The root wad revetment must be designed and installed to meet KPB floodplain requirements.
3. The permittee shall minimize damage to all vegetation and shall revegetate all disturbed areas with native vegetation.
4. For each tree removed, two seedlings less than 5.5-feet tall of a species native to the region will be planted within the 50-foot HPD.
5. Storage or use of fuel is prohibited within 50-feet of any open water.

6. The River Center shall be notified at least 3 days prior to the start of the project.
7. If changes to the approved project described above are proposed prior to or during its siting, construction, or operation, the permittee is required to notify the River Center to determine if additional approval is required.
8. The permittee shall be held responsible for the actions of the contractors, agents, or others who perform work to accomplish the approved plan.
9. The construction or installation phase of this Conditional Use Permit must be completed within one calendar year from the date of the permit's issuance, or the Conditional Use Permit shall expire unless the Planning Commission finds that more time is necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter, in which case the commission may extend the deadline for a maximum of six years from the date of issuance. Prior to its expiration date and upon written request, the Planning Director may grant a Conditional Use Permit extension for 12 months (KPB 21.18.081 (H)).
10. In addition to the penalties provided by KPB 21.18.110, and pursuant to KPB 21.50, the permit may be revoked if the permittee fails to comply with the provisions of this chapter or the terms and conditions of a permit issued under this chapter. The Borough Clerk shall provide at least 15 day's written notice to the permittee of a revocation hearing before the hearing officer (KPB 21.18.082).
11. The permittee shall comply with the terms, conditions and requirements of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Code of Ordinances Chapter 21.18, and any regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.
12. The permittee is responsible for abiding by all other federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and permitting requirements applicable to the project (KPB 21.18.081 (G)).


Section 4. Pursuant to 21.18.081(D) General Standards, the following standards shall be met before conditional use approval may be granted:

1. The use or structure will not cause significant erosion, sedimentation, damage within the habitat protection district, an increase in ground or surface water pollution, and damage to riparian wetlands and riparian ecosystems; **Conditions 1-4 and Findings 6-7 appear to support this standard.**
2. Granting of the conditional use shall be consistent with the purposes of this chapter, the borough comprehensive plan, other applicable chapters of the borough Code, and other applicable planning documents adopted by the borough; **Findings 1-7, 9-14 appear to support this standard.**
3. The development of the use or structure shall not physically damage the adjoining property; **Finding 8 appear to support this standard.**
4. The proposed use or structure is water-dependent; **Findings 9-10 appear to support this standard.**
5. Applicant's or owner's compliance with other borough permits and ordinance requirements. **Finding 15 appears to support this standard.**

THIS CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT EFFECTIVE ON 11th DAY OF APRIL, 2022.


Blair Martin, Chairperson
Planning Commission

ATTEST:


Ann Shirnberg
Administrative Assistant

Note: An appeal of a decision of the Planning Commission may be filed to the hearing officer, in accordance with the requirements of the KPB Code of Ordinances, Chapter 21.20.250. An appeal must be filed with the Borough Clerk within 15 days of date of the notice of the decision using the proper forms and be accompanied by the filing and records preparation fee.