# **E. NEW BUSINESS**

Conditional Use Permit; PC Resolution 2023-10
 Applicant: Alaska Rail Road Corporation (ARRC)

Location: ARRC MP 26.2, along Lower Trail Lake

Request: Construct a culvert on the Alaska Rail Road ROW within

the 50' Habitat Protection District of the Lower Trail Lake

**Moose Pass Area** 

### Multi Agency Permit Application

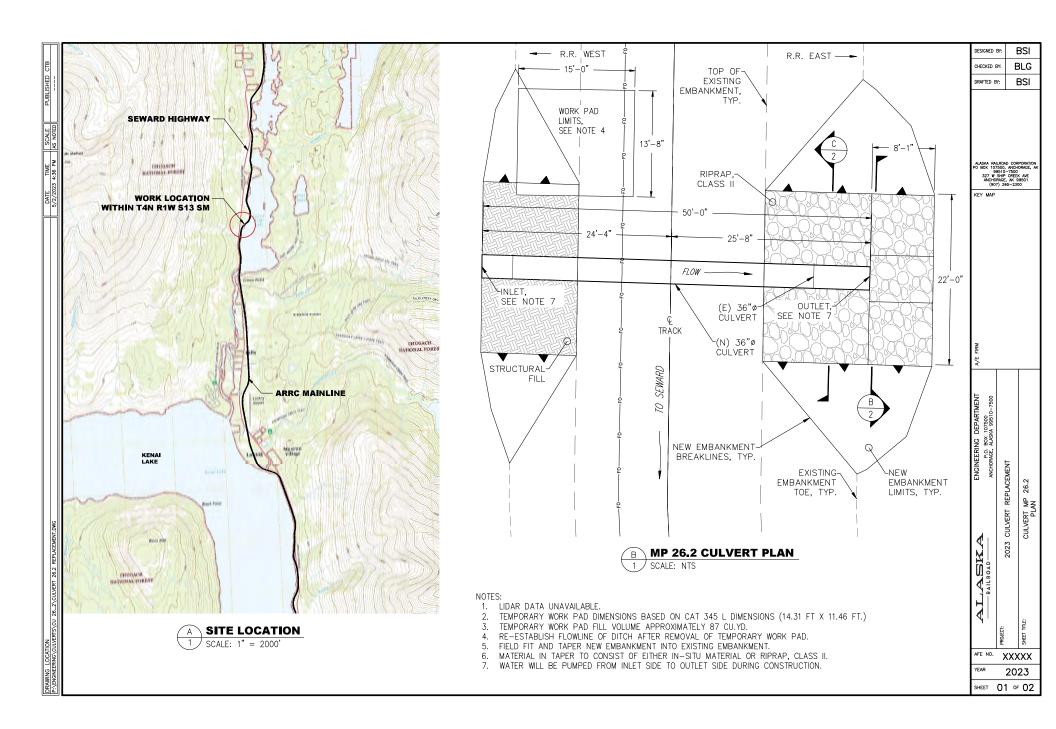


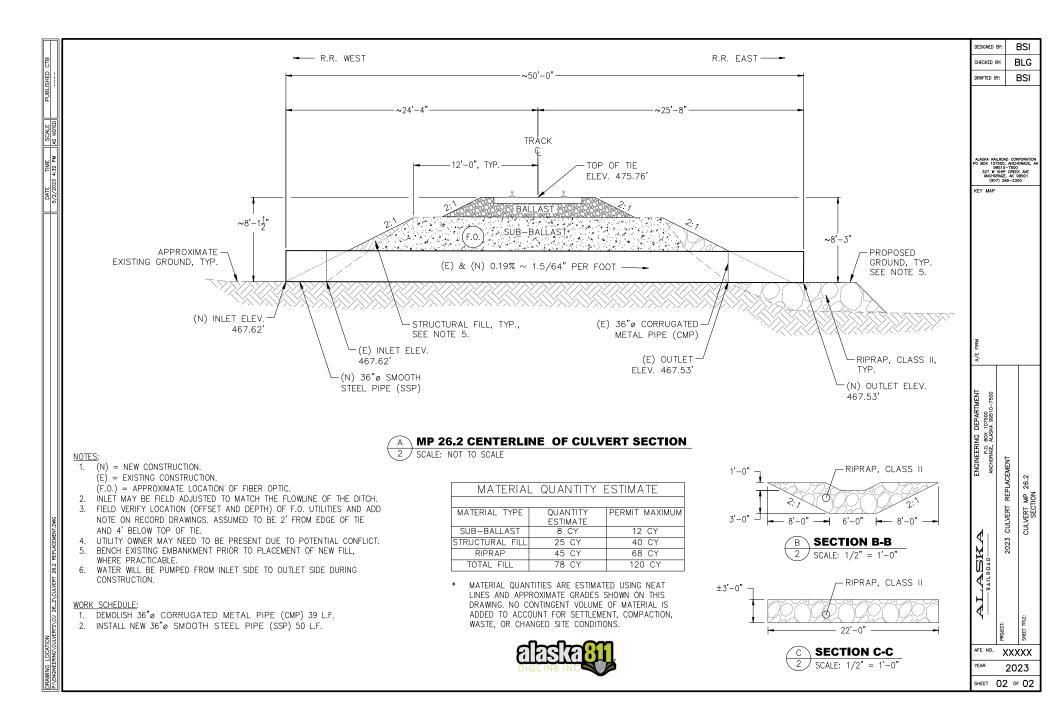
514 Funny River Road, Soldotna, AK 99669 • (907) 714-2460 • KenaiRivCenter@kpb.us

NA Addn/No.: NA is located east of nway milepost 26.	
99510  rr.com  NA Addn/No.: NA is located east of	
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prox. Seward Highway milepost 26.	
ages if needed. Include  Storage: location, quantities tation Removal: location, int, type  ect at rail milepost 26.2.  ge would be replaced with	
m a temporary construction	
f ballast and in-situ material	
of ballast and in-situ material dplain. Necessary damming	

#### Project Questions:

No	te: Use Ordinary High Water (OHW) for non-tidal waters, and Mean High Tide (MHT) for tidal waters.			
10	Start date: 6/1/23 End date: 10/31/24 Estimated Days of Construction: 3-5			
2.	Is the project located within 50 feet of OHW or HTL a waterbody?   Yes  No			
3.	Does any portion of the project extend <b>below</b> the OHW or HTL of the stream or waterbody?			
4.	Does any portion of the project cantilever or extend over the OHW of the waterbody?   Yes  No			
5.	Will anything be placed below OHW or HTL of the waterbody? ■ Yes □ No			
6.	Will material be extracted or dredged from the site? ■ Yes □ No			
7.	Including areas below OHW or HTL, what is the total area (in acres) that will be excavated or dredged?  Total Area: 0.01 acres Type of Material: In-situ/Ballast  Location you will depositing fill: Re-used or ARRC ROW uplands outside of floodplain			
8.	Will any material (including soils, debris, and/or overburden) be used as fill? ■ Yes □ No  Type of material: Existing/Ballast/Riprap Amount: 120 cy max Permanent ■ or Temporary □  Will fill be placed below OHW or HTL: ■ Yes □ No			
9.	List all motorized equipment to be used in this project, including access route to site, any stream or waterbod crossings, and (if applicable) how long equipment will be used below OHW or HTL: Two excavators, remote compactor, and hyrail trucks for access. Equipment used below OHW is limited to excavator buckets for up to 12 hours.			
10	Is any portion of the work already complete?  Yes No  If yes, describe: NA			
Th	anature & Certification: is application is hereby made requesting permit(s) to authorize the work described in this application rm. I certify the information in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.			
an	applying for a tax credit: I certify that I have not begun construction of the project on this the property d that the proposed project will be constructed in a manner consistent with KPB 5.12 Real Property and rsonal Property Taxes, KPB 5.14 Habitat Protection Tax Credit, and other applicable ordinances.			
	Applicant Signature (required)  5/3/23  Date			
	5/3/23			
	Agent Signature (if applicable) Date			





### ARRC – MP 26.2 Culvert Replacement Site Photographs – October 2022



Photo 1. Culvert 26.2 inlet



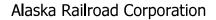
**Photo 2.** Culvert 26.2 outlet

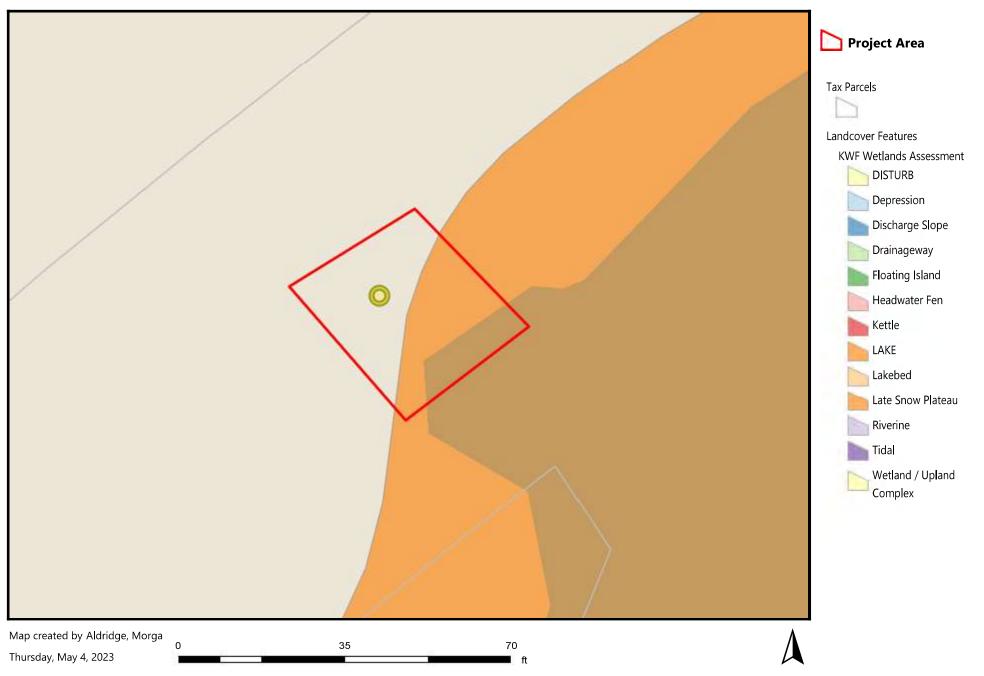
**Vicinity** 

### Project Overview and Vicinity Map

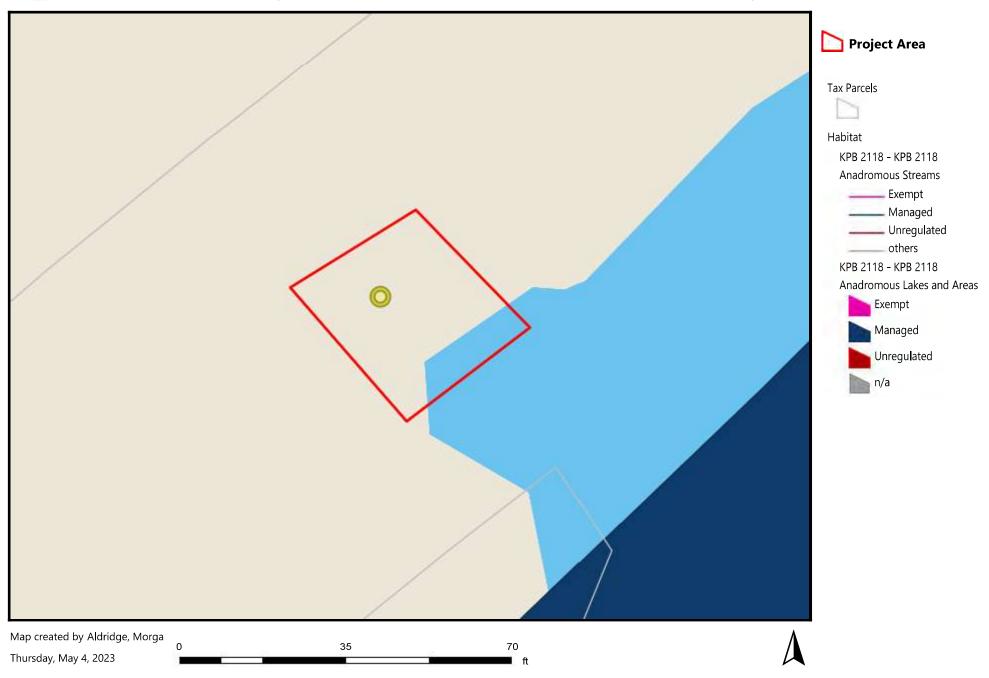
# **Alaska Railroad Corporation Project Area** replacement of culvert and addition of fill to stabilize within the 50 foot anadromous streams habitat protection district setback of Lower Trail Lake 50 100 Map created by Aldridge, Morgan

The information depicted hereon is for a graphical representation only of best available sources. The Kenai Peninsula Borough assumes no responsibility for any errors on this map.



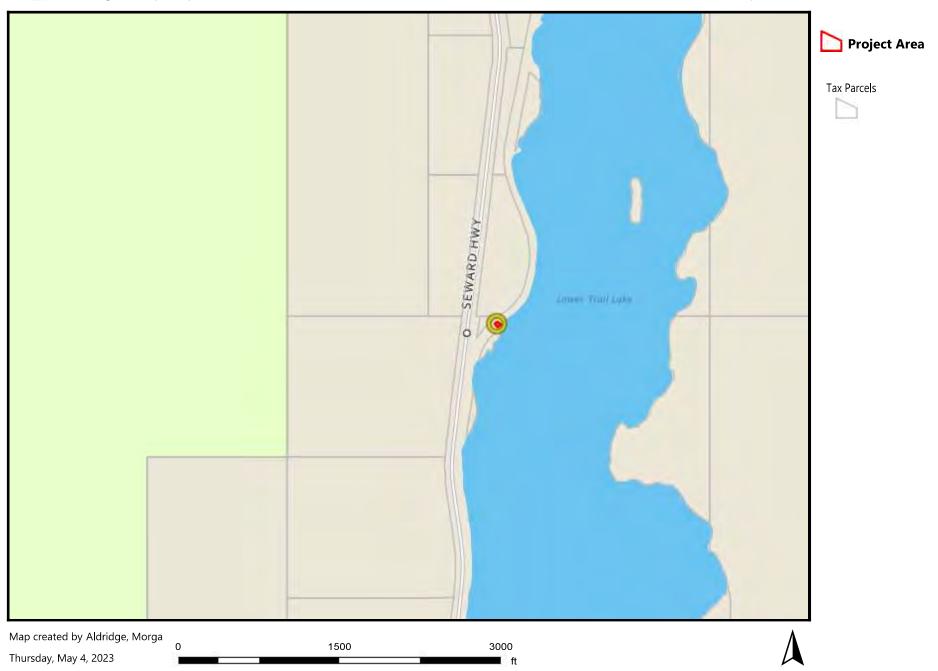


Alaska Railroad Corporation



Regulatory Map

Alaska Railroad Corporation



Alaska Railroad Corporation



Alaska Railroad Corporation



Project Area

Tax Parcels

ax Parceis

0 1500 3000

# Conditional Use Permit Anadromous Waters Habitat Protection District Staff Report

KPB File No. 2023-10

Planning Commission Meeting: May 22, 2023

Applicant Alaska Railroad Corporation

Mailing Address PO Box 107500

Anchorage, AK 99510

Physical Address ARRC MP 26.2

60.443917, -149.370399

#### **Project Description**

A Conditional Use Permit is sought pursuant to KPB 21.18 for the construction of a culvert and placement of fill within the 50-foot Habitat Protection District of the Lower Trail Lake, as established in KPB 21.18.040.

#### **Background Information**

The existing culvert under the rail road in this area is old and has deteriorated due to age and environmental stress. The photo in the attached application shows that the culvert is in need of repair. The Alaska Railroad proposes to replace the culvert and backfill around the culvert with large rock, creating a hold for the culvert and tapering the rock below.

#### **Project Details within the 50-foot Habitat Protection District**

- 1. Replacing the existing 36x39 corrugated metal pipe culvert at the rail road crossing with a 36x50 smooth steel pipe culvert
- 2. Placement of approximately 48 cubic yards of new materials (a combination of rip rap, ballast and structural fill) above OHW
- 3. Placement of approximately 40 cubic yards of materials that will be re-used above OHW

#### **General Standards**

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 1-3 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 1-4, 8-15 appear to support this standard.**
- 3. The development of the use or structure shall not physically damage the adjoining property; **Finding 8 appears to support this standard.**
- 4. The proposed use or structure is water-dependent; **Findings 4 and 9 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.** 

#### Findings of fact pursuant to KPB 21.18.081 Conditional Use Permit

- 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 critical 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. Removal of the old culvert and replacing it with a culvert that will provide better drainage.
- 7. Placement of rip rap fill will support the new culvert and establish a safer railway.
- 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. The River Center found the application complete and scheduled a public hearing for May 22, 2023.
- 11. Agency review was distributed on May 8, 2023. No comments or objections have been received from resource agencies to date.
- 12. Notice of this project was sent to the Moose Pass Advisory Planning Commission. The APC reviewed this project at their May 4, 2023 meeting. They recommended approval.
- 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 May 8, 2023. A total of 1 mailing was sent. No comments have been received.
- 14. Pursuant to KPB 21.11.020, public notice was published in the Peninsula Clarion on May 11, 2023 and May 18, 2023.
- 15. The applicant is currently in compliance with Borough permits and ordinances.

#### **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 Trail Lake.
- 2. The bridge 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 three calendar years 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)).

#### **Attachments**

Multi-Agency Application Draft Resolution 2023-10

#### Recommendation

Based on the findings, staff finds that the proposed project meets the five general standards of KPB 21.18.081. The Planning Commission could consider additional permit conditions to mitigate for any habitat loss if it chooses.

Staff recommends the Planning Commission grant a Conditional Use Permit for the proposed project details subject to adopted conditions as set forth in 2022-41.

Note: An appeal of a decision of the Planning Commission may be filed to the Hearing Officer, in accordance with the requirements of the Kenai Peninsula Borough 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.

**END OF STAFF REPORT** 



### Donald E. Gilman River Center

514 Funny River Road, Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • (907) 714-2460 • (907) 260-5992 Fax

A Division of the Planning Department

Peter A. Micciche Borough Mayor

# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given that an application for a Conditional Use Permit has been received to construct a culvert on the Alaska Rail Road right of way within the 50-foot Habitat Protection District of the Lower Trail Lake near Moose Pass, Alaska. **You have been sent this notice because you are a property owner within 300 feet of the described property.** 

Pursuant to KPB 21.18.081(B)(5) Transportation and utility infrastructure and KPB 21.18.091 Mitigation measures, projects within the 50-foot Habitat Protection District are not permitted unless a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is approved by the Planning Commission. This project is located at ARRC MP 26.2, along the Lower Trail Lake, near Moose Pass, Alaska.

<u>Petitioner</u>: Alaska Rail Road Corporation

PO Box 107500

Anchorage, AK 99510

<u>Public Hearing:</u> The Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission meeting will hold a public hearing on May 22, 2023 commencing at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as business permits. The meeting is to be held in the Borough Administrative Building, 144 N. Binkley St., Soldotna, Alaska. The public may also attend the meeting electronically/telephonically via Zoom. To join the meeting from a computer visit <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9077142200">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9077142200</a>. To attend the Zoom meeting by telephone call toll free 1-888-788-0099 or 1-877-853-5247. When calling in you will need the Meeting ID 907 714 2200.

<u>Public Comment:</u> Anyone wishing to testify may attend the above meeting to give testimony, or may submit written comment via the methods below. **Written comments must be submitted by 1:00 pm Friday, May 19, 2023.** 

Mail comments to:
Donald E. Gilman River Center
514 Funny River Road
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

<u>Fax comments to:</u> <u>Email comments to:</u> (907) 260-5992 <u>planning@kpb.us</u>

KenaiRivCenter@kpb.us

For additional information contact Morgan Aldridge, maldridge@kpb.us, Donald E. Gilman River Center, (907) 714-2465.

#### KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION

#### **RESOLUTION 2023-10**

# A RESOLUTION GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PURSUANT TO KPB 21.18 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CULVERT WITHIN THE 50-FOOT HABITAT PROTECTION DISTRICT OF THE LOWER TRAIL LAKE.

- **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 May 11, 2023 and May 18, 2023 as provided in Section 21.11.020; and
- **WHEREAS,** public testimony was received at the May 22, 2023 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. Replacing the existing 36x39 corrugated metal pipe culvert at the rail road crossing with a 36x50 smooth steel pipe culvert
- 2. Placement of approximately 48 cubic yards of new materials (a combination of rip rap, ballast and structural fill) above OHW
- 3. Placement of appropriately 40 cubic yards of materials that will be re-used above OHW 4.

#### 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) Transportation and utility infrastructure, construction of a culvert 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.
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- 14. Pursuant to KPB 21.11.020, public notice was published in the Peninsula Clarion on May 11, 2023 and May 18, 2023.
- 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 Lower Trail Lake.
- 2. The culvert 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 1-3 appear to support this standard.**
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- 3. The development of the use or structure shall not physically damage the adjoining property; Finding 8 appears to support this standard.
- 4. The proposed use or structure is water-dependent; Findings 4 and 9 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 DAY O	PF, 2023.
	Jeremy Brantley, Cha	-
ATTEST:	Planning Commission	п
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.