

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Office of Emergency Management

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Johnson, Assembly President
Members, KPB Assembly

THRU: Peter A. Micciche, Mayor *PM*
Brenda Ahlberg, Emergency Manager *BA*
Robert Ruffner, Planning Director *RR*

FROM: Mary Toll, HMP 2024 Update Project Manager *MT*

DATE: September 26, 2024

RE: Ordinance 2024- 28, Adopting the Updated 2024 Kenai Peninsula Borough Hazard Mitigation Plan, a Multi-Jurisdictional Plan Including the Cities of Seldovia and Seward (Mayor)

Ordinance 2004-33 enacted a borough-wide All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (Plan). The Plan was subsequently updated in 2010 via Ordinance 2010-26, in 2014 via Ordinance 2014-22, and in 2019 via Ordinance 2019-31.

The current 2024 update revises the Plan to include the cities of Seldovia and Seward. Inclusion of the cities of Homer, Kachemak City, Kenai and Soldotna are not in the current update due to staffing shortages following the Covid-19 pandemic. The remaining cities and participating Tribal entities will be invited to participate in the next update cycle.

The goals and proposed mitigation actions for the Seward Bear Creek Flood Service Area (SBCFSA) are included in this update and the flood service area will no longer prepare a stand-alone Plan. As a service area, the SBCFSA is not included as a jurisdiction in this update, and having an independent Plan is unnecessary and a duplication of efforts as service areas fall under the KPB's Plan.

KPB 2.80.010 is being amended to reflect the updated name of the Plan.

The purpose of this hazard mitigation update planning effort is threefold: (1) as a viable tool for reducing community vulnerability to disaster loss and damage; (2) as a requirement for obtaining certain types of future federal and state hazard mitigation funding; and (3) as a means to begin the process toward a full multijurisdictional plan, providing a more cohesive and coordinated process between the KPB and the cities to mitigate hazards.

The KPB cooperated and coordinated the 2024 update with the Plan section of the Alaska Division of Homeland and Emergency Management ("DHS&EM") and with the local state representative for the Region X FEMA office. This coordination was especially important as the State HMP

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office implemented a new “Executive Summary” spreadsheet on April 1, 2024, required to be submitted with the Plan for state review. This spreadsheet caused increased and unexpected data research and input in the middle of the process.

The Plan is available for review at the KPB Clerk’s Office and online at the Emergency Management web page with a hyperlink under the 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:

[KPB Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2024 \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

The mitigation goals and strategies are provided in that link as an option for minimal review, if desired.

A brief timeline of the update process follows:

RFP issued October 11, 2023
Bids due November 1, 2023
Notice to Proceed issued January 25, 2024

APC meetings attended:

- May 8, 2024 Hope/Sunrise
- May 8, 2024 Cooper Landing
- May 8, 2024 Nikiski
- May 15, 2024 Anchor Point
- June 6, 2024 Moose Pass

Community and other meetings attended:

- May 1, 2024 City of Seldovia administration
- May 18, 2024 Funny River Community annual meeting
- May 21, 2024 City of Seward Planning and Zoning Commission
- June 8, 2024 Kenai River Fair
- June 24, 2024 Planning Commission
- July 19, 2024 LEPC

Future Schedule:

- September 23, 2024 Planning Commission (for recommendation to Assembly)
- October 2 and 3 APC (final draft, Assembly memo and ordinance review and recommendation)
- Oct 8 Assembly (ordinance introduction) and Oct 22, 2024 (hearing)

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The draft Plan was made available on August 2, 2024 for the 30-day public and stakeholder review and comment period, ending September 1, 2024. Notice of Plan availability for comment was sent out to stakeholders via direct email and the public was notified on the social media pages for the Office of Emergency Management, and the cities of Seldovia and Seward. The comments received will be incorporated into the Plan and the revised draft Plan will be sent to the DHS&EM for state review early in September. DHS&EM has 30 days to review the draft Plan. The state comments will be incorporated into the Plan and it will be sent to FEMA for their 45-day review period. If FEMA has any additions or revisions, they will be completed and FEMA will issue an 'Approval Pending Adoption', unless the Assembly has already enacted this ordinance, in which case FEMA will approve the Plan. Plan approval is valid for 5 years. The current 2019 Plan expires December 18, 2024.

Your consideration is appreciated.