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**From:** Weber-Sword, Arlene D (DNR) <arlene.weber-sword@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2019 3:42 PM  
**To:** Ahlberg, Brenda  
**Subject:** RE: KPB Update - WUI Grant 399170

Looks like it's all on the up & up, so yes, approved.  
Arlene

**From:** Ahlberg, Brenda <bahlberg@kpb.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2019 1:00 PM  
**To:** Weber-Sword, Arlene D (DNR) <arlene.weber-sword@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: KPB Update - WUI Grant 399170

Greetings Ms. Arlene:

I have recently learned that the vegetation mapping for the Kenai Peninsula will not be finished until this time next year. In lieu of waiting for mapping products that will be vital to update the CWPPs, there are other grant objectives that can be started, i.e. initial community meetings and developing the online interactive page to collect public input. The borough also has the opportunity to contribute an additional \$50,000 toward the project. On June 18, 2019, the borough administration will introduce an ordinance approving and transferring \$50,000 from the borough's Environmental Protection Fund Balance to be used as part of the 50 percent match requirement for the WUI Grant 399170. Upon approval, these funds will be used to supplement contract services and associated personnel costs.

The purpose of this email is to notify you that the \$50,000 will be appropriated from interest earned on the spruce bark beetle funds (SBB). You may recall that these funds were originally lump sum payments disbursed as a direct appropriation through public law intended as federal assistance issued from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) but not considered federal grants. Therefore, the interest earnings are not restricted as federal funds nor are the interest earnings to be regulated as federal grants. Simply described, the interest funds are borough monies. The borough has consistently allocated these interest funds toward hazardous fuel mitigations projects, the All Lands All Hands plan, emergency response and wildland fire equipment, and small construction projects within fire service areas.

The 2018 Western WUI Grant Program restricts the use of federal funds to be used as part of the match requirement; however, precedence has been established by the U.S. Dept of Agriculture that the interest earned is not considered federal funds but rather borough funds to be used for similar projects. The request to use \$50,000 from borough's Environmental Protection Fund Balance to fulfil the 50 percent match requirement is an appropriate use and is aligned with wildfire prevention activities. It is my hope that the additional funds will

assist with expediting the delayed mapping products through contract services and assistance from borough GIS personnel.

I'm requesting your approval that the borough's Environmental Protection Fund Balance may be used as part of the 50 percent cash match requirement. For your consideration, I have also provided two support documents reflecting the approved to use the interest funds: (1) as a match having the "same intention as that of the appropriation language" (Bruce 02/14/2003); and (2) clarification of lump sum payment and authorization to retain interest earned.

Example of appropriation language:

109<sup>th</sup> Congress, Public Law 108-447 U.S. Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill 2006; Wildland fire Management "Within the funds provided for state fire assistance, funding is for activities in Alaska, primarily in areas affected by the Spruce Bark Beetle which has caused a severe fire danger in areas adjacent to many communities."

Please call contact me if you need additional clarification.

Smiles, B

**Brenda Ahlberg**

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[www.kpb.us](http://www.kpb.us) – Information by departments

[www.kpboem.com](http://www.kpboem.com) – Updates from agencies responding to area-wide emergencies on the Kenai.

[@Kenai.Peninsula.Borough](https://www.facebook.com/Kenai.Peninsula.Borough) – Facebook Page

[@KPBinfo](https://twitter.com/KPBinfo) – Twitter Account

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**From:** Weber-Sword, Arlene D (DNR) [<mailto:arlene.weber-sword@alaska.gov>]

**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2019 1:04 PM