

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Community & Fiscal Projects

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wayne Ogle, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *CPB*
Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director *BH*
Max Best, Planning Director *SA for MB*

FROM: Brenda Ahlberg, Community & Fiscal Projects Manager *BA*

DATE: June 6, 2019

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2019-19- 02, Appropriating \$50,000 in Interest Income from the Spruce Bark Beetle Program to Supplement the Community Wildfire Protection Plans Update Project (Mayor)

Ordinance 2018-19-11 approved and appropriated \$103,366 in a federal pass-through grant from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Western Wildland Urban Interface Competitive Grant program. The funds will be used to update the 2006-2009 Community Wildfire Projection Plans (CWPPs). There is a 50 percent match requirement, which the borough will meet a small portion of with in-kind contributions through personnel wages, facility costs and map products. However, the need to supplement the contractual costs to comprehensively update 19 CWPPs covering 39 communities within the borough is needed to complete the project.

The CWPPs address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, structure protection and preparedness specific to land features and vegetation or fuels. The CWPPs are created in collaboration with diverse stakeholders, including residential landowners, nongovernment and tribal entities, municipal, federal and state agencies, as well as volunteer fire and fire service areas.

Since 1998 over \$18 million dollars in congressional appropriations were appropriated to the borough for the spruce bark beetle mitigation program. The congressional appropriations did not restrict the use of interest on earnings; the interest earnings are accounted for in the Environmental Protection Fund Balance. Appropriating \$50,000 from this fund to supplement the CWPPs update project aligns with wildland fire prevention activities and the former spruce bark beetle mitigation program goals. The Alaska Division of Forestry acknowledged that the interest earnings accounted in the borough's Environmental Protection Fund Balance is appropriate and, upon assembly approval, that the match funds are not considered as funds regulated or restricted as federal funds.

The Community & Fiscal Projects Manager will oversee the grant reporting and project outputs.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MATCH & ADMIN FEE FUNDS/ACCOUNT VERIFIED	
Account No.	<u>262.27900</u>
Amount	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
By: <u>PP</u>	Date: <u>6/6/19</u>