

# ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORKSESSION AGENDA

November 06, 2023 at 6:00 PM

**Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar** 

#### **Assembly Committee of the Whole Worksession**

https://juneau.zoom.us/j/95424544691 or 1-253-215-8782 Webinar ID: 954 2454 4691

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

#### B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on Tlingit land, and wish to honor the indigenous people of this land. For more than ten thousand years, Alaska Native people have been and continue to be integral to the well-being of our community. We are grateful to be in this place, a part of this community, and to honor the culture, traditions, and resilience of the Tlingit people. *Gunalchéesh!* 

- C. ROLL CALL
- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - 1. January 26, 2023 Assembly Legislative Delegation Worksession Draft Minutes
  - 2. January 26, 2023 Assembly Committee of the Whole Worksession Draft Minutes

#### F. AGENDA TOPICS

3. Mendenhall River Flood Mitigation

The Assembly COW will be taking public testimony on this agenda topic only and is seeking community questions and suggestions during this time.

- 4. Ordinance 2023-18 Landslide and Avalanche Hazard Regulations
- 5. General Direction on Tourism Management
- **G. STAFF REPORTS**
- H. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS
- I. NEXT MEETING DATE: December 18, 2023 6:00p.m.
- J. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS
- K. ADJOURNMENT

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, TDD 586-5351, e-mail: city.clerk@juneau.gov.

# ASSEMBLY WORKSESSION WITH JUNEAU LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION – **DRAFT** MINUTES



January 26, 2023 at 7:00 AM

#### **Assembly Chambers**

This in-person Assembly Worksession was held in the Assembly Chambers and no public testimony was taken.

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Beth Weldon called the Assembly worksession with the Juneau Legislative Delegation to order at 7:07am.

#### **B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Assemblymember Smith provided the following land acknowledgement: We acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on Tlingit land, and wish to honor the people of this land, the Auk Kwaan and Taku Kwaan. For more than ten thousand years, Alaska Native people have been and continue to be integral to the well-being of our community. We are grateful to be in this place, a part of this community, and to honor the culture, traditions, and resilience of the Tlingit people. *Gunalchéesh!* 

#### C. ROLL CALL

**Assemblymembers present:** Mayor Beth Weldon, Deputy Mayor Maria Gladziszewski, Assemblymembers Wade Bryson, Alicia Hughes-Skandjis, Greg Smith, Michelle Hale, Carole Triem, and 'Waahlaal Giidaak.

Assemblymembers absent: Christine Woll.

**Also present**: Senator Jesse Kiehl, Representative Sara Hannan, Representative Andi Story, and lobbyists Katie Kachel, Dave Jansen, Kevin Jardell.

**Staff present**: City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy City Manager Robert Barr, City Attorney Robert Palmer, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Deputy Municipal Clerk Andi Hirsh, Lands Manager Dan Bleidorn, Engineering/PW Director Katie Koester, Community Development Director Jill Maclean, Port Director Carl Uchytil, Bartlett Regional Hospital Chief Executive Office David Keith, and Police Chief Ed Mercer.

#### D. MANAGER'S REQUEST FOR AGENDA CHANGES/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

None.

#### E. AGENDA TOPICS

#### 1. Updates from Senator Jesse Kiehl and Representatives Andi Story and Sara Hannan

Members of the Legislative delegation introduced themselves and their staff. City staff then introduced themselves and their lobbyists.

Senator Jesse Kiehl gave an overview and update of the current legislative year.

Sen. Kiehl serves on the Legislative Council, which is chaired by the Senate this year. A recent project is the renovation of old Assembly apartments, which will introduce 33 units exclusively for legislative use. This project helps both Juneau housing in general and acts as a bulwark against moving the capital.

Sen. Kiehl also serves on the Finance Committee. He said the Governor introduced something akin to a "status-quo" budget, which includes no large budget cuts but also no increases to account for inflation. He said that education funding also remained flat in the governor's proposed budget. Sen. Kiehl noted that the Governor's budget as proposed uses approximately \$250,000,000 in saving, not including any supplemental requests that may have come in after the proposal and before the February supplemental request deadline. Mr. Kiehl estimated a total draw from savings around \$450,000,000. Sen. Kiehl said that oil prices declined, so they were not expecting any savings to accrue in the current fiscal year. Sen. Kiehl noted that the

Governor's budget as proposed includes a PFD based on the statutory formula, and that he thought it unlikely that the legislature would draw down savings to such an amount to support the PFD. Sen. Kiehl said that it was also unlikely the legislature would introduce any additional broad-base revenue measures.

Sen. Kiehl highlighted several things of local interest: First, the governor's budget did not allocated money into the community assistance fund. The legislature might backfill those funds. Second, the governor's budget funded the ferry system at a level which allows vessels to operate. The legislature and governor will have a "back-and-forth" about how much of the ferry funding will come from the federal infrastructure bill; the governor has proposed to primarily use the infrastructure funds for routine operations. Sen. Kiehl noted that the infrastructure bill provides funding for 5 years only and said he believes a responsible use of the federal funding is to replace aging vessels and fix old terminals.

Sen. Kiehl said he has filed three pieces of legislation:

- -SB10: Hunting/Trapping/Fishing licenses for military and disabled veterans
- -SB 11: Teachers and Public Employee Retirement Plans for all public employees, including municipal workers.
- -SB12: Address Confidentiality Program for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault

**Representative Andi Story** gave an overview and update of the current legislative year.

Rep. Story started by thanking Assemblymember Greg Smith, a former aide to Rep. Story.

Rep. Story said that the House of Representatives is organized, with herself in the minority; she had hoped they would be able to organize in a multipartisan coalition but that did not happen. She said that an increase in education funding through increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) is a core value, as it will impact all Alaskans. Rep. Story said that people in the House majority are championing an increase in BSA and a return to defined benefits for public employees.

Rep. Story is on the Education Committee and the State Affairs Committee. The State Affairs Committee would include any capital move bill, changes to the PFD, or election reform bills. She said she wants to make sure infrastructure dollars are lining up with projects that will lower the cost of living for residents. She highlighted the importance of deferred maintenance, which keeps part of the construction community working and brings jobs into Juneau.

Rep. Story has introduced several bills and highlighted the two below:

- -HB31 Alaska Performance Scholarship Eligibility for modernization of an underutilized scholarship fund.
- -HB 44 Cultural Education Program and Reading Improvement to provide money to implement the 2022 Alaska Reads Act and would require the Department of Education to have a cultural education division.

Representative Sara Hannan gave an overview and update of the current legislative year.

Rep. Hannan said she is serving on the House Finance Committee. She said that School Bond Debt is fully funded in the Governor's proposed budget. She noted that does not mean that the State will maintain other buildings, but that they have funded the debt already incurred.

Rep. Hannan talked about changes to the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS), particularly that Captain Falvey, AHMS's general manager for 20 years, retired. She praised the Commissioner of Alaska Department of Transportation, Ryan Anderson, but noted that most of his experience is in roads and not ferries. She specifically highlighted the problem of seasonal instead of year-round jobs for AMHS employees, and said that these skilled workers can get a better paying year-round job in the private sector any time. Rep. Hannan said the cutback in AMHS winter service meant that workers did not have enough hours to have health insurance.

Rep Hannan said the budget is flat funded. She said that Juneau Superintendent Bridget Weiss told her that Property and Indemnity Insurance increased 600% in the last three years to \$1,200,000/year and paying for that increase comes out of maintenance and teacher aide budgets. She said she will be actively fighting for an increase to the BSA and a restored pension system.

Rep Hannan said that 19 of the 40 members of the House are freshman and 17 of those members have never served in the Legislature before, so there is a sharp learning curve.

Rep. Hannan said the Legislature was only able to undertake the renovation of the Assembly housing building due to the Juneau Community Foundation (JCF) purchase and donation of the building. The JCF is also funding part of the renovations. The project deadline is scheduled for completion in January 2024. The JCF also purchased the historical art collection from the Baranof Hotel and donated it to the legislature.

Rep. Hannan said she has a couple of bills, but as she is in the minority and they are unlikely to be heard. She hoped to reintroduce a bill on E-cigarette taxation which had made it through the last session but was vetoed by the Governor.

The Assembly asked the Legislative delegation questions.

Ms. Triem asked if there is an opportunity to tackle issues other than the budget and capital priorities? Rep. Hannan said that it is a good time to educate all of the freshman legislators on issues but she does not know if people will have the bandwidth to cover additional issues. Sen. Kiehl said that it would be a big lift to pass something this year, but as it's a two year legislature it is worth having those conversations. Rep. Story said she thinks childcare might be a topic that gains traction.

Mr. Smith said the CBJ has done a lot to support childcare in Juneau and asked if the legislative delegation saw potential for federal or state support. Sen Kiehl said that new childcare assistance rates for low-income households have been implemented recently and are now in effect. He said this would help slightly but not solve any problems.

Mr. Bryson asked about removing the square footage component from the BSA. Sen. Kiehl said that the opportunity to change the square foot requirement lies with the Department of Education in regulations. He said that square footage comes into play relative to adequate school size which is separate from the funding formula which pays for operations. He said he would be happy to talk with the Department and the School District about those numbers. Rep. Story said that school size is important for long term vision and planning; when Thunder Mountain High School (TMHS) opened the graduation rate increased for everyone. Rep. Hannan said she is focused on getting more money into the BSA rather than focusing on changing the formula.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked about Sen. Hughes' legislation regarding abortion; she asked the legislator's feedback on the amount of traction on that bill. Rep. Story said that Sen. Ben Stevens said he did not think abortion legislation would progress in the Senate.

Ms. Hale said that without a pension or social security, younger state workers are at risk. She asked if there is anything CBJ or the Assembly can do to help promote a pension at the State. Sen. Kiehl said that the current Tier IV (Defined Contribution) plan has consistently performed not as well as the pension tiers and it costs more. He said that they need support from municipalities across the state. Rep. Hannan said that the Tier IV plan creates a revolving door of 5 years of service and she provided examples to highlight the problem. Rep. Story said there is nothing more crucial than this.

#### 2. Update from CBJ State Lobbyist Kevin Jardell

Mr. Jardell said that the tone of the Governor and Administration has changed significantly since the governor's first election. Mr. Jardell said he is slightly optimistic about the possibility of cooperation as there is no super majority. He also said that several members of the Administration are more willing to engage with

Southeast Alaska communities. He then gave his update on Tier IV/PERS funding, education funding, AMHS funding, capital budget, infrastructure funding and other things that are important to Juneau.

Mr. Jardell said the Harbor Bill looks like it has a good chance of being funded with the infrastructure bill.

'Wáahlaal Gíidaak asked if he could provide more information about carbon credits. Mr. Jardell said there are two separate issues with carbon credits; the first is carbon credit use in sequestration which follows a regulatory path to allowing the State to do this; the second is the voluntary offset carbon credit market, where companies buy credits to offset their carbon by not cutting down trees. He said it would be difficult for municipalities to partake in the voluntary offset carbon credit market, as they normally do not own the mineral rights. Sen. Kiehl said that the legislature has a lot of questions, such as "Is carbon a mineral resource?" but more discussions and research will happen. Rep. Hannan said that the Southeast Alaska region will be a player in this dialogue around carbon credits, especially considering the Tongass, mariculture, and kelp use locally.

Ms. Smith asked Mr. Jardell about the administration's interest in disposing or transferring state properties to the CBJ. Mr. Jardell said the Governor would like to get property out for municipalities to use but the mechanisms for doing so are difficult.

#### 3. Update from CBJ DC Lobbyists Katie Kachel and Dave Jansen

Katie Kachel introduced Dave Jansen from Blank Rome, CBJ's Washington D.C. Lobbyists.

Mr. Jansen highlighted two legislative accomplishments: First, was working with Mr. Uchytil and Mr. Watt to get legislation included in the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Authorization Division in the National Defense Authorization Act that provides authority for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to convey the subport property to CBJ. The USCG has the right of first refusal from NOAA for a limited time; if the USCG passes on the subport then it will be conveyed to CBJ. Mr. Jansen said that in either scenario the subport property will have future development. Second, was securing authorization and a directive to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete a feasibility study for the Auke Bay wave attenuator.

Ms. Kachel provided an update on Congressionally Directed Spending items that impact CBJ. Included in the FY23 Omnibus bill that passed in December 2022 are \$7 million in planning funds for the Juneau North Douglas Crossing Project and a \$2.5 million planning grant for a CBJ Composting facility. Blank Rome also supported CBJ in competitive grants, including \$1.4 million for electric charging equipment for the Mendenhall Valley Transit Center. They are currently waiting on the announcement regarding a safe streets planning grant and a multimodal path in Lemon Creek.

Ms. Kachel highlighted some other coalition work they supported, including grant for dock electrification which was unsuccessful and a one-year Payment In Liew of Taxes (PILT) extension which was successful.

She said that other major changes that affect CBJ were: a change to Local and Tribal Assistance Grant Program, part of American Rescue Plan Act, to allow combined city governments to be eligible for this funding and an extension of the Secure Rural Schools Program, a program that supports schools that are affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal land.

Ms. Kachel said they are starting to gear up for the next round of grants, and there are significantly more opportunities because of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. Grants they are looking into include Reconnecting Communities, Rural Surface Transportation grant program, Port Infrastructure grant program, RAISE grant for multimodal surface transportation, Safe Streets for All, Energy Efficiency grants for rural K-12 schools, and passthrough funding from the Department of Energy.

Mr. Jansen provided a broad overview of what they expect in Washington D.C. in 2023. In the U.S. House, Sam Graves from Missouri is chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the new ranking member is Rick Larson from Washington state. Mr. Jansen is hopeful that that large, bipartisan bills from this committee have a good chance of passing the House and going to the Senate. In the Senate, Patty Murray,

from Washington state, is now chair of Senate Appropriations committee and Senator Maria Cantwell, from Washington state, has retained her chair of Senate Commerce Committee, both appointments are good for this region. Alaskan Senator Dan Sullivan also remains of the Senate Commerce Committee.

Mr. Jansen noted that the end of 2023 and all of 2024 will be more political due to the presidential election cycle. He said this will motive people on authorizing committees to try and get as much work done as possible in 2023.

Ms. Kachel said the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill is up in 2023 and Blank Rome will be looking at that on behalf of the Juneau airport.

#### 4. Review of Legislative Capital Priorities

Ms. Koester noted that the legislative capital priority list presented is a draft, as the Assembly will be talking about it that evening at the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting. She said it has gone through about a four-month public process to receive feedback.

Ms. Hale asked how important the individual ranking of items is on this list. Ms. Kachel answered that an item's rank is important in competitive grants but because CBJ does not categorize the funding into topics (such as infrastructure, schools, etc...) it can be hard to look at them all side by side. Mr. Smith asked if it would be helpful in future years to put them in topic groupings. Ms. Kachel said that federal government programs do not have a framework for that, and it is more important for the grant application to make a strong case and show community support.

Rep. Hannan said that current year rankings are looked at by the legislature and that they are looking for a combination of items, including a range in project prices and projects in the region, not just from CBJ.

Sen. Kiehl said he always appreciates variety in the legislative capital priority list. Sen. Kiehl noted that he needed to leave.

Ms. Kachel said there are state and federal priorities, and federal priorities include congressionally directed spending and is a competitive process. She said it is a very complicated process and that rankings matter, but less than a lot of other factors.

Mr. Smith asked if CBJ internally has the resources they need to influence and leverage the upcoming federal funding? Ms. Kachel answered yes.

Ms. Triem gave a big thank you to Sen. Lisa Murkowski for the competitive grant program for ferry service, of which AMHS received \$285 million dollars.

#### F. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

None.

#### G. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55a.m.

# ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORKSESSION **DRAFT** MINUTES



January 26, 2023 at 5:00 PM

**Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar** 

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Gladziszewski called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m. in the Assembly Chambers.

#### **B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Ms. Hale provided the following land acknowledgement: We would like to acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on Tlingit land, and wish to honor the indigenous people of this land. For more than ten thousand years, Alaska Native people have been and continue to be integral to the well-being of our community. We are grateful to be in this place, a part of this community, and to honor the culture, traditions, and resilience of the Tlingit people. *Gunalchéesh!* 

#### C. ROLL CALL

**Assemblymembers present:** Mayor Beth Weldon, Deputy Mayor Maria Gladziszewski, Greg Smith (Zoom), Michelle Hale, 'Wáahlaal Gíidaak, Carole Triem, and Alicia Hughes-Skandijs

Assemblymembers absent: Wade Bryson and Christine Woll

**Staff present:** City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy City Manager Robert Barr, City Attorney Robert Palmer, Assistant City Attorney Sherri Layne, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Engineering/Public Works Director Katie Koester, Port Director Carl Uchytil, Harbormaster Matt Creswell, Police Chief Ed Mercer, Deputy Chief David Campbell, Bartlett Regional Hospital (BRH) Chief Executive Office David Keith, and Federal Lobbyist Katie Kachel

#### D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

#### E. AGENDA TOPICS

#### 1. Federal Funding Issues Update

Ms. Kachel, CBJ's federal lobbyist, gave an update about the work they've done in the last year and what they are going to work on in the future. This includes working with the federal delegation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) regarding the subport property; looking for Icebreaker funding in the FY24 Omnibus bill; looking at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill to change a law to allow the use of Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding; and working on the Assembly priorities for Congressionally Directed Spending.

Mayor Weldon asked for clarification about the FAA reauthorization bill. Ms. Kachel noted that a federal law needs to be changed; she said that there is currently a federal allocation of airport improvement funds that goes to the Juneau Airport, but it is not allowed to be used on FAA facilities.

Ms. Koester gave an update on Congressionally Directed Spending that has already been secured. She said there is \$7 million dollars for an Environmental Permitting Study for the

Juneau-North Douglas Crossing and that they are pursuing a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to finish the permitting study and start the design phase. Ms. Koester said there is also \$2.5 million for a municipal composting facility; she said they have not done much planning yet on the facility but are working with local experts. Ms. Koester said they are also applying for an additional grant to expand the municipal composting site, to allow for greater waste diversion.

Mr. Smith asked about local businesses coordinating for the composting project. Ms. Koester answered that the municipal composting facility will focus on large scale operations, specifically targeting commercial producers of organic waste. She said with over 5000 tons of organic matter going to the landfill each year there is an unmet need. Ms. Koester said they will pursue a public-private partnership, similar to how Household Hazardous Waste is managed; the goal is not to have a composting division of CBJ but to provide a public facility for a private company to run a needed program for the community.

Mayor Weldon wanted the general public to know that this facility will not be open to individuals but is for big commercial food waste such as restaurants and grocery stores.

Ms. Koester then talked about potential future Congressionally Directed Spending, and highlighted some of the capital priorities that she thought would be good candidates:

- Juneau Police Department radio system replacement
- Mendenhall Waste Water Treatement Plant (WWTP) for Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)
   removal
- Lemon Creek Multimodal path; they are pursuing other grants for this project as well
- Capital Civic Center

Ms. Koester provided an update on the Capital Civic Center. She said that since the Assembly appropriated \$2 million to help scale down the initial design, they are now on the 6<sup>th</sup> draft of plans.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked at what design state these plans are, and how accurately do they reflect the cost to build. Ms. Koester said these plans are in the conceptual phase, so they do not provide a degree of certainty about the final build cost. The current cost estimate of the project is about \$75 million.

Ms. Koester invited Susan Bell, with the McKinley Research Group, to give an overview of the economic analysis of the Capital Civic Center. Ms. Bell said the study was completed in August 2022. One key finding was that Juneau needs to upgrade facilities to stay competitive in the conference market. Ms. Bell's report projected modest growth in usage and spending in Juneau for large conferences and events, and estimated an additional \$7 million a year in spending by year 5 of the new facility.

Mayor Weldon asked where that additional \$7 million a year would go. Ms. Bell answered that some of that spending would be at the facility, but a significant portion would be in the community for hotels, transportation, restaurants, catering, florists, and other event planning specialties.

Mayor Weldon asked if reserving local funds would help secure congressional funding. Ms. Kachel said having dedicated funds shows local commitment and support and brings projects to

a level of readiness that lowers risk for the federal government. She said that Congressionally Directed Spending generally funds projects in the \$1-5 million range.

Mayor Weldon asked about potential earmarks from Representative Peltola. Ms. Kachel said they are working with Representative Peltola, as she and her staff are new.

#### 2. Legislative Capital Priorities (see supplemental materials also)

Ms. Gladziszewski asked if any members wished to make any changes to the prioritization of Legislative Capital Priorities.

**MOTION** by Ms. Hughes-Skandijs to move the Juneau-North Douglas Crossing to rank #2 on the priority list. *Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.* 

Mayor Weldon asked about discussing BRH's request to add the Aurora Behavioral Health Center project for \$4 million dollars to the Legislative Capital Priorities list.

'Wáahlaal Giidaak, asked if there is anything preventing them from having a more robust discussion and adding it later. Mr. Watt answered that the discussion should happen now.

Ms. Hale said she was in support of the request as BRH supports the entire Southeast Alaska region, not just Juneau.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked why this project was coming so late in the process. Mr. Watt said that BRH has been going through some transitions and that it does not diminish the fact that this is a good project with community need.

**MOTION** by Mayor Weldon to add the Bartlett Aurora Behavioral Health Center as number 23 on the Legislative Priorities List. She said that it is a good project and much needed in the community, but she could not rank it in front of anything else because of how late in the process it was added.

Ms. Triem said that the hospital board met on Tuesday and that the request has already been made to the State. She supports the project and the Mayor's motion, and echoed her frustration with the process.

Hearing no objection, the Bartlett Aurora Behavioral Health Center was added to the list as priority #23.

**MOTION** by Mayor Weldon to move the FY24 Legislative Capital Priorities, as amended to the Assembly for action. *Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.* 

Mayor Weldon asked if the Capital Civic Center design shared tonight was ready to move forward for more funding. Ms. Koester said that they need approval from the Assembly that these plans are sufficient to bring forward and advocate for.

<u>MOTION</u> by Mayor Weldon for the Assembly to support the latest concept for the Capital Civic Center as it seeks state and federal funding. *Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.* 

#### F. STAFF REPORTS

None.

#### **G. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

Section E, Item 2.

- 3. 2023-01-25 Legislative Priorities FY24-DRAFT
- 4. Bartlett Regional Hospital FY24 Legislative Capital Budget Request Bartlett Aurora Behavioral Health Center (to be distributed at the meeting)
- H. NEXT MEETING DATE: February 13, 2023, 6:00p.m.
- I. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48p.m.



# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT October 30, 2023

#### Mendenhall River Flood Public Testimony Opportunity on November 6

The City and Borough of Juneau Assembly will be taking public testimony on Mendenhall River flood mitigation on Monday, November 6, at 6 p.m. during the <u>Assembly Committee of the Whole work session</u>. The meeting will take place in person in the City Hall Assembly Chambers and <u>remotely via Zoom</u>.

At the meeting, staff will give a brief presentation on the efforts CBJ has made thus far and the potential funding opportunities available to help with mitigation (primarily bank stabilization). The public will then have an opportunity to ask specific questions and/or bring forward mitigation suggestions for Assembly consideration.

The Assembly will gather questions and suggestions from the audience and schedule a followup with subject matter experts including representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

**Testimony time will be limited to 3 minutes per individual.** Members of the public that want to provide oral testimony via remote participation (Zoom) must notify the Municipal Clerk prior to 4 p.m. on Monday, November 6, by calling (907) 586-5278. For in-person participation at the meeting, a sign-up sheet will be made available at the back of the Chambers and advance sign-up is not required.

Members of the public are encouraged to send their comments in advance of the meeting to BoroughAssembly@juneau.gov.

Please note that flood mitigation is the only topic on which the Assembly will take public testimony at this session. Other agenda and non-agenda items are not open for public testimony at this time.

###



# Glacial Outburst Flood Response

# **How We Got Here...**



Summary (non-exhaustive) of CBJ and partner actions since August 5,2023

Action	Agency	Details
Established Incident Command	CBJ	Coordinated response to keep people safe (short term) and informed (long term)
Local Disaster Declaration	CBJ	Paved way for State Disaster Declaration
State Disaster Request + Declaration	Governor	Required for both individual and public assistance and grants from DMVA/FEMA
State Individual Assistance	AK DMVA	Provided to \$21,000 of individual assistance for housing, property damage. DMVA in Juneau 8/21-23. Application closed on 10/9.
Federal Disaster Request	CBJ/DMVA/Gov	Request Denied; Would have provided access to additional <u>Individual Assistance Program</u> for property owners.
Initiated NRCS Visit + Study	NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conducted survey of river, will provide report with recommendations; action items (potentially eligible for EWP funding)
Curbside & Community Clean Up Efforts	CBJ	Collected household and construction debris at no cost to impacted neighborhoods
Emergency Bank Stabilization Permit Accommodations	CBJ (CDD)	Allowed property owners to protect against immediate threats to property; expedited process (Open House with state and federal agencies held on August 31, 2023)
Real Property Exemption/Reassessment	СВЈ	Allowed for reassessment of properties impacted by flood; potential tax relief (more details <a href="here">here</a> )
Advocating for UAS Research Funding	CBJ to US Congress	CBJ provided letter of support for UAS request for Congressionally Designated Spending (CDS) funds for full-time research
Increased USGS Monitoring Funds	CBJ	Increasing annual appropriation from \$7k to \$35k; funding for Cameras, sensors, access, data collection, staff time
Protecting Public Infrastructure	CBJ	Pursuing actions and available funding opportunities to restore, protect and mitigate potential future damage to impacted municipal infrastructure.

## Where We are Now...



Active funding and other opportunities benefitting both public and private property owners

Description	Agency	Applicant / Beneficiary	Status	Funding + other notes
Low Interest Disaster Loan	U.S. Small Business Assoc.	Impacted Private Property Owners & Renters; Businesses & Nonprofits	Deadline to apply: Dec 5, 2023	\$100k-\$500k max
Flood Insurance for Property Owners	National Floodplain Insurance Program (FEMA)	All property owners	Open for enrollment	CBJ coordinated sessions Nov 1-2 in Juneau; resources available.
State Public Assistance	State of Alaska DHS&EM (DMVA)	Based on need, Governor's discretion	CBJ for disaster recovery and mitigation	CBJ applying for reimbursement of emergency protection projects
Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant	NOAA	SE Alaska Watershed Council (CBJ). / Project would benefit public + private property	CBJ is partner application and project	\$5.5 million request; four-year project to build flood resistance + improve fish habitat
Emergency Watershed Program (EWP)	NRCS	CBJ / For work to reduce threats to life and property after disaster; <i>may</i> benefit public + <b>private property</b>	Pre application study is in process, pending NRCS report from 9/11 visit	NRCS report will include recommendations, action items eligible for EWP funding; 25% local match + lifecycle maintenance
Emergency Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Sec. 14)	US Army Corps of Engineers	CBJ / Specific to smaller projects to protect endangered public infrastructure.	Request for study submitted to USACOE	\$100k feasibility study; up to \$10M max; 35-50% local match
General Investigation (Section 8315)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	CBJ / For major projects over \$10M; may include both public & private property	CBJ submitting request for study to USCOE	Major projects (over \$10 million). 50% cost share on study; 35-50% on pr



# **Investigating Big Picture Funding Opportunities**

Finding the right funding match for community needs requires data and considering timelines, costs and competition

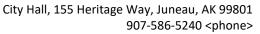
Program Description	Agency	Applicant / Beneficiary	Status	Funding + other notes
Hazard Mitigation Program Grant (HMGP)	FEMA via State of Alaska DHS&EM (DMVA)	CBJ / Projects benefitting both public and <b>private property</b> potentially eligible		State funding for smaller projects; unknown timeline
<u>Building Resilient Infrastructure</u> <u>&amp; Communities</u> (BRIC) / Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)	FEMA via State of Alaska DHS&EM (DMVA)	CBJ (via SoA) / Projects may include both public and/or private property	Hazard mitigation projects, CBJ eligible via State application	Very competitive (national); 25% local cost share

## **Looking Forward:**

CBJ will continue to investigate and present to the Assembly available funding programs relevant to the identified community need. The NRCS and USCOE studies and reports – as well as community and Assembly input - will help guide these efforts.

**Questions or Comments?** 

floodresponse@juneau.gov





## **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: November 2, 2023

TO: Deputy Mayor Hale and CBJ Assembly, Committee of the Whole

FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2023-18 Landslide and Avalanche Hazard Regulations

The purpose of this memo is to provide context for draft Ordinance 2023-18 amending the sensitive areas requirements of land use code related to avalanche areas being discussed today.

#### **Background**

To recap, in December 2018, the Assembly approved a funding request to FEMA for a hazard assessment grant. This grant was intended to update the existing maps from the 1980s that were difficult to read and lumped landslide and avalanche hazards in the same map. Tetra Tech Inc. was hired to draft new maps, which were presented to the Assembly in September 2021. The new maps spurred conversation and concern in the community which the body is familiar with; there has been over a year and half of public meetings on this topic between the Planning Commission, LHEDC, and Assembly. The Assembly held a public hearing to take testimony on September 11, 2023 to inform next steps. That meeting was a follow up to the <u>August 25, 2023</u> Committee of the Whole (COW) that provides a good summary of the topic.

#### Where we are

At the August COW, a motion was made to repeal the current maps (landslide and avalanche), repeal the related land use code ordinance; and regulate the moderate and severe avalanche maps only.

The recommendation was made to publish the landslide and avalanche maps on the CBJ CDD website and notify impacted property owners annually.

This means that only properties located in mapped moderate and severe avalanche areas will be regulated. In order to apply regulations to these areas, the Avalanche Hazard Designation Mapping, dated April 27, 2022 should be adopted. This allows staff and applicants to determine if the property is located in the mapped area or not; and if in a mapped area, which mapped area and then which regulations apply.

The attached draft ordinance implements these changes. The ordinance provides the director authority over some development in mapped moderate zones, and the planning commission authority over mapped severe zones and anything outside the director's authority in mapped moderate zones.

#### How would that work logistically?

Regulation - The Tetra Tech maps (landslide and avalanche) would live on the CDD website. However, the only properties CBJ would regulate development in would be in moderate and severe avalanche areas. This will function similar to the Willoughby District Land Use Plan: the Assembly only adopted one chapter, but the entire Plan lives on CDD's website.

Per the draft ordinance, an example of development regulated by the director would be a building permit for a single-family dwelling in a mapped moderate avalanche area. An example of development regulated by the planning commission would be a subdivision that has enough land to site a building area outside a mapped severe area without the need for a variance. Another example in the mapped severe area is that increasing density is not permissible, except that the planning commission may approve a single-family dwelling (on a vacant property).

Notification – CDD would mail a postcard (similar to the abutter notification) to property owners who live within 500 feet of mapped landslide or avalanche zones at a cost of about \$1500. The postcard would notify the owner that their property is in or proximate to a mapped hazard zone and direct them to the website for more information. A press release would be scheduled at the same time to provide notice to renters who would not receive direct mail.

**Recommendation:** Discuss the attached ordinance, recommend any changes and move it to the next regular assembly meeting for introduction.

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Presented by: Presented:

Drafted by: R. Palmer III

## ORDINANCE OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

#### Serial No. 2023-18 vCOW1

An Ordinance Amending the Land Use Code Related to Development in Landslide and Avalanche Hazard Areas.

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) currently regulates development in landslide and avalanche zones based on hazard maps created in 1987 and associated standards, primarily in the Land Use Code (Title 49); and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the CBJ contracted with Tetra Tech to update the landslide and avalanche maps, which resulted in the new maps dated April 27, 2022; and

WHEREAS, in 2.3 "How are Avalanche Hazards Designated" of Tetra Tech's Guide to Avalanche-Landslide Hazard Designations dated April 27, 2022 (at PDF page 206 of page 289), Tetra Tech described the following specific to avalanches:

The level of assessment prepared for this project is suitable for determining whether land areas could be affected by avalanches. A more detailed site-specific investigation and evaluation would be required to determine appropriate mitigations for specific properties; and

WHEREAS, in 3.3 "How are Landslide Hazards Designated" of Tetra Tech's Guide to Avalanche-Landslide Hazard Designations dated April 27, 2022 (at PDF page 220 of page 289), Tetra Tech described the following specific to landslides:

The level of assessment prepared for this project is suitable for determining whether land areas could be affected by landslides. A more detailed site-specific investigation and evaluation would be required to determine appropriate mitigations for specific properties; and

WHEREAS, given the scope of Tetra Tech's avalanche assessments, the ability for the Community Development Director to permit certain developments, like a house (Section 7, 49.70.300(b)(1)); the ability for the Planning Commission to permit other developments ((Section 7, 49.70.300(b)(2)); and the ability for a property owner to adjust the hazard boundary (Section 7, 49.70.300(a)(4); this ordinance reasonably balances the need to protect public health and safety with individual property owner interests; and

WHEREAS, regulating development in mapped landslide and avalanche hazard areas presents challenging public policy concerns like balancing the need for housing, minimizing harm to people and investments, providing hazard information to people in hazard areas, considering the economic effects that adopting new development regulations would have on property insurance and mortgage availability, considering that only portions of the CBJ have been mapped for landslide and avalanche hazards, among other public policies; and

WHEREAS, state law (A.S. 09.65.070(d)(1)) provides the CBJ with immunity from money damages when the CBJ fails to inspect, discover, or abate a hazard on private property; and

WHEREAS, state law (A.S. 09.65.070(d)(2)) provides the CBJ with immunity for money damages when the CBJ performs or fails to perform a discretionary function; and

WHEREAS, state law (A.S. 09.65.070(d)(3)) provides the CBJ with immunity for money damages when the CBJ issues or fails to issue a permit, appeal, approval, exception, variance, or other entitlement; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly would like the Manager to notify the community of avalanche risks and resources to mitigate some of the risks; and

WHEREAS, upon balancing the various public policies, the Assembly believes the community is best served by (1) regulating developments in moderate and severe avalanche hazard areas based on Tetra Tech's Snow Avalanche Hazard Assessment of the Juneau Landslide and Avalanche Hazard Assessment, dated April 27, 2022, Ord. 2023-18 Appendix A, and (2) repealing the substantive landslide regulations in CBJC 49.70.300; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly reached the conclusion after considering various other policy approaches, reviewing the Planning Commission's discussions, holding extensive public meetings in committees and at the Assembly, and taking public testimony.

Now Therefore Be It Enacted by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska:

**Section 1. Classification.** This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the City and Borough of Juneau Municipal Code.

**Section 2. Amendment of Section.** CBJC 19.04.R301.9 Geophysical hazards, is amended to read:

### 19.04.R301.9 Geophysical hazards.

Add a new section as follows:

"301.9 Geophysical hazards. <u>In moderate and severe avalanche hazard areas shown on</u>
the Avalanche Hazard Designation Mapping, dated April 27, 2022, and attached to Ordinance
2023-18, or when the director of engineering and public works. <u>In Moderate and Severe</u>
geophysical hazard zones as shown in "Geophysical Hazards Investigation, Juneau, Alaska"

dated 10/72 and on the "Landslide and Avalanche Area Maps", both adopted by ordinance serial no. 87-49, or when the building official determines that development is proposed in an area similar in nature to those studied in the above referenced documents but outside of the study area, an engineered structural analysis shall be submitted with the permit application. The building official may waive this requirement upon presentation of more specific studies showing the proposed site is not likely to be affected by geophysical hazards."

**Section 3. Amendment of Section.** CBJC 49.15.330 Conditional use permit, is amended to read:

49.15.330 Conditional use permit.

(g) Specific conditions. The commission may alter the director's proposed permit conditions, impose its own, or both. Conditions may include one or more of the following:

• • •

(9) Avalanche areas. Development in moderate and severe avalanche hazard areas shown on the Avalanche Hazard Designation Mapping, dated April 27, 2022, and attached to Ordinance 2023-18 must minimize the risk to life and property. Landslide and avalanche areas. Development in landslide and avalanche areas, designated on the landslide and avalanche area maps dated September 9, 1987, consisting of sheets 1—8, as the same may be amended from time to time by assembly ordinance, shall minimize the risk to life and property.

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**Section 4. Amendment of Section.** CBJC 49.15.401 Minor subdivisions, is amended to read:

#### 49.15.401 Minor subdivisions.

- (a) Permit required. A minor subdivision permit is required for the following:
  - (1) Thirteen or fewer lots. A minor subdivision permit is required for all subdivisions resulting in 13 or fewer lots. No minor subdivision application may be filed or approved:
    - (A) If it is a part of or is made in connection with a present or projected major subdivision development as determined by the director;
    - (B) If the property is within a parcel any part of which has been subdivided by a minor subdivision within the preceding 24 months, unless the proposed subdivision creates no new lots; or
    - (C) For the subdivision of a parcel any part of which is within a landslide or an avalanche area identified as such in the comprehensive plan, attachments thereto, other adopted maps, or in accordance with CBJ 49.70.300.

Section 5 Amendment of Section. CBJC 49.15.600 [Planned Unit Development]

Purpose, is amended to read:

### 49.15.600 Purpose.

The general purpose of the planned unit development code is to permit flexibility in the regulation and use of land in order to promote its most appropriate use; to facilitate the adequate and economical provisions of streets and utilities; to preserve the natural and scenic

qualities of open space; and to encourage, consistent with the goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan, residential developments that are planned, designed, and developed to function as integral units. The specific purposes of the planned unit development code are to:

- (a) Encourage uses of land that are efficient, aesthetic, in harmony with the surrounding area, and consistent with the comprehensive plan and available public services;
- (b) Encourage innovation in site design and building layout, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, parking facilities and streets, configuration and use of open space, and mixing of housing types and compatible land uses;
- (c) Encourage economy and efficiency in common facilities;
- (d) Preserve and protect natural features, streams, lakes, wetlands, natural drainage channels, vegetation, and vistas;
- (e) Avoid avalanche, landslide, and flood hazard areas; and
- (f) Encourage development of quality housing at a reasonable price.

**Section 6. Amendment of Section.** CBJC 49.70.210 [Article II. Hillside Development] Applicability and scope, is amended to read:

### 49.70.210 Applicability and scope.

- (a) This article applies to all development on hillsides in the City and Borough that involves the following:
  - (1) Removal of vegetative cover;
  - (2) Excavation of any slope in excess of 18 percent;

(3) Creation of a new slope in excess of 18 percent for a vertical distance of at least five feet; and or

(4) Development in moderate and severe avalanche hazard areas shown on the Avalanche

Hazard Designation Mapping, dated April 27, 2022, and attached to Ordinance 2023
18. Any hazard area identified on the landslide and avalanche area maps dated

September 9, 1987, consisting of sheets 1—8, as the same may be amended from time
to time by the assembly by ordinance or any other areas determined to be susceptible
to geophysical hazards.

**Section 7. Amendment of Section.** CBJC 49.70.300 Landslide and avalanche areas, is amended to read:

### 49.70.300 Avalanche hazard areas. Landslide and avalanche areas.

- (a) Generally.
  - (1) <u>Minimize risks.</u> Development in all <u>landslide and</u> avalanche <u>hazard</u> areas <u>should</u> <del>shall</del> minimize the risk of loss of life or property due to <u>landslides and</u> avalanches.
  - (2) Avalanche Hazard Maps. The boundaries of avalanche hazard areas are shown on the Avalanche Hazard Designation Mapping, dated April 27, 2022, and attached to Ordinance 2023-18. Boundaries of potential and severe avalanche areas will be as shown on the landslide and avalanche area maps dated September 9, 1987, consisting of sheets 1—8, as the same may be amended from time to time by the assembly by ordinance.

- (3) Reserved. Notwithstanding any other provision, all subdivision other than a boundary line relocation and all development greater than a single-family dwelling within landslide or avalanche areas shall require a conditional use permit.
- (4) Hazard boundary adjustment. If a developer disagrees with the boundaries shown on the maps, the developer may seek departmental relocation of the boundaries by submitting site specific studies prepared by a civil engineer licensed in the State of Alaska or a licensed geotechnical engineer. experienced in avalanche and landslide analysis. Such studies shall include detailed analyses of topography, vegetation, potential snow accumulation, and other factors. The results should indicate actual hazard area boundaries and potential debris flow direction, time, distance, and mass. If, in the opinion of the director of engineering and public works eity engineer, the studies clearly establish that the map boundaries are inaccurate and the proposed development is outside a moderate or severe avalanche area or outside any avalanche or landslide area, the department shall proceed accordingly.
- (5) The <u>director for moderate avalanche hazard areas and the commission for severe avalanche hazard areas</u> may require mitigating measures certified as effective by a professional engineer for development in <u>landslide and</u> avalanche areas. Such measures may include dissipating structures or dams, special structural engineering, or other techniques designed for the site. Mitigating measures may also include reduction in the proposed density, occupancy, and development.
- (b) Moderate and severe avalanche hazard area standards. Severe avalanche areas.

  Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, no development or any part of a development may occur in a moderate or severe avalanche hazard area except as provided in this section.

- (1) <u>Director approval in a moderate avalanche hazard area. The director may only approve the following in a moderate avalanche hazard area:</u>
  - (A) a permit for a single dwelling unit per parcel;
  - (B) a hazard boundary line adjustment;
  - (C) a lot line adjustment when the resulting lots are more compliant with this title and the resulting lots would likely reduce the risk to life and property; and
  - (D) a lot consolidation.
- (2) Commission approval in a moderate or severe avalanche hazard area. The commission may approve developments in the moderate and severe avalanche hazard areas—including accessory dwelling units—via the conditional use permit process with the following additional requirements:
  - (A) The development application must include site specific engineering for peak

    drainage, special foundations or high-wall engineering, debris flow diversion

    mechanisms and any other information required by the commission, for the

    commission to evaluate the potential effects of the development on public health

    and safety; and
  - (B) No subdivision shall be approved that creates a lot lacking sufficient building space
    outside a severe avalanche area—without the need for a variance—unless a lot in a
    severe avalanche area is platted as a Public Use Lot (49.15.422); and
  - (C) The commission is prohibited from approving a development application that increases residential density in the severe avalanche hazard area, except that the commission may authorize development of one dwelling unit on a vacant lot in a severe avalanche hazard area.

- (1) Notwithstanding any other provision, no development or any part of a development, which is within a severe avalanche area shall, by the addition of bedrooms, conversions of buildings, or otherwise, increase the density of that parcel; provided, however, that a single-family house may be constructed on a vacant lot.
- (2) No subdivision shall be approved which creates a lot lacking sufficient building space outside a severe avalanche area.
- Warning and disclaimer of liability. Avalanches and landslides may occur outside mapped hazard areas and in excess of engineering expectations. The location and severity of the event may be increased by human manmade or natural causes. This article does not imply that land outside of mapped designated hazard areas, or uses permitted within such areas, will be free from danger or damage. This article shall not create liability on the part of the City and Borough of Juneau or any officer or employee thereof for any damages that result from reliance of this article, or any administrative decision lawfully made under this article.

Section 8. Amendment of Section. CBJC 49.85.100 Generally [Chapter 49.85 Fees for Land Use Actions], is amended to read:

#### 49.85.100 Generally.

Processing fees are established for each development, platting, and other land use action in accordance with the following schedule:

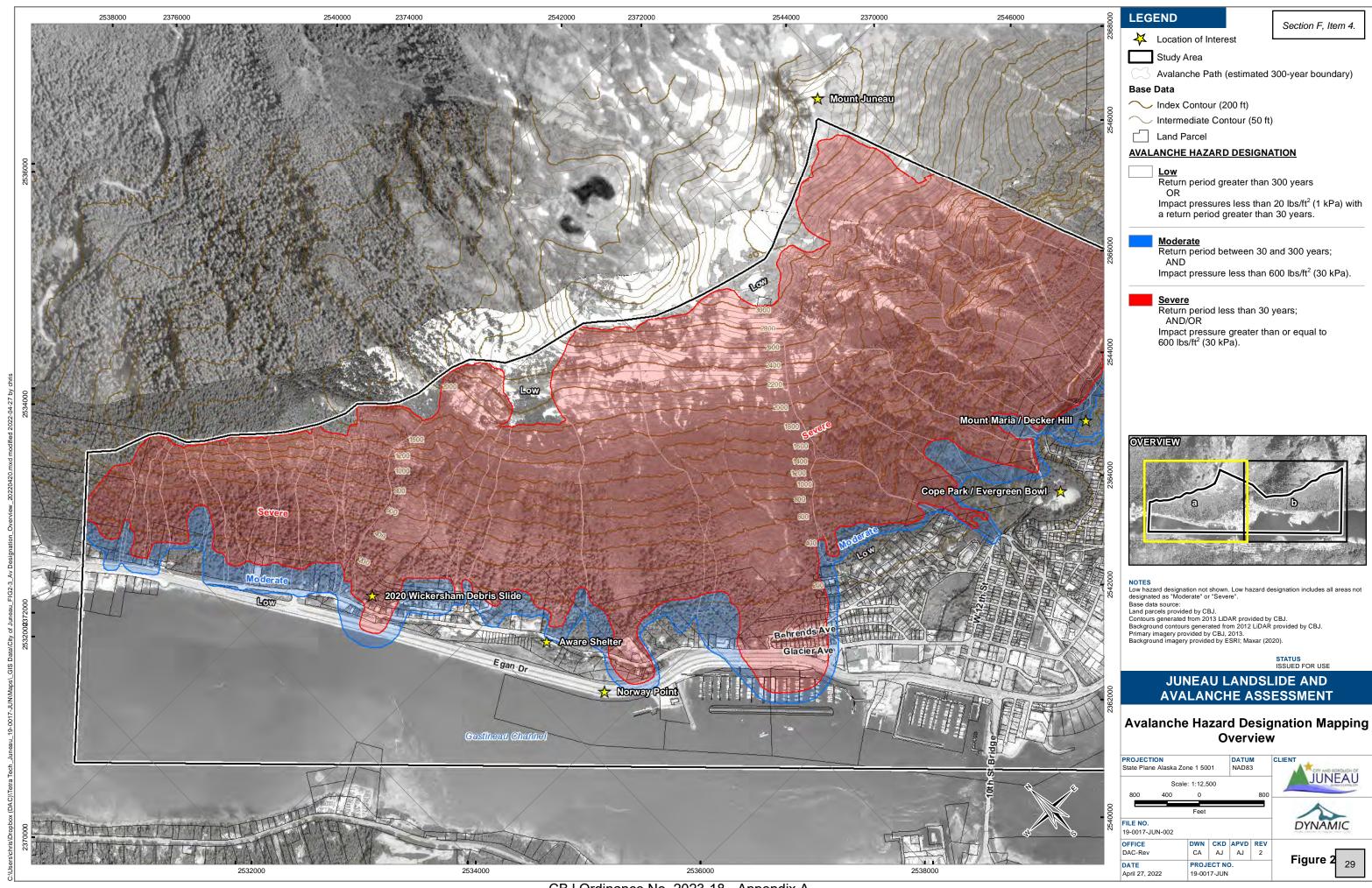
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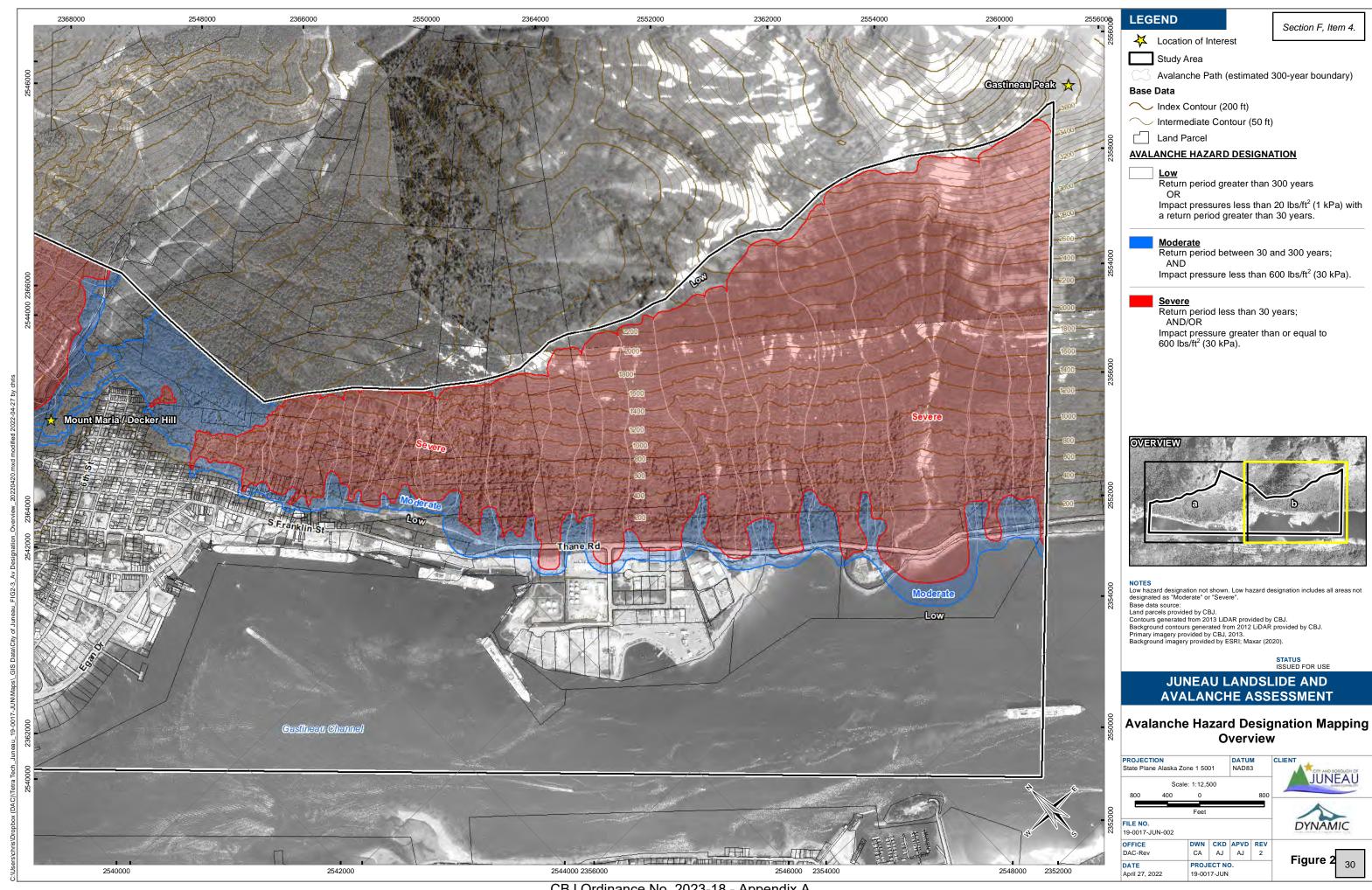
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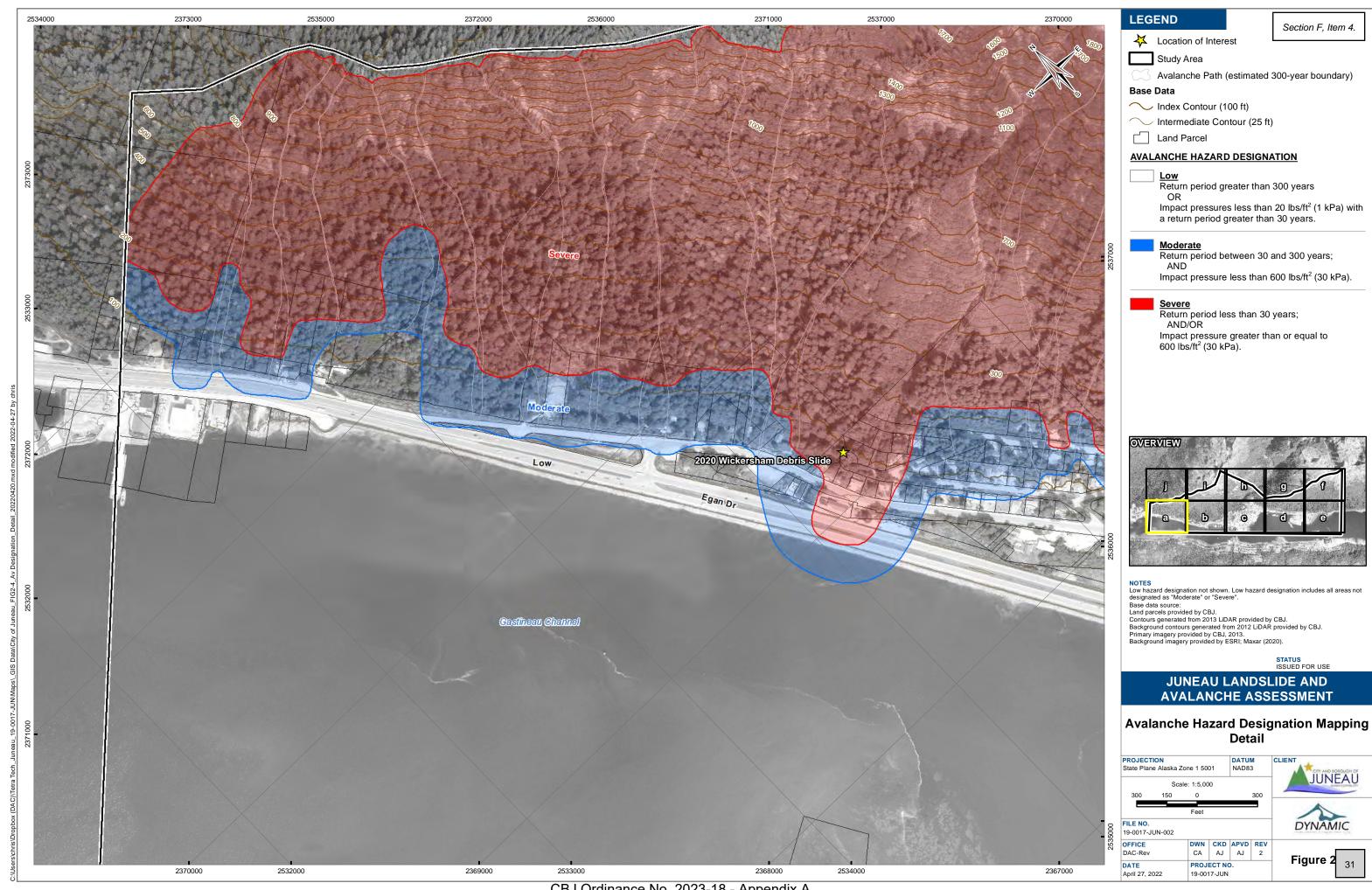
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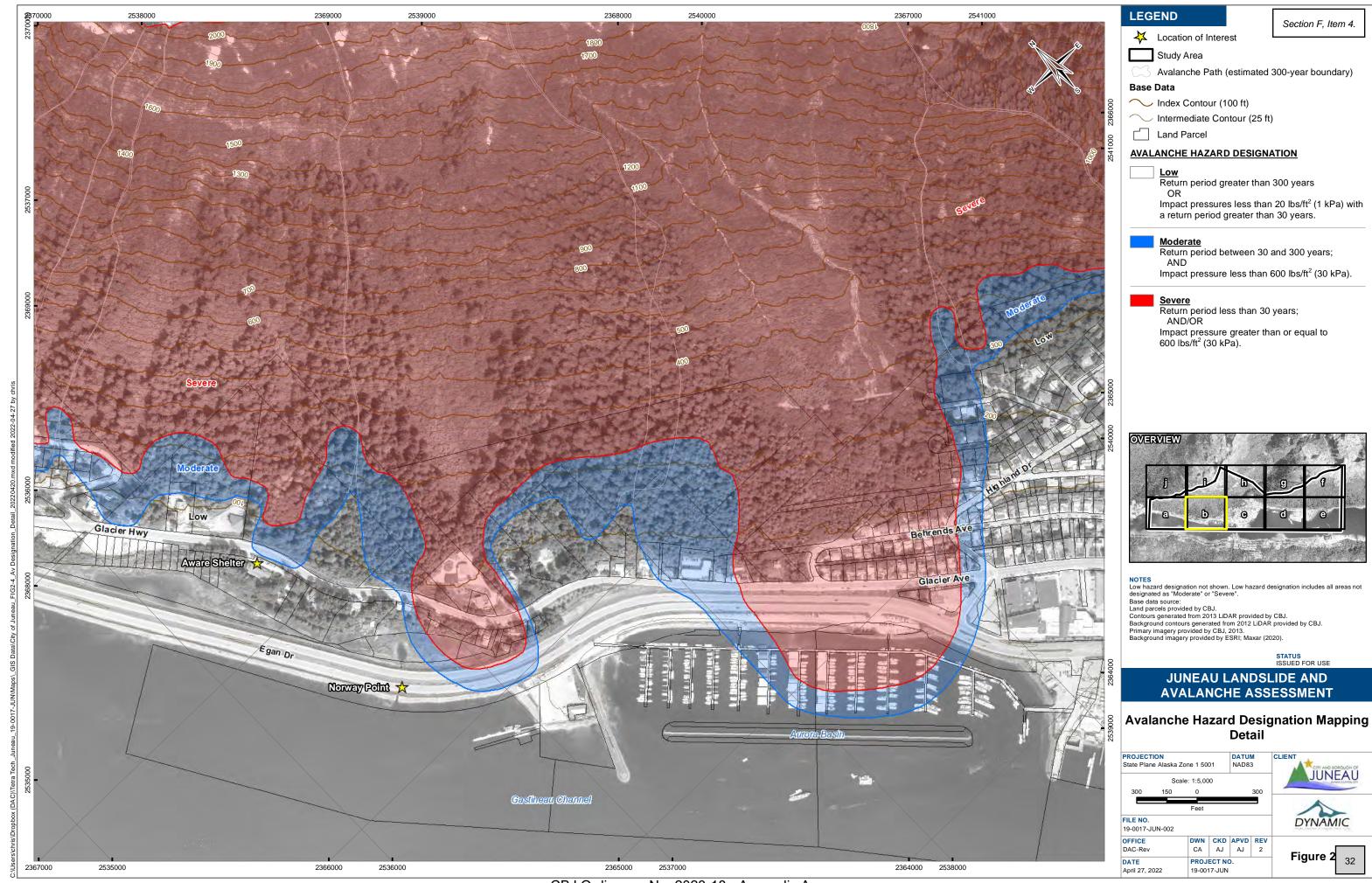
(8) Special use or area.

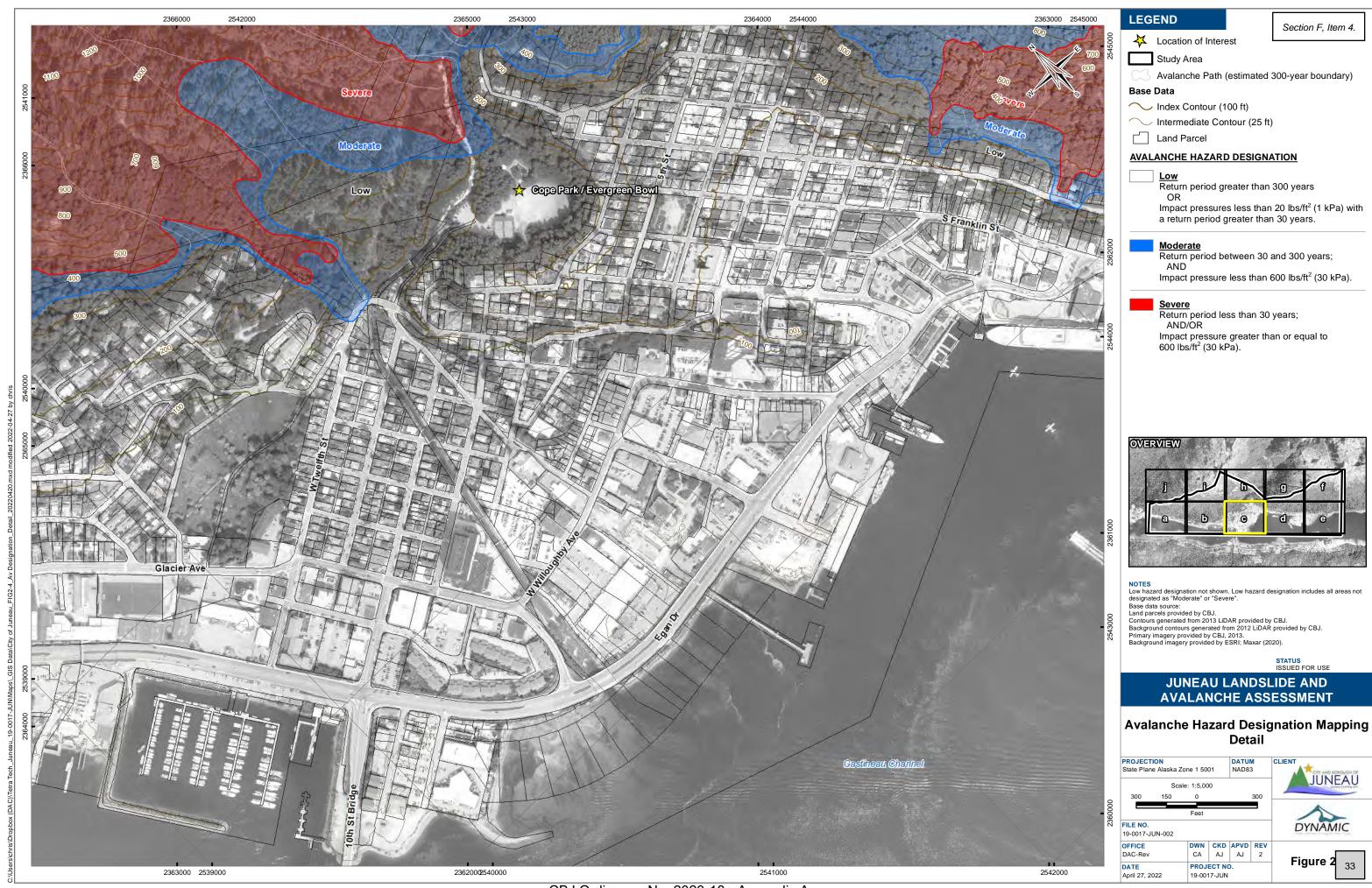
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2	(F) Development in <del>landslide or</del> avalance	che hazard area conditional use, \$400.00.
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5	Section 9. Effective Date. This ordinan	ace shall be effective 30 days after its adoption.
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9		Beth A. Weldon, Mayor
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12	Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk	
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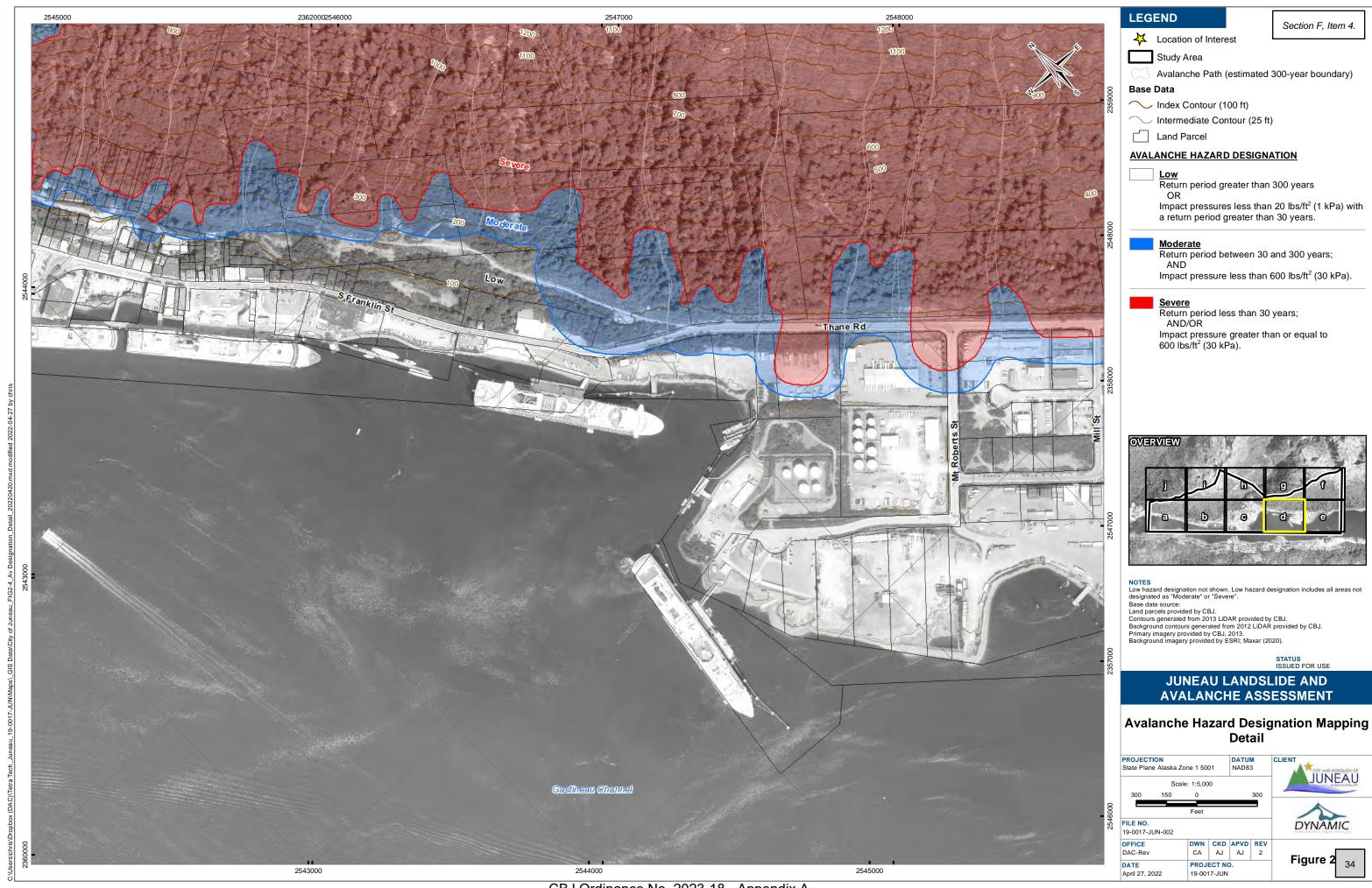


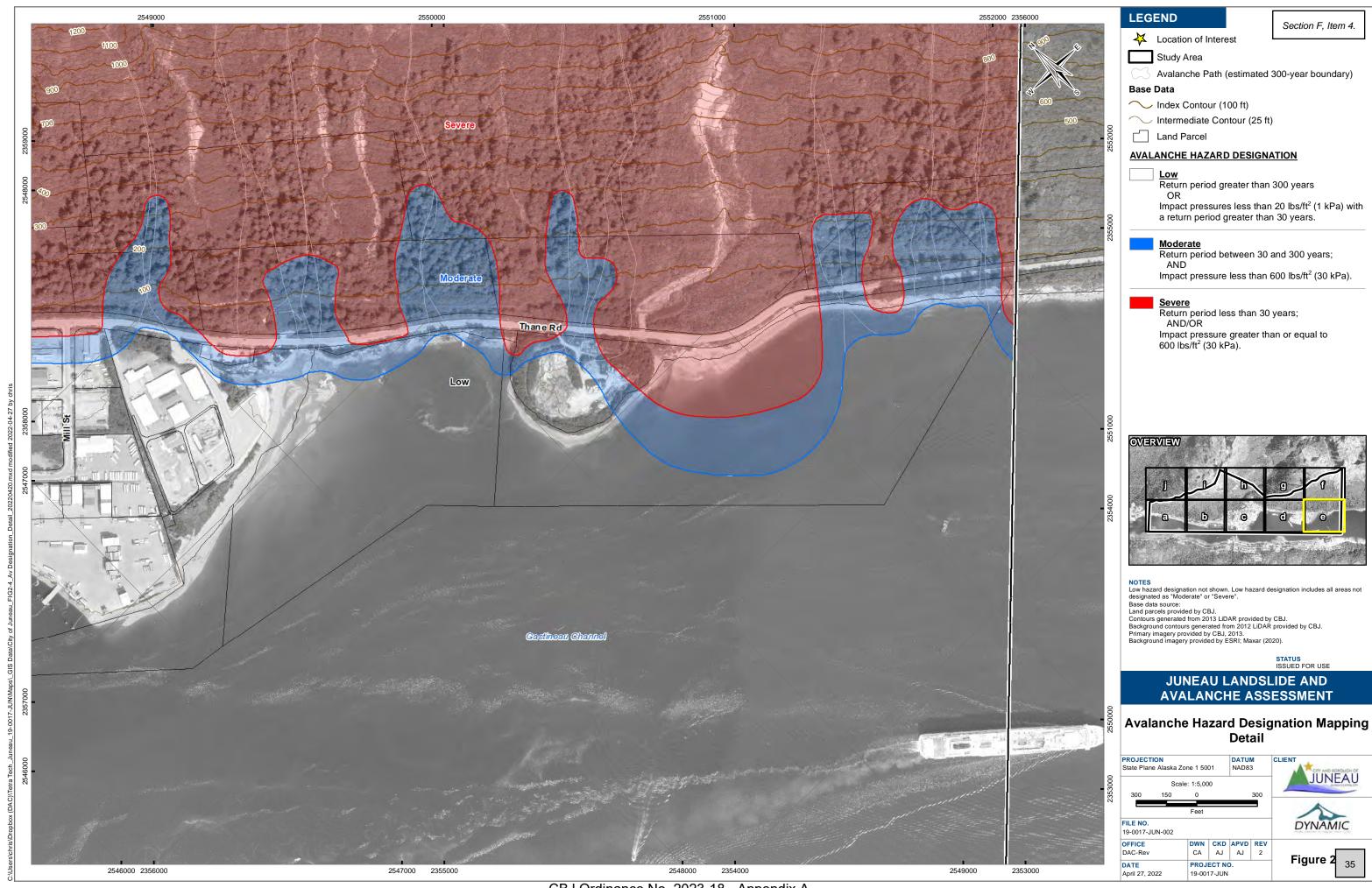




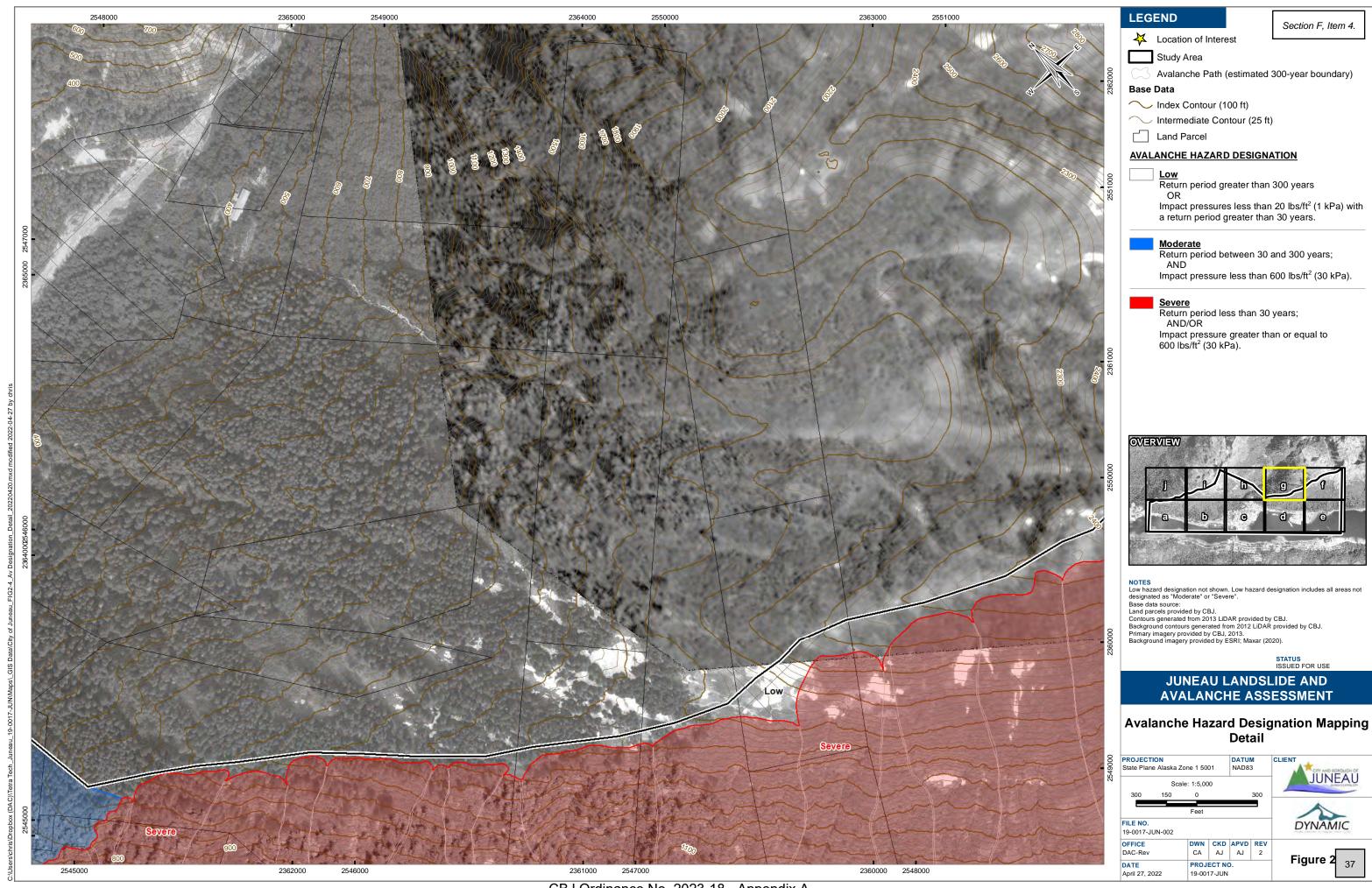


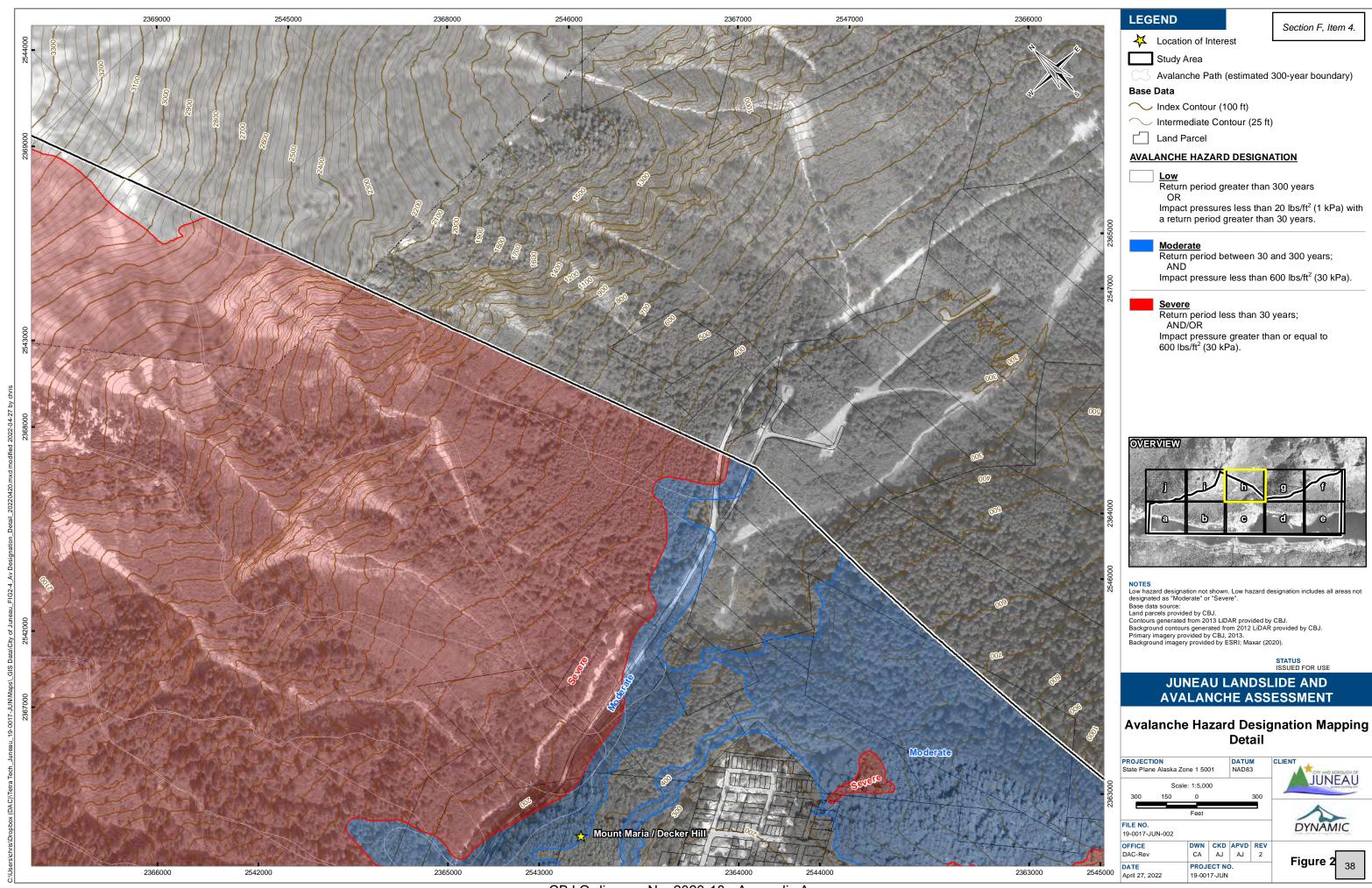


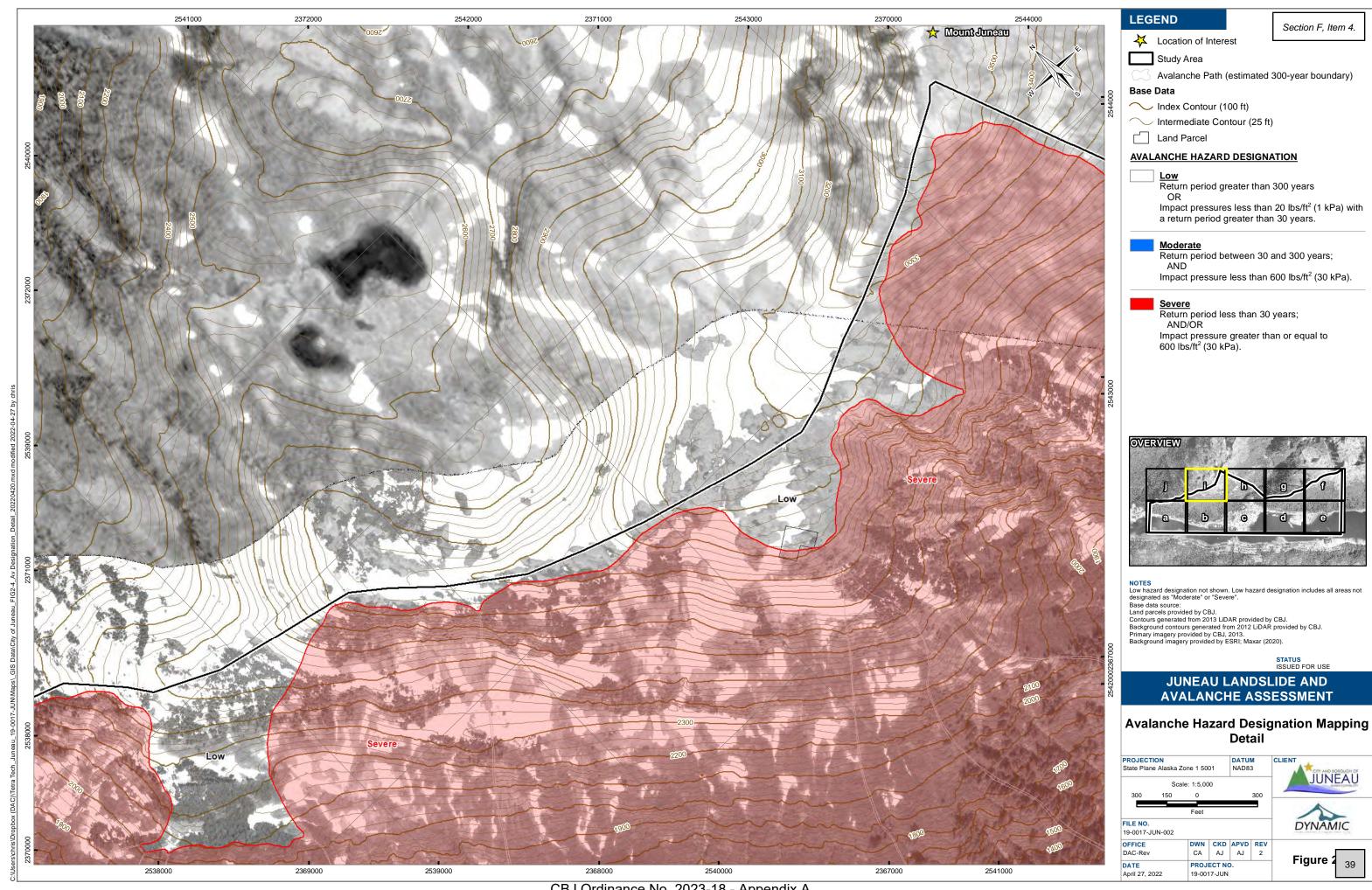


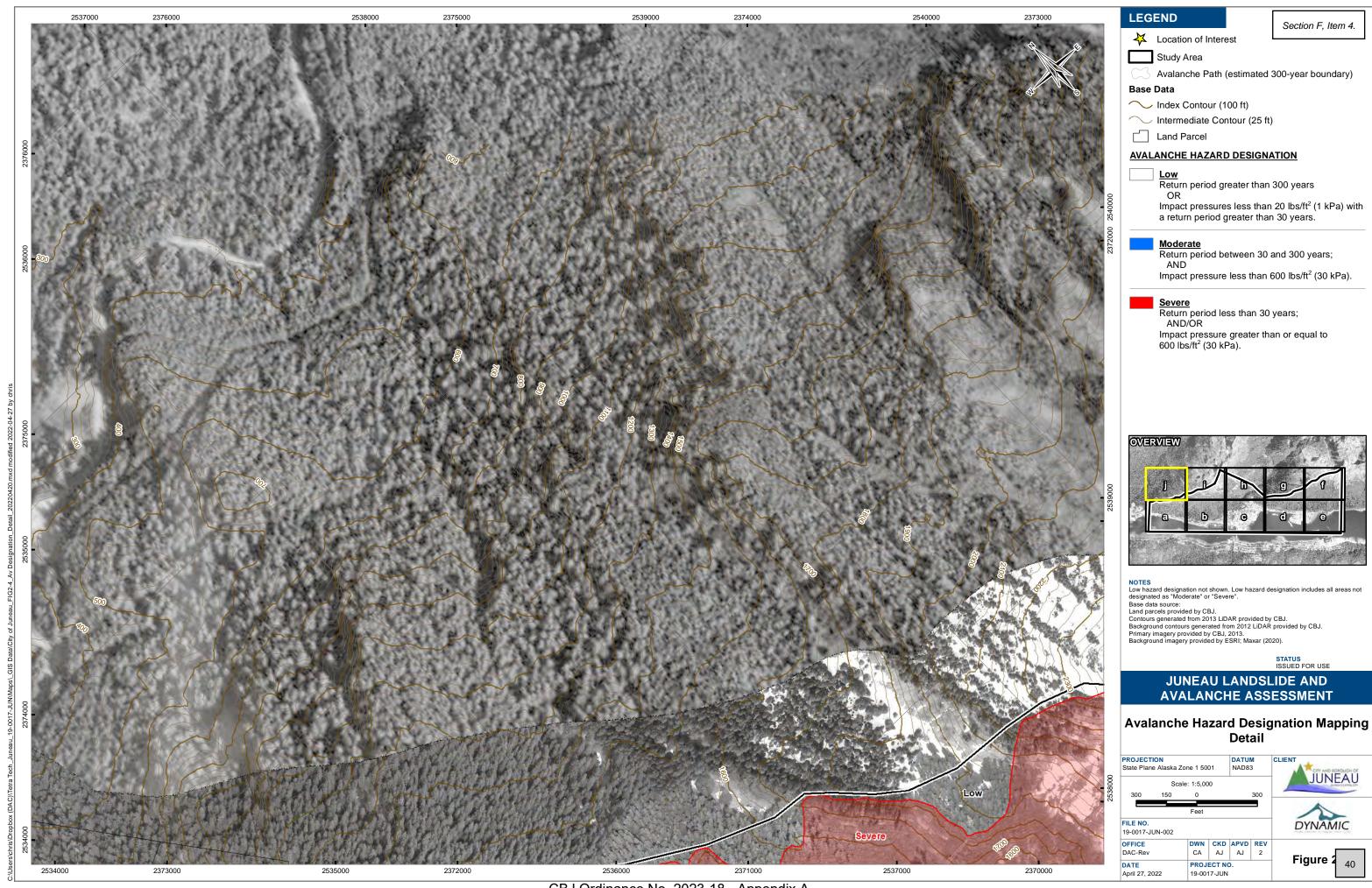














#### **MEMORANDUM**

Date: October 12, 2023
To: Borough Assembly

From: Alexandra Pierce, Tourism Manager

**Re: General Direction on Tourism Management** 

This memo provides a snapshot of Juneau's current big-picture cruise volume situation and asks the Assembly to provide staff with high-level direction with the promise of more detail, analysis, and nuanced discussion in the near future. As a reminder, and for the new members, Mayor Weldon convened the Visitor Industry Task Force (VITF) in 2019, which built on our numerous tourism management plans, studies, and efforts in the early 2000's and set over 60 recommendations for management. This includes the recommendation for a negotiated five ship limit, which is complete and will be in place for 2024. The VITF's work was based on 1.3 million visitors. We are expecting to end the season with about 1.66 million visitors in 2023, representing 30% growth. Visitation is projected to remain flat for 2024 and 2025.

Staff is currently working with other Alaska ports to formalize a regional organization that will have the ability to hold contracts and could negotiate regional agreements in the future. Currently, ports are working individually while communicating frequently and being mindful of our neighbors.

We received many public comments on visitor industry impacts this summer. The below chart shows the year-over-year TBMP comments from 2019-2023. Typically, we see more repeat callers on aircraft impacts than other issues, and that tracks this year. The number of calls in call categories except ship noise increased significantly between 2022 and 2023. The "other" category includes things like busyness, internet speed, and this year, concerns about raft tours operating on the Mendenhall River after the flood.

Concern Type	2019	2022	2023
Other	12	12	40
Aircraft	17	20	57
Vehicle: Bus/Shuttle	33	48	65
Vessel: Whale Watch	15	15	29
Vessel: Other	0	0	4
Cruise: Noise	12	26	19
Cruise: Emissions	3	6	15
Cruise: Visual	0	0	5
Total Calls	92	127	234

Current efforts will result in management improvements next season. The whale watch group continues to work on more stringent operational guidelines. The USFS, CBJ and glacier tour operators are meeting to develop solutions for the glacier transport issues we experienced this summer. At a minimum, operators will manage their permits to ensure they last the entire season. These items and other tourism management issues will be discussed in greater detail in the coming months, informed by economic impact analysis and public survey results that should be available in December. This request for preliminary Assembly direction on whether to begin negotiations to grow, maintain or reduce helps staff to fully develop our tourism strategy in a timely manner.

**Recommended Assembly action:** provide generalized guidance on whether staff should work to increase, maintain, or decrease cruise tourism visitation based on the 2023-2025 lower berth capacity of approximately 1.6 million.