



# Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive  
Petersburg, AK 99833

## Meeting Agenda Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

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Monday, July 01, 2024

12:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

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You are invited to a Zoom webinar.  
When: July 1, 2024 12:00 PM Alaska  
Topic: July 1, 2024 Borough Assembly Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://petersburgak.gov.zoom.us/j/84195984263?pwd=BYm4HE0jbHGQNzc9Dgd2eLnaXYevWm.1>

Passcode: 931654

Or Telephone:

(253) 215-8782 or (720) 707-2699

Webinar ID: 841 9598 4263

Passcode: 931654

1. **Call To Order/Roll Call**
2. **Voluntary Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
  - A. June 17, 2024 Assembly Meeting Minutes**
4. **Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda**
5. **Public Hearings**
6. **Bid Awards**
7. **Persons to be Heard Related to Agenda**

*Persons wishing to share their views on any item on today's agenda may do so at this time.*
8. **Persons to be Heard Unrelated to Agenda**

*Persons with views on subjects not on today's agenda may share those views at this time.*
9. **Boards, Commission and Committee Reports**
10. **Consent Agenda**

## 11. Report of Other Officers

### **A. Petersburg Medical Center Update**

PMC CEO Hofstetter will update the Assembly on Medical Center activities. A written report from CEO Hofstetter is attached in this packet.

### **B. US Forest Service Update**

Petersburg District Ranger Born will update the Assembly on USFS activities. A written report from Ranger Born is attached in this packet.

## 12. Mayor's Report

### **A. July 1, 2024 Mayor's Report**

## 13. Manager's Report

### **A. July 1, 2024 Manager's Report**

## 14. Unfinished Business

### **A. Ordinance #2024-11: An Ordinance Proposing an Amendment to the Home Rule Charter of the Petersburg Borough to Remove the Requirement of Voter Ratification of Changes to Sales Tax Exemptions, and Directing that the Proposed Amendment be Submitted to the Qualified Voters of the Borough**

If adopted by the Assembly, Ordinance #2024-11 will submit a ballot proposition to Borough voters at the October 2024 municipal election to amend Borough Charter to remove the requirement of voter approval to make changes to sales tax exemptions. This exemption requirement was put into place in 1981. The Borough is aware of no other municipality in Alaska that requires voter approval to change sales tax exemptions. This amendment will not negate the requirement of voter approval of any change in the rate of the Borough's sales tax. Ordinance #2024-11 was unanimously approved in its first and second readings.

## 15. New Business

### **A. Ordinance #2024-12: An Ordinance Providing for the Submission to the Qualified Voters of Petersburg Borough the Question of the Issuance of Not-to-Exceed Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,500,000) of General Obligation Bonds, to Pay Costs of Public School Capital Improvements in the Borough at the Regular Election Held on October 1, 2024**

If approved in three readings, Ordinance #2024-12 will bring Ballot Proposition #1, issuance of up to four million five hundred thousand dollars (\$4,500,000) of General Obligation Bonds for Petersburg School District capital improvements, before the voters at the October 1, 2024 Municipal Election.

### **B. Ordinance #2024-13: An Ordinance Authorizing Long Term Indebtedness in an Amount not to Exceed \$19.3 Million for the Design and Construction of Water**

**and Wastewater Infrastructure in the Borough and Directing that this Matter be Submitted to the Voters for Consideration at the Next Regular Election to be Held on October 1, 2024**

Ordinance #2024-13, if adopted in three readings, will bring the question of indebtedness to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's municipal loan program, in an amount not to exceed \$19.3 million, for design and construction of water and wastewater new and upgraded infrastructure in the Borough, to Borough voters at the October 1, 2024 Municipal Election. The ADEC loan program offers interest rates of approximately 1.5% over a 20 year period. If approved by the voters, projects design and construction will be authorized to commence until December 31, 2030.

**16. Communications**

**A. Correspondence Received Since June 13, 2024**

**17. Assembly Discussion Items**

**A. Assembly Member Comments**

**B. Recognitions**

**18. Adjourn**



# Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive  
Petersburg, AK 99833

## Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

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Monday, June 17, 2024

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

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### 1. Call To Order/Roll Call

Vice Mayor Marsh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### PRESENT

Vice Mayor Donna Marsh  
Assembly Member Thomas Fine-Walsh  
Assembly Member Bob Lynn  
Assembly Member Scott Newman  
Assembly Member Jeigh Stanton Gregor

#### EXCUSED

Mayor Mark Jensen  
Assembly Member Rob Schwartz

### 2. Voluntary Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

#### A. June 3, 2024 Assembly Meeting Minutes

The June 3, 2024 Assembly meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion made by Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Lynn.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

### 4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Motion made by Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Seconded by Assembly Member Stanton Gregor.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn,

Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

**5. Public Hearings**

**A. Public Hearing for Ordinance #2024-11: An Ordinance Proposing an Amendment to the Home Rule Charter of the Petersburg Borough to Remove the Requirement of Voter Ratification of Changes to Sales Tax Exemptions, and Directing that the Proposed Amendment be Submitted to the Qualified Voters of the Borough**

No testimony was given at this public hearing.

**6. Bid Awards**

**A. Mountain View Manor Elderly Housing Entrance Repair Project**

The Assembly unanimously approved to award the MVM Elderly Housing Entrance Project to Steelhead Enterprises, LLC, for an amount not to exceed \$65,800.

Motion made by Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

**7. Persons to be Heard Related to Agenda**

*Persons wishing to share their views on any item on today's agenda may do so at this time.*

No views were shared.

**8. Persons to be Heard Unrelated to Agenda**

*Persons with views on subjects not on today's agenda may share those views at this time.*

No views were shared.

**9. Boards, Commission and Committee Reports**

There were no reports.

**10. Consent Agenda**

**A. Piston & Rudder Service, Inc. Tidelands Parcel T-30 B Lease Renewal**

Piston & Rudder's tidelands parcel T-30 B lease with the Borough was renewed through June 30, 2029.

Motion made by Assembly Member Lynn, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.  
Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

**11. Report of Other Officers**

There were no reports.

**12. Mayor's Report**

**A. June 17, 2024 Mayor's Report**

Vice Mayor Marsh read the Mayor's Report into the record.

**13. Manager's Report**

There was no written Manager's Report and Manager Giesbrecht was absent from the meeting due to illness.

**14. Unfinished Business**

**A. Ordinance #2024-10: An Ordinance Amending Section 4.28.120 of the Petersburg Municipal Code, to Increase the Amount of Sales Tax that can be Collected on a Single Sales Transaction from \$72 to \$300, and Directing that the Proposed Amendment be Submitted to the Qualified Voters of the Borough - Third and final reading**

The Assembly unanimously approved Ordinance #2024-10 in its third and final reading, which will place the question of increasing the amount of sales tax that can be collected on a single sales transaction from \$72 to \$300 on the October 1, 2024, municipal election ballot.

Motion made by Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Lynn.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

**B. Ordinance #2024-11 - An Ordinance Proposing an Amendment to the Home Rule Charter of the Petersburg Borough to Remove the Requirement of Voter Ratification of Changes to Sales Tax Exemptions, and Directing that the Proposed Amendment be Submitted to the Qualified Voters of the Borough - Second Reading**

If approved by the Assembly in three readings, Ordinance #2024-11 will submit a ballot proposition to Borough voters at the October 2024 municipal election to amend Borough Charter to remove the requirement of voter approval to make changes to sales tax exemptions. This exemption requirement was put into place in 1981. The Borough is aware of no other municipality in Alaska that requires voter approval to change sales tax exemptions. This amendment will not negate the requirement of voter approval of any change in the rate of the Borough's sales tax. Ordinance #2024-11 was unanimously approved in its first reading.

By unanimous roll call vote, the Assembly approved Ordinance #2024-11 in its second reading.

Motion made by Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

**15. New Business**

**A. Resolution #2024-10: A Resolution Amending Island Refrigeration, LLC's Contract of Sale for Purchase of a Borough Tidelands Parcel, Described as Petersburg Port Authority Storage Area, According to Plats #2000-6 and #2000-5 (Parcel ID #01-010-035), to Allow Ninety (90) Additional Calendar Days for the Purchase Price to be Paid in Full**

The Assembly unanimously approved Resolution #2024-10.

Motion made by Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

**B. Public Works Dump Truck #64 Replacement Award**

Purchase of the replacement dump truck was unanimously approved.

Motion made by Assembly Member Newman, Seconded by Assembly Member Stanton Gregor.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

**16. Communications**

**17. Assembly Discussion Items**

**A. Assembly Member Comments**

Assembly Member Stanton Gregor encouraged the Petersburg public to volunteer and be a part of helping the community, and to run for public office.

**B. Recognitions**

There were no recognitions.

**18. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Motion made by Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor





# Petersburg Medical Center

Borough Assembly Report – July 2024 – Phil Hofstetter, CEO

## FY24-28 Strategic Plan Goals, Priorities, and Benchmarks

### Community Engagement:

- June 3: PMC reported out at the Borough Assembly meeting and the Borough Assembly authorized Petersburg Medical Center to Issue a Notice to Proceed to Dawson Construction for Full Construction of the WERC Building.
- June 27: KFSK Radio PMC Live.
- July 27: Save the date for the PMC Foundation’s Pedal/Paddle Battle. At this annual event, participants bike or paddle from Scow Bay to Sandy Beach to raise funds to support staff education and HS scholarships. Register here: <https://www.pmcak.org/paddle-battle-registration.html>.

### Financial Wellness:

- Accounts Receivables (AR) is still hovering around 80 days. The revenue cycle team continues to work on improving this to get to target of 55 days, we are moving towards in-house revenue cycle and away from 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractors to help reduce the AR. This provides more local employment opportunities, reduces costs and is better for working with the community.
- PMC was awarded a total of \$116,375 in grants for Summer ORCA Camps, Teen Mental Health First Aid, and School-Based Health Services Grant. This is in addition to the four total continuing multi-year awards, including the \$20M Department of Treasury grant, \$8M for the HRSA grant, \$550K for falls prevention, and \$145K for tobacco cessation. A total of seven grants are pending for FY25-FY29 totaling \$7.8 million.

### Workforce Wellness:

- As health insurance costs and premiums continue to rise nationwide, PMC has also experienced an increase. This year, PMC insurance premiums increased by 10.9%, reflecting a broader trend seen across the country. National statistics indicate similar hikes, underscoring the growing financial burden on both employers and employees in the healthcare sector.

Join the PMC Foundation in supporting continuing education for staff & scholarships for high school seniors!

**Pedal/Paddle Battle**  
SCOW BAY TO SANDY BEACH

Saturday, July 27th  
Start at Scow Bay  
Paddlers @ 09:30 / Pedalers @ 11:00  
BBQ & Prize Drawings at Finish

\*Register and/or Donate [www.pmcak.org](http://www.pmcak.org)\*

**Registration**

- Kayaks, Canoes, SUPs, & Bikes welcome!
- [www.pmcak.org](http://www.pmcak.org) to register
- \$20 registration (free for kids under 12)

**Participant & Sponsor Drawing**

- Participants entered for getting sponsors
- Sponsors entered by donating

**HUGE PRIZES!**

AK Airlines Tickets  
Mountain Bike  
Rumpl Puffy Blanket

**Alaska AIRLINES**



- To celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month, the Behavioral Health & Community Wellness departments launched a Self-Care Campaign to emphasize the importance of self-care and encourage ongoing mental health conversations within our community. The team set up a table on May 31 for employees to share self-care tips from employees and a chance to win prizes. Employees were encouraged to visit, share their self-care practices, and learn more about maintaining their mental health.
- In addition to Bravo and BetterHelp offerings, PMC provides various activities and opportunities for employee wellness. These include a Parks and Recreation Discount, Healthy Snack Carts, a Lifestyle Balance Program, Health Challenges, Winter Safety Gear, and access to a fat tire bike. Additionally, we host various one-time events to promote health and well-being.

### Facility:

- Site preparation is complete for the full 4.9 acres of wetlands permitting. A small section in the northeast corner of the lot connected to the ballfields will need additional permitting, excavation, and fill development. The WERC building is FULLY funded, on budget with (~\$1M) contingencies, and on time. We really have the “A” Team working on this project. By fall 2025, this building will be complete including an MRI service expansion.



- Upon request, we can take staff, board members, and community members to the site for tours. We are also happy and available to provide tours of our existing facility.
- PMC made Federal Senator Murkowski’s initial cut of the appropriation list for \$3M. This still requires approval but marks an important recognition of the project’s significance. As the state capital budget, Governor’s budget, and state bond approaches, I encourage the community to continue advocating for this project to maintain its status as the Borough’s top federal and state priority for the next fiscal year. This is crucial for securing grants and funding. Additionally, while a USDA direct loan remains an option, it should be considered only as a last resort.
- Updates: Project updates are available on the PMC website under the “New Facility & Planning” tab: <https://www.pmcak.org/new-building.html>.

### Patient-Centered Care:

- Registration for PMC’s ORCA Camps are now open. The camps include a wide variety of

**ORCA CAMPS ENROLLMENT OPEN**

June 11 - July 3 -- Run POD  
 July 8 - Aug 3 -- Theater ORCA Camp  
 July 22 - July 26 -- Kayaking Expedition  
 Aug 6 - Aug 22 -- Basketball POD  
 August 14-16 & 21-23 -- Fly-Fishing ORCA Camp  
\*fly-fishing enrollment not yet open

To Enroll: [www.regpack.com/reg/PMCYouthPrograms](http://www.regpack.com/reg/PMCYouthPrograms)

options for youth summer camps. Scholarships for ORCA Camps made possible thanks to WAVE Prevention funding. Register at: [www.regpack.com/reg/PMCYouthPrograms](http://www.regpack.com/reg/PMCYouthPrograms).

- Telehealth has grown considerably in the past year. PMC has Kaitlin DuRoss Rathman, PT, now working with virtual visits for wound care; Dr. Hyer available for virtual primary care visits; Brandy Boggs as patient navigator working with the community on complex health insurance benefits, enrollment, VA and coordination; Pat Sessa, MSW LCSW with behavioral health; and Dr. Sonkiss for telepsychiatry.
- PMC has seen a large increase in ER an inpatient the past two weeks and over 10 patients in the inpatient unit for multiple days.
- Primary care continues to increase access to the community for same-day appointments, established patients, well child, prevention visits and routine care.



**File Code:** 1560**Date:** June 24, 2024**Route To:****Subject:** Monthly update to Petersburg Borough**To:** Mayor Mark Jensen and Assembly Members

Good afternoon, Mayor Jensen, and Assembly Members. Here are some updates from the Petersburg Ranger District on activities around Petersburg.

**1. FOREST PLAN REVISION UPDATE:**

- a. Our next steps are to complete the compilation of the information from the 25 community visits and start our initial assessments.
- b. From the website there are links to all the information webinars and a feedback form. Visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/tongass/landmanagement/planning> and click on: Forest Plan Revision.
- c. A letter was sent out on 6/11/2024 about follow up and intro to tribal engagement team working with Spruce Root. The Spruce Root/SSP team will include Anthony Mallott, Alana Peterson, Katie Riley, and Valerie Massie. This team is ready to offer information and strategy regarding planning, policy, environmental concerns, cultural use, and harvest priorities to Tribes within this process. They are available through in person meetings, virtual work sessions, presentations to Tribal Councils and direct working relationships with Tribal administrators or other Tribal designated employees involved in this process. ([www.spruceroot.org/tongassrevision](http://www.spruceroot.org/tongassrevision) )
- d. For more information contact me or our Forest Plan Revision Team ([SM.FS.TNFRevision@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.TNFRevision@usda.gov) )

- 2. Cooperative Emergency Response Agreements:** The Forest Service does not have a current Local Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement with Petersburg Borough. I would like to start a discussion on developing an agreement based on the current conditions of our relationship that will help us define our roles and responsibilities. I have provided an example of an existing agreement to Aaron Hankins and would like support of the Assembly to move forward with this discussion.

**3. Timber:**

- a. Thomas Bay: We are cruising this sale next week with a sale offer planned for later this year. The harvest will be on 542 acres for about 12.6 million board feet.
- b. Small Sales will continue along the roadsides to provide for our smaller operators. We currently have 6 small sales currently going on Mitkof Island.
- c. Free Use permits are available also.
- d. Contact Acting Timber Management Assistant Rachael Brummett ([Rachel.Brummett@usda.gov](mailto:Rachel.Brummett@usda.gov)) for more information.



#### 4. Secure Rural Schools Act – Resource Advisory Committee (SRS-RAC)

- a. Need to have 5 more applications to set up the RAC throughout the South Tongass. We are seeking additional people with tribal membership. See attached flyer.
- b. Resource Advisory Committees review projects submitted by agencies, non-profits, landowners, and others and make recommendations for funding. These projects must be on or adjacent to the Tongass National Forest. Types of projects include improving *trails*; soil productivity; ecosystem health; *wildlife and fish habitat*; native species or *noxious weed control*. The annual commitment is attending 2-3 one-hour admin meetings, a few hours to review proposals on your own time, and 1-2 day-long voting meetings.
- c. The South Tongass RAC is comprised of the former Wrangell-Petersburg RAC, Ketchikan RAC, and Prince of Wales RAC.
- d. From more details on SRS: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/secure-rural-schools>.

#### 5. Cabins and Trails:

- A. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Cabins:
  - a. West Point Cabin Repair (2025) also part of this funding. Replace old, rusting fabricated brackets of the cabin's foundation and porch with new components that will improve structural stability. An engineering survey this year with a contract to repair next year.
  - b. Woodpecker Cove cabin (2025) site design and cabin design are being finalized. We intend to submit for contracting to have constructed in 2025.
  - c. Proposed Cabin Fees:
    - I. The public has until July 3, to comment on proposed recreation fees for six new cabins and one campground in southeast Alaska.
    - II. A complete list of locations and proposed fees is available on the interactive Alaska Region Recreation Fee Proposals site.
    - III. Comment information, including the commenter's name and address, will be considered part of the public record and viewable by the public.
    - IV. If approved, fee changes will take effect in late 2024 or 2025.
    - V. Collected fees fund ongoing operations, maintenance, and improvements to provide high quality recreation sites for locals and visitors alike.
    - VI. The proposed fees will help close the gap between normal appropriations and cost to maintain and operate.
    - VII. Proposed fee prices are based on a market analysis of similar recreation opportunities within the state.
- B. GAOA Trails:
  - a. Petersburg Lake Trail: For this summer we plan to do 6.6 miles of trail maintenance. Petersburg Lake Trail maintenance will consist of removing fallen trees on the trail, brushing up to 3ft on both sides of the trail from overgrown vegetation. Also, will be replacing rotten or broken material of the step and run boardwalk. Materials will be brought in by boat or floatplane. In Wilderness so no power tools will be used. Old Growth trees will not be cut during trail maintenance. Total personnel that will be working on Petersburg Lake Trail project will be 5-7. The lower half can be access by boat at the high tide point. The upper half will use a floatplane.

- b. Ohmer Creek bridge replacement will be contracted out to replace the floating bridge with a more sustainable elevated bridge.
  - c. Crews have been busy at work cutting out the existing trails on Mitkof and Kupreanof Islands.
- C. For more information on Cabins and Trails please contact our Recreation Staff Officer Nick Kloos (nicholas.kloos@usda.gov).

Thank you for your ongoing support for Petersburg Ranger District and the Forest Service planning and project implementation.

*Vernon Ray Born*

Ranger Ray Born

Enclosures:

1. Forest plan Revision Flyer
2. SRS RAC Flyer

Cc: Rachel Brummett  
Nick Kloos.

# TONGASS National Forest

**IS OUTREACHING FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!**



## JOIN OUR RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

- ▶ Improve economic opportunities and ecosystem services for your community!
- ▶ Lend your voice to project spending!
- ▶ Share your ideas with people who value your perspective!
- ▶ Build your professional skills!

## SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021

A portion of Forest Service funds generated from multiple use activities like grazing, mining, timber, and special use permits is distributed to local governments.

### WHAT IS A RAC?

Resource Advisory Committees review projects submitted by agencies, non-profits, landowners, and others and make recommendations for funding. These projects must be on or adjacent to the Tongass National Forest. Types of projects include improving trails; soil productivity; ecosystem health; wildlife and fish habitat; native species or noxious weed control. The annual commitment is attending 2-3 one-hour admin meetings, a few hours to review proposals on your own time, and 1-2 day-long voting meetings.



### WHO CAN APPLY?

Citizens within the **South Tongass RAC** jurisdiction who represent one of the vacant interest groups below are encouraged to apply. There are 3 vacancies available.



Scan the QR code for an application, instructions and more information.



A functional RAC needs 15 members, one from each of the following:

Category A	Category B	Category C
Organized labor or non-timber product harvester groups (VACANT)	Nationally recognized environmental organizations (VACANT)	State elected official or designee (VACANT)
Developed outdoor recreation, off-hwy vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities	Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations	County or local elected official
Energy and mineral development interests or commercial or recreational fishing interests	Dispersed recreational activities	Representative for American Indian Tribes within or adjacent to RAC jurisdiction (VACANT)
Commercial timber industry	Archaeological and historical interests	Area school officials or teachers
Federal grazing or other land use permittee or nonindustrial private forest landowner (VACANT)	Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse & burro groups, wildlife or hunting organizations, or watershed associations	Representative for the affected public at large

Visit our website



## What you will find

- ◆ A schedule of upcoming webinars, workshops & Engagements
- ◆ A way to sign-up for regular email updates
- ◆ The anticipated schedule of the Revision Process
- ◆ A list of items available for comment

We want to hear from you!



*Your input will shape the future of management on the Tongass!*

## Contact Us

**Tongass National Forest**  
648 Mission Street, Suite 110  
Ketchikan, AK 99901-6591  
[sm.fs.TNFRevision@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.TNFRevision@usda.gov)

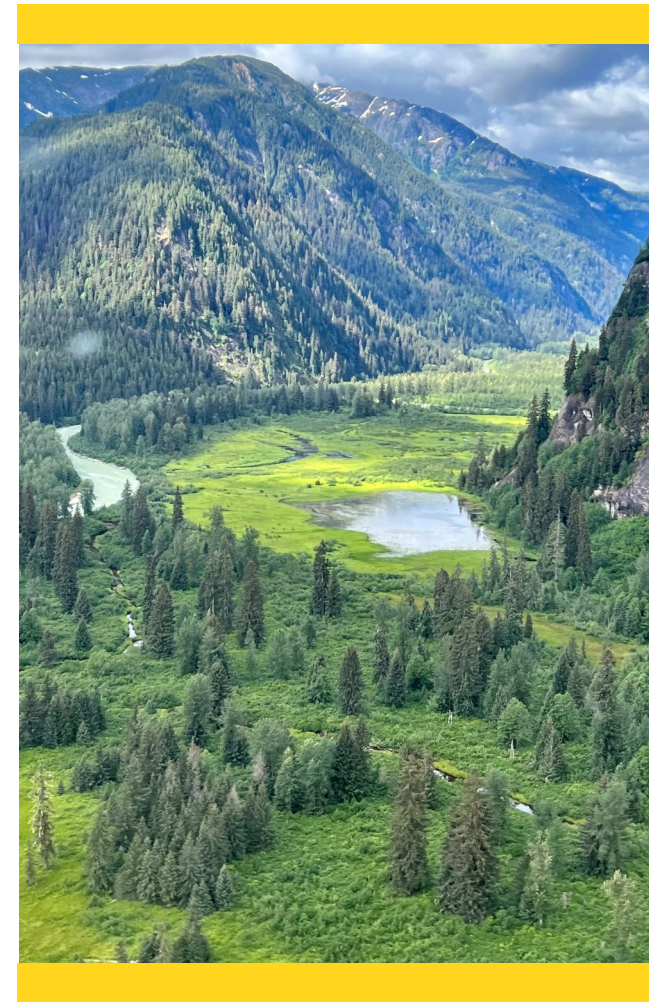
Visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/tongass/landmanagement/planning> and Click on: **Forest Plan Revision**

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Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Item 11B.



# Tongass National Forest Forest Plan Revision



# What is a Forest Plan?

Forest plans set the overall management direction and guidance for each of our national forests. A forest plan is like a city zoning plan that helps guide future land use in the same way a city designates where and how future residential or commercial development is allowed.

Forest Plans do not make site-specific decisions, such as where to put a recreation trail. Rather, they guide *future* uses of the forest by creating standards for projects and activities.

The Plan covers:

- Environmental and ecosystem health
- Air, water, and soil quality
- Disturbance processes, natural succession, and climate change
- Social, cultural, and economic factors
- Recreational settings and transportation corridors
- Designated areas including wilderness and wild and scenic rivers

Carefully balancing multiple uses will be an important part of the Tongass Forest Plan revision. In order to create a Plan that protects resources, supports sustainable economies and communities, and maintains healthy ecosystems, we will need your input!

# Why a Revision?

The Tongass National Forest is revising the Forest Plan to meet the updated requirements of Forest Service planning regulations and make the document more user friendly.

## Public Participation

Meaningful dialogue with Tribes, partners, agencies and the public throughout the process will be essential to the success of revising the Tongass Forest Plan. We will strive to create a process where all voices and perspectives can be heard.



# Tentative Schedule Item 11B.

2023

**PRE-ASSESSMENT**—Present information to Tribes, the public, partners and agencies, and hear preferred engagement methods.

2024

**ASSESSMENT**—Engage with Tribes, the public, partners and agencies on Assessment items, including: Species of Conservation Concern, Wild and Scenic River, Wilderness Areas, Need for Change

2025

**DEVELOP PLAN**—Engage with Tribes, the public, partners and agencies on the Plan Vision and Spatial Framework, Desired Conditions, Objectives, Suitability and Monitoring Plan.

2026

**DEVELOP DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) /DRAFT PLAN**

2027

**FINALIZE PLAN / FINAL EIS**

**OBJECTION PERIOD/RECORD OF DECISION (ROD)**

**Mayor's Report  
For  
July 1, 2024 Assembly Meeting**

- 1. Seeking Letters of Interest:** The Petersburg Borough is accepting letters of interest from citizens who wish to serve the community by filling a vacant seat on the Public Safety Advisory Board until the October 2024 Municipal Election. Letters of interest should be submitted to Clerk Thompson at the Borough offices located at 12 S. Nordic Drive; by sending to PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833; or by emailing to [dthompson@petersburgak.gov](mailto:dthompson@petersburgak.gov).
- 2. Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July:** Wishing everyone a safe and fun-filled Independence Day celebration!





**Borough Manager's Report  
Assembly Meeting 01 July 2024**

- ❖ Ken Birch has been making progress in replacing the Elderly Housing greenhouse entrance.
- ❖ The Streets Dept installed some storm drain piping to eliminate standing water near the Elementary School.
- ❖ Recent warm weather has allowed us to get dust control treatment down on our dirt streets. We have some dust control solution left but may need to order more before the season is over.
- ❖ Grading and pothole repair continue. Most streets were graded recently, there are a couple in Severson's Subdivision that still need to get done.
- ❖ The crew dug some ditches at the ballfield to facilitate new lighting and other electrical improvements. We are also assisting Petersburg Little League with installation of new fencing. This project is ongoing.
- ❖ Chris is working with the Streets crew to identify a better model of street sweeper for spring sand pickup. The current unit has proven inadequate for this task, and we are unable to increase its performance to satisfactory levels. Once we have a suitable unit identified, we will be approaching the Assembly about budgeting for an early replacement of the current street sweeper.
- ❖ Sanitation is coordinating with the Chamber for garbage service over the 4th of July holiday.
- ❖ The Sanitation Dept is very busy right now with lots of local construction projects ongoing, cruise ships/harbor garbage, and fish processors ramping up for the summer season.
- ❖ As of July 1st, the Water and Wastewater Depts will be incorporated back into Public Works. We are working with Utility Director Hagerman and Departmental staff on the details of the transition, which will likely take several months to fully implement.
- ❖ Chris is working with Borough Administration to finalize an interview schedule for the Assistant Public Works Director position. To date, we have 3 in-house applicants for this position.
- ❖ Harbor Parking is being enforced along Harbor Way and Middle, South Harbor and long term at Drive Down and remind people the parking is very tight so might be wise to have a backup plan for leaving vehicles for long periods of time.
- ❖ Remind boaters of the no wake zone outside all 3 harbors and responsibility for wake is on the owner/operator.
- ❖ Harbor Staff met with ADOT representatives to talk about Scow Bay project and clarify design and ADOT boundaries that was included with an updated application for additional tideland conveyance and submitted

to DNR this week.

- ❖ USCG is back with their (2) fast boat response team for the next month or so. They will be on patrol in Fredrick Sound, Wrangell Narrows and on the south end in the Stikine/Wrangell area.
- ❖ The library's summer reading programs are in full swing with over 250 local children, teens and adults participating. Thank you to the many local businesses and individuals whose donations make these programs possible.
- ❖ The Lead Service Line Inventory surveys should be coming to water customers with this month's mailing of utility bills. The utility requests that our customers take the time to complete the survey and submit the information as soon as possible. Thanks to all customers of the water utility!
- ❖ The wastewater dept is still waiting for release of our draft discharge permit from the EPA so that we can make comments on any portion of the permit that doesn't make sense to us.
- ❖ The PS4 project continues to move toward bidding, with a target of this fall to time the bidding period with the seasonality of the construction industry. We should see more bids and better bids as contractors look to fill their schedules for the next construction season.
- ❖ PMPL staff continues to deploy AMI meters in the community. The meters communicate their readings back to the municipal building via a low-power radio frequency and will improve billing accuracy and customer service for electric customers. Questions can be directed to PMPL at 907-772-4203.
- ❖ Thank you to our customers that were able to conserve power during the last billing cycle. The annual SEAPA shutdown went smoothly from the utility's perspective and all power saved by our customers has helped to minimize the diesel fuel adjustment charge included in the utility billing at the end of July.
- ❖ EPS is almost complete with 30% plans and specifications for a design-build bid package for the next Scow Bay generator.
- ❖ The line crew has been cleaning out materials and supplies from the 14th Street pole yard to make room for the Harbor Department's storage needs.
- ❖ Nurse call system is up and running at Assisted Living. Working out a couple kinks in the paging system.
- ❖ Wrapping up the contract with Home Health for the Bingo program.
- ❖ I have talked with the state and have received a TB paper that the staff can fill out and if they answer the questions right then they do not have to get a TB shot and that will save us money on TB Shots every year.
- ❖ Nils from AML will be in Petersburg for the AMLIP (Investment Pool) meeting July 15-17. While here, Nils will host a conversation with community stakeholders about potential projects that line up with some federal grant programs. "Stakeholders" in this case would be both boroughs' staff, school districts, tribes, utilities, ports and harbors. Wrangell has been invited.

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH  
ORDINANCE #2024-11**

**AN ORDINANCE PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER  
OF THE PETERSBURG BOROUGH TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT OF VOTER  
RATIFICATION OF CHANGES TO SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS, AND DIRECTING  
THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED  
VOTERS OF THE BOROUGH**

**WHEREAS**, section 12.02B of the Borough Charter mandates that any change in a sales tax exemption be ratified by borough voters; and

**WHEREAS**, this requirement was adopted into the Charter of the then-City of Petersburg in 1981 and carried over into the Borough Charter upon borough formation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is aware of no other municipality in Alaska that requires voter approval to change sales tax exemptions; and

**WHEREAS**, this voter approval requirement limits the flexibility and timeliness of the Borough Assembly in budgetary matters, especially during times of unknown state revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, this amendment will not negate the requirement of voter ratification of any change in the rate of the sales tax; and

**WHEREAS**, Petersburg Borough Charter Chapter 18, entitled Charter Amendment, section 18.02 *Election*, specifies that any proposed charter amendment shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the Borough.

**THEREFORE, THE PETERSBURG BOROUGH ORDAINS**, that the following proposed amendment to the Home Rule Charter of the Petersburg Borough be submitted to the qualified voters of the Borough at the October 1, 2024 regular election.

**Section 1. Classification:** This is a non-code ordinance, however the proposed borough charter amendment is of a permanent nature and, if approved by the voters, shall be reflected in the Petersburg Borough Charter.

**Section 2. Purpose:** The purpose of this ordinance is to propose a charter amendment to the Borough voters that would remove the requirement of voter ratification of changes to sales tax exemptions.

**Section 3. Substantive Provisions:**

Proposed Charter Amendment – Section 12.02B of the Charter: The language proposed for deletion is struck through.

**Article 12. Taxation**

**Section 12.02 - Sales and Use Taxes; Ratification of Sales or Use Tax Rate Increases.**

A. The borough may by ordinance levy sales or use taxes on an areawide basis, a non areawide basis and a service area basis.

B. Any sales or use tax, or change in the rate ~~or exemptions~~ to the sales tax or use tax, shall be by ordinance, ratified by a majority of the qualified voters of the borough voting on the question.

**Section 4. Submittal to Voters:**

A. In accordance with subsection 12.02B of the Borough Charter, the Borough Clerk shall submit this proposed charter amendment to the voters of the Borough at the regular election to be held on October 1, 2024.

B. The proposition to be submitted to the voters shall read substantially as follows:

Proposition #\_\_\_\_

Removing the Requirement of Voter Ratification of Changes to Sales Tax Exemptions

Shall Section 12.02B of the Petersburg Borough Charter be amended to remove the requirement that changes to sales tax exemptions be submitted to borough voters for ratification?

- YES
- NO

Sales tax exemptions are set out in Borough Code Chapter 4.28, *Sales Tax*. If this proposition is approved by Borough voters, the Borough Assembly can, by Ordinance, with three readings and a noticed public hearing, make changes to sales tax exemptions with a majority vote of the Assembly.

**Section 5. Severability:** If any provision of this ordinance or any application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance and application to any person and circumstance shall not be affected.

**Section 6. Effective Date:** This ordinance shall be effective upon adoption. The proposed borough charter amendment set forth herein, if approved by the voters, shall become effective immediately upon certification of the election results.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Petersburg Borough Assembly, Petersburg, Alaska this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Jensen, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk

Adopted:  
Published:  
Effective: Ordinance effective upon adoption. Charter Amendment effective upon Voter Approval and Certification of Election Results.

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH  
ORDINANCE #2024-12**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF PETERSBURG BOROUGH THE QUESTION OF THE ISSUANCE OF NOT-TO-EXCEED FOUR MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,500,000) OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, TO PAY COSTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH AT THE REGULAR ELECTION HELD ON OCTOBER 1, 2024.**

**WHEREAS**, the Petersburg Borough School District (the “District”) developed a list of critical major maintenance and safety capital improvements for public school facilities owned by the Petersburg Borough, Alaska (the “Borough”); and

**WHEREAS**, in collaboration, the Borough and District determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough, and its residents, to finance costs of the School Improvements identified in Section 1 of this ordinance, with proceeds derived from the issuance of general obligation debt; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated cost of the School Improvements is not anticipated to exceed Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,500,000); and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is authorized to issue general obligation debt, pursuant to Article 13, Section 1 of the Borough Charter, subject to authorization by the Borough Assembly and ratification by a majority of qualified voters of the Borough voting on the questions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Assembly seeks to authorize the issuance of not to exceed Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,500,000) principal amount of general obligation debt to pay all or a portion of the cost of the School Improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Assembly finds that it is in the best interests of the Borough, and its residents, to incur long-term general obligation debt in order to undertake the School Improvements, and, pursuant to the provisions of Article 13 of the Borough Charter, it wishes to submit this matter to the qualified voters of the Borough for their consideration.

**THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PETERSBURG BOROUGH, ALASKA**, as follows:

**SECTION 1. Purpose:**

A. It is hereby determined to be for a public purpose and in the public interest of Petersburg Borough, Alaska (the “Borough”) to incur general obligation bond indebtedness in the principal amount not to exceed Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,500,000) (the “Bonds”) for the purpose of financing costs of major maintenance to areawide public school facilities to include costs of planning, designing, site preparation, constructions, installing and equipping public school capital improvement projects, including roof replacement/repair at the Mitkof Middle School and Petersburg High School, security and safety features and upgrades at the Borough’s public schools, and related public school capital improvements (the “School Improvements”).

B. An election is to be held on October 1, 2024, in and for the Borough. It is hereby authorized that the Borough submit the question to qualified voters of the Borough, at this election, to authorize long-term general obligation indebtedness, through issuance of bonds, to finance: (i) capital costs of School Improvements, including incidental costs incurred in connection with carrying out such improvements; and (ii) to pay the costs incident to financing the School Improvements and issuing the bonds.

**SECTION 2. Substantive Provisions:**

A. The Borough Assembly hereby (i) determines that it is in the best interests of the Borough to undertake the School Improvements, consisting of the capital improvements described in Section 1 of this ordinance, and (ii) authorizes long-term general obligation indebtedness for the purpose of financing the School Improvements, in the form of issuance of Bonds that shall be a general obligation of the Borough, payable from taxes and other money of the Borough legally available for such purpose, in an amount not to exceed the total principal sum of Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,500,000), subject to voter ratification.

School Improvements include the cost of all necessary architectural, engineering, legal and other consulting services; site acquisition or improvement (e.g., clearing and demolition); on and off-site utilities and related improvements; printing, advertising, establishing and funding accounts; necessary and related planning, consulting, inspection and testing costs; administrative expenses; and other similar activities or purposes incurred in connection with the School Improvements shall be deemed a part of the costs of such capital improvements. The Borough may modify details of the School Improvements as it may find necessary or advisable.

The Borough shall determine the application of available money between the various portions of the School Improvements so as to accomplish, as near as may be, all of the School Improvements. If available money from the proceeds of the bonds is more than sufficient to pay the costs of the School Improvements, or if state or local circumstances require any alteration in the School Improvements, the Borough may acquire, construct, equip and make other capital improvements to the District's public school facilities or may retire and/or defease a portion of the Bonds, all as the Borough may determine and as permitted by law. If the proceeds of the sale of the Bonds and other available money are insufficient to make all of the capital improvements herein provided for, or if it has become impractical to accomplish the School Improvements or portions of the School Improvements, the Borough may use the proceeds of the Bonds and other available money for paying the costs of those portions of the School Improvements deemed by the Borough to be most necessary and in the best interest of the Borough.

B. The Bonds will be issued and sold in the amounts and at the time or times as they Assembly finds necessary and advisable and as permitted by law. The Bonds may be issued in one or more series and shall mature in the amounts and at the times as authorized by the Assembly and as provided by law. The date, form, interest rates, terms, redemption provisions, maturities, covenants and manner of sale of the Bonds shall be as hereafter provided by the Assembly.

C. The question of whether to authorize this indebtedness shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the Borough at the regular municipal election to be held on October 1, 2024. The proposition must receive an areawide majority vote of those in the Borough voting on the question. The ballot proposition to be submitted to the voters shall read substantially as follows:



PROPOSITION NO. 1  
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS  
Public School Capital Improvements  
(Assembly Ordinance #2024-12)

Shall the Petersburg Borough incur long-term indebtedness, and issue up to the principal amount not to exceed Four Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$4,500,000) of general obligation bonds?

Proceeds of the general obligation bonds will be used to finance costs of major maintenance to areawide public school facilities including roof replacement/repair at both the Mitkof Middle School and Petersburg High School, security and safety features and upgrades to the Borough’s public schools and related capital improvements, and also includes paying incidental costs incurred in connection with carrying out and financing such improvements and costs incidental to the issuance of the bonds.

The indebtedness would be in the form of general obligation bonds, payable from ad valorem taxes levied on all taxable property located within the Borough. The Borough will pledge its full faith and credit for repayment of the indebtedness.

Voter approval of this bond proposition authorizes for each \$100,000 of assessed taxable real and personal property value in the Borough (based on the estimated FY 2025 areawide assessed valuation) an annual increase in taxes of approximately \$80.00 to retire the proposed bonds.

PROPOSITION NO. 1 YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

This proposition shall be printed on a ballot which may set forth other general obligation bond propositions.

D. The Borough Manager (or such official’s designee) is authorized to take all actions required in accordance with Article 5 of the Borough Charter to provide notice of the election and to provide informational documents to the voters regarding this proposition. Specifically, the Borough Manager and other proper Borough officials are directed to cause notice of the election to be published once a week for three weeks, beginning at least 20 days prior to the election date, in accordance with Article 13, Section 2, of the Borough Charter, which notice shall include the following information:

1. The maximum principal amount of the bonds, which shall not exceed \$4.5 million.
2. The amount of the estimated annual debt service on the proposed bonds, based on an estimate of the anticipated interest rate, which shall be determined closer to the date of publication of the election information.
3. The amount of current total general obligation indebtedness of the Borough (including authorized but unsold bonds).
4. The amount of current year debt service payable with respect to outstanding bonds of the Borough.

5. The current total assessed valuation within the Borough.

**SECTION 3. General Authorization; Ratification:** The proper Borough officials are authorized to perform such duties as are necessary or required by law to the end that the question of whether or not the Bonds shall be issued as provided in this ordinance, shall be submitted to the voters of the Borough at the October 1, 2024 regular election. Any action taken consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this ordinance is hereby ratified, approved and confirmed.

**SECTION 4. Intent to Reimburse:** The Borough Assembly declares that to the extent that the Borough makes capital expenditures for School Improvements prior to the date the Bonds or other short term obligations are issued to finance the School Improvements from funds that are not (and are not reasonably expected to be) reserved, allocated on a long-term basis or otherwise set aside by the Borough under its existing and reasonably foreseeable budgetary and financial circumstances to finance the School Improvements, those capital expenditures are intended to be reimbursed out of proceeds of the Bonds or other short term obligations issued in an amount not to exceed the principal amount of the Bonds provided by this ordinance.

**SECTION 5. Severability:** If any provision of this ordinance or any application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance and application to any person and circumstance shall not be affected.

**SECTION 6. Classification:** This ordinance shall not be codified in the Petersburg Borough Municipal Code.

**SECTION 7. Effective Date:** This ordinance is effective upon passage. The indebtedness contemplated by this ordinance shall be considered approved by the voters upon certification of the October 1, 2024 election results reflecting approval of the proposition, subject to Article 13, Section 10 of the Borough Charter. If such proposition is approved by the requisite number of voters, the Borough shall be authorized to issue the Bonds in the manner described in this ordinance, to spend the proceeds thereof to pay the costs of the School Improvements and the costs of issuance and sale of such Bonds within ten years as provided by Article 13, Section 8 of the Borough Charter.

Passed and approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly, Petersburg, Alaska, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Jensen, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk

Adopted:  
Published:  
Effective:

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH, ALASKA  
ORDINANCE 2024-13**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING LONG TERM INDEBTEDNESS IN AN AMOUNT  
NOT TO EXCEED \$19.3 MILLION FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF  
WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE BOROUGH AND  
DIRECTING THAT THIS MATTER BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS FOR  
CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT REGULAR ELECTION TO BE HELD ON  
OCTOBER 1, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Water and Wastewater Enterprise Funds provide potable water treatment and distribution and wastewater collection and treatment to the residents and visitors of Petersburg; and

**WHEREAS**, the current water and wastewater systems require ongoing refurbishment to retain the safety of Petersburg's drinking water and the protection of sanitary sewer collection and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, new water and wastewater line extensions are required for new, upcoming borough projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) currently offers a municipal loan program for water and wastewater infrastructure projects for up to 100% of eligible projects at terms of approximately 1.5% interest over 20 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Water Enterprise has developed a 6-year capital improvement plan to address various water infrastructure projects such as ADEC- mandated improvements at the treatment plant, water main replacements, and new line extensions, at a projected cost of approximately \$2.5 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Wastewater Enterprise has developed a 6-year capital improvement plan to address various projects such as pump station refurbishments, sewer main replacements, wastewater treatment mandates, and new line extensions and lift station, at a projected cost of \$16.8 million; and

**WHEREAS**, for these projects, it is anticipated that any indebtedness shall be incurred such as to commence design and construction no later than six years from the date of voter approval, and thus any voter authorization to incur long-term debt associated with these departmental capital improvement projects shall be valid only until December 31, 2030; and

**WHEREAS**, the Assembly finds that it is in the best interests of the Petersburg Borough to incur such long-term debt in order to maintain and expand public water and wastewater infrastructure in a safe and sanitary manner protective of the public health, and wishes to submit this matter to the qualified voters of the Borough, for their consideration.

**THEREFORE, THE PETERSBURG BOROUGH ORDAINS**, as follows:

**SECTION 1. Classification:** This ordinance shall not be codified in the Petersburg Municipal

Code.

**SECTION 2. Purpose:** The purpose of this ordinance is to authorize long-term indebtedness for Borough water and wastewater projects and to submit the question to the Borough voters at the next regular election.

**SECTION 3. Substantive Provisions:**

A. The Borough Assembly hereby determines that it is beneficial to the Borough to authorize long-term indebtedness (evidenced by loans, with terms not to exceed 20 years), which shall be a revenue obligation of the water and wastewater enterprises only, in an amount not to exceed the total principal sum of \$19.3 million, for the purposes of permitting, design and construction of capital improvements for the water and wastewater enterprise funds.

B. The question of whether to authorize this indebtedness shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the Petersburg Borough at the next regular municipal election, to be held on October 1, 2024. The ballot proposition to be submitted to the voters shall read substantially as follows:

Proposition No. \_\_\_\_

Shall the Petersburg Borough be authorized to incur long-term indebtedness, in a total principal amount not to exceed Nineteen Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$19,300,000), for the purposes of permitting, designing and constructing capital projects of the water and wastewater enterprises? This indebtedness would be a revenue obligation of the water and wastewater enterprises only. The indebtedness would be in the form of loans from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), with a term not to exceed 20 years, and with an anticipated annual interest rate of 1.5% or as otherwise established under the ADEC Municipal Loan Program. Any authorization approved hereunder by the voters shall expire on December 31, 2030 as to any indebtedness not incurred on or before that date.

- YES
- NO

C. The Borough Manager, Public Works Director, Community & Economic Development Director and Utility Director are authorized to provide informational documents to the voters regarding this proposition.

**SECTION 4. Severability:** If any provision of this ordinance or any application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance and application to any person and circumstance shall not be affected.

**SECTION 5. Effective Date:** This ordinance, if approved by the voters, shall become effective immediately upon certification of the October 1, 2024 election results.

**Passed and approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly, Petersburg, Alaska this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mark Jensen, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk**

Adopted:  
Published:  
Effective: Upon Voter Approval  
And certification of  
October 1, 2024  
Election Results

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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** STEVE GIESBRECHT, BOROUGH MANAGER

**FROM:** KARL HAGERMAN, UTILITY DIRECTOR *KH*

**SUBJECT:** WATER AND WASTEWATER DEBT AUTHORIZATION ORDINANCE

**DATE:** 6/25/2024

**CC:** DEBBIE THOMPSON, BOROUGH CLERK

An ordinance that authorizes new debt in the water and wastewater departments has been drafted for the July 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly agenda. Please accept this backup information for your benefit and the benefit of the Assembly and public.

In 2019, the water and wastewater departments went through a process to seek authorization from the Assembly and our local voters, to incur debt by way of low-interest loans from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. That authorization will expire on December 31, 2024 and there is a need for the departments to continue to plan and complete capital projects for the benefit of our residents and customers.

As stated, the debt to be incurred is proposed to be funded from the ADEC revolving loan fund. Terms on these loans are very favorable at 20-year repayment at 1.5%. Additionally, the ADEC grant program often includes “principal forgiveness” provisions that are made at the discretion of ADEC and depending on funds available for this purpose. As there is no exact formula for forgiveness, we must apply for a loan before we can find out if any of the loan’s principal will be forgiven.

The projects in both departments to be funded follow trends of imposed regulation and a nationwide trend toward needed replacements and refurbishments of water and wastewater infrastructure. Below is a rundown of each project on the CIP list that could be funded and completed if the debt authorization is approved by the Assembly and voters. Many of these projects were on the list in 2019 and unfortunately were not completed within the 5-year debt authorization due in main part to the pandemic and other related issues.

The total debt authorization requested comes to \$19.3 million, with \$2.5 million going toward water department projects and \$16.8 million for wastewater projects. See below for project details.

Water Department:

- A project to build out the Scow Bay Haulout and washdown pad received some federal funding in FY24 but the entire funding picture of the project is incomplete. A loan to extend a water main to the site will help to achieve the funding stack required and this debt is proposed to ultimately be repaid from the Economic Development Fund on an annual basis. This project cost is estimated to be \$100,000.
- The water main under the Rasmus Enge Bridge was installed on the beach many years ago. The Borough needs to move this main to be supported under the bridge and out of influences of salt water. Additionally, the main will be extended to the South Harbor crane dock entrance to provide another loop in the water distribution system – a feature that provides supply redundancy for customers in this area and improves water quality. The estimated cost of this project is \$575,000.

- Water main replacements of aging transite (asbestos cement) pipe are planned for Lake Street, Aaslaug Street, Valkyrie Street and Fram Street. Estimated cost is \$1.32 million.
- The department has a 6” transite (asbestos cement) water main that crosses Hammer Slough at the end of Kisenon Street. This older pipe material is a worry for the department and any leaks would be hard to detect and repair. The goal of this work would be to replace the line with an HDPE pipe and abandon the existing main in place. Estimated cost to replace is \$480,000.
- Cabin Creek Dam requires some rehabilitation to the two large diameter Low Level Outlet pipes. Corrosion and pitting of these corrugated metal culverts can eventually lead to failure and needs to be addressed. Estimated cost is \$350,000.

#### Wastewater Department

- Pump station 3 is a major pump station that is tucked in between OBI Seafoods and Nordic Drive. It accepts all wastewater flow from Main Street and points south and pumps it to the top of PFI Hill. The station requires the same upgrades as completed on Pump Station 5 a few years ago – a full replacement with a submersible style pump station to improve efficiency and reliability. Estimated cost of this project is \$1,000,000.
- Scow Bay Waterfront Pre-treatment project is part of the build out of the Scow Bay Haulout and Washdown Pad work. The larger project received federal funding in FY24 but an ADEC loan will help to complete the funding stack. This project seeks to extend sewer mains into the Scow Bay Turnaround property and install a pump station and pre-treatment system to collect, treat and pump all water from the washdown pad. This debt is proposed to ultimately be repaid from the Economic Development Fund on an annual basis. Estimated cost for the wastewater portion of the overall project is \$3.2 million.
- With additional sampling and testing of our WWTP effluent and the receiving waters in Frederick Sound, the wastewater treatment plant’s laboratory will be inadequate when our new discharge permit is in place. The department is planning to add an additional small building at the site on 14<sup>th</sup> Street to act as a standalone laboratory that is capable of handling the increased in-house testing that will be required of the department. The estimated cost is \$300,000.
- Various streets across the community require improvements to their wastewater collection mains to ensure efficient collection, reduce maintenance issues and maintain uninterrupted service to our customers. Valkyrie St, Lake St, Fram St, Excel St, Gjoa St and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets will all be part of a larger project to replace aging sewer mains and manholes. Estimated cost is \$1,080,000.
- Skylark Pump Station is about ½ mile south of the ferry terminal and accepts flow from the Scow Bay area and is approaching the end of its service life. Replacement with more efficient, higher capacity pumps will be the goal once we start on this project. Estimated cost of this project is \$575,000.
- In the small neighborhoods off of Lumber Street, there are three smaller pump stations that service a limited amount of homes. While the department has replaced major components of these stations over the years, there are concerns over the galvanized steel wetwells that accept the wastewater and contain the submersible pumps. This project would seek to replace the wetwells with HDPE basins that would resist corrosion indefinitely. Estimated cost of this project is \$350,000.

- By far the largest project in site for Petersburg’s wastewater utility is the Effluent Disinfection project. This project is being mandated by requirements of the 2024 NPDES discharge permit and State of Alaska receiving water quality regulations. The project will disinfect the treatment plant’s discharge to reduce pathogens to compliant levels. Despite the best efforts of Borough management, at present there are no grant funds available to meet this mandate. Therefore, the best option is to plan to borrow the money from the State of Alaska within their revolving loan program. This project is estimated to cost \$10.3 million and will likely be required to be in place in FY2030.
- The WWTP Headworks Refurbishment project will address an update to the front line piping and equipment at the treatment plant. This infrastructure has been in place since 1976 and has been maintained as best as possible for 50 years. New piping and valving will be replaced at an estimated cost of \$250,000.

I recommend passage of the ordinance and will be requesting voter approval of the ballot measure this fall. This is one of the only ways that these departments can fund large capital projects and repaying the State for the work over 20 years spreads out the impact to rate payers. It is important to note that although this ordinance and ballot measure will provide authority to incur debt, the decision to move forward with a project is always contingent upon Assembly approval of a proposed loan as well as the Assembly’s approval of a contract award.

Lastly, the utilities will be commissioning a rate study in this fiscal year to provide information regarding any impacts to rates if the CIP is followed. Presently, revenues produced by the utilities are not sufficient to keep up with inflation and build reserves for capital needs. Rate increases are sure to be recommended by the studies, but it will be an Assembly decision to move forward with the CIP for each department as the projects move forward in the queue. Holding off on projects however will likely lead to increasing O&M budgets to cover increased maintenance and emergency repair costs associated with aging infrastructure.

Please let me know if there are any questions. Thank you.





THE STATE  
of ALASKA  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER  
Land Conveyance Section

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 640  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3576  
Main: 907.269.8594  
TTY: 711 or 800-770-8973  
Fax: 907.269.8916  
<http://landsales.alaska.gov>  
<http://facebook.com/alaskaland/>

June 12, 2024

RE: Public Notice: Alaska State Land Auction, Offering #496 Brochure

Petersburg Borough:

DNR is pleased to announce the 2024 Alaska State Land Auction. We are notifying you as a courtesy in accordance with Alaska Statute 38.05.945 *Notice*. Offering #496 includes 207 parcels statewide. The brochure describes the parcels and how to participate in the auction. The brochure can be viewed here: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/landsales/auction/496/>.

In offering #496 Alaska residents may submit sealed bids in person, by mail, or online between June 12, 2024 at 10 a.m. and October 1, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Apparent high bids will be announced on October 23, 2024. Parcels not sold during Auction #496 may be offered Over-the-Counter (OTC) beginning November 20, 2024.

If you would like us to mail you a paper brochure for display at your location, please visit: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/landsales/auction/496/>, click the "Request a Paper Brochure" button, and fill out the required fields. Feel free to request additional copies throughout the bidding period.

If you have any questions, please call our office in Anchorage at (907) 269-8594 or email [landsales@alaska.gov](mailto:landsales@alaska.gov). General questions may also be directed to one of our Public Information Centers in Anchorage or Fairbanks or our DNR Land Office in Juneau as described within the brochure.

Sincerely,

Sandy Paras  
Natural Resource Specialist

*Encl: 2024 Alaska State Land Auction, #496 Public Notice*

STATE OF ALASKA, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER  
LAND CONVEYANCE SECTION

Item 16A.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) 2024 Alaska State Land Auction #496, under AS 38.05.055, will begin June 12, 2024. Sealed auction bids will be accepted between June 12 and October 1, 2024. This year's auction features 207 parcels statewide. An electronic version of the brochure, including bidding procedures and parcel information, is available at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/landsales/auction/496/>. Auction bidding is limited to Alaska residents, with the exception of parcels zoned for commercial use. Parcels zoned for commercial use are open to Alaska residents, non-Alaska residents, and businesses.

Free paper brochures for auction #496 will be available at DNR's Public Information Centers in Anchorage and Fairbanks starting June 26, 2024.

Auction #496 bids will be opened, and apparent winners announced on October 23, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at DNR's office in Anchorage. Attendance at the bid opening will not affect the outcome.

Parcels not sold during Auction #496 may be offered Over-the-Counter (OTC). Both Alaska and non-Alaska residents are eligible to purchase OTC parcels. Available OTC parcels can first be purchased on November 20, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. For the first four weeks, these OTC parcels will be priced above the appraised value. OTC purchase applications will be accepted online and in person only. **DNR will not accept OTC purchase applications by mail.** See the brochure for sale procedures.

If you have questions regarding Auction #496, please email [landsales@alaska.gov](mailto:landsales@alaska.gov) or call 907-269-8594 (TTY available at 711 or 800-770-8973) Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. You can also find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/alaskaland/>, on Instagram at @Alaska\_Land4Sale, and on 'X' (formerly Twitter) at @AlaskaLand4Sale.

Pursuant to AS 38.05.945 *Notice*, the public is invited to submit comment on the proposed auction. **The deadline for public comment is 4:30PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024.** Only persons from whom DNR, Division of Mining Land and Water, Land Conveyance Section receives timely written comment, during the identified comment period, will be eligible to file an appeal. Written comments may be received by email, postal mail, or fax. Submit comments with the subject "*ATTN: Auction #496 Procedures*" to [landsales@alaska.gov](mailto:landsales@alaska.gov), 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 640, Anchorage, AK 99501, or fax to 907-269-8916.

A summary of comments and responses will be issued if any comments are received. If no significant changes are required, the auction and OTC offerings will proceed as scheduled without further notice.

DNR reserves the right to waive technical defects in this notice.

###



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental  
Conservation  
DIVISION OF WATER

Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program

PO Box 111800  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800  
Main: 907.269.6285  
Fax: 907.334.2415

June 13, 2024

Subject: **Early notification** of wastewater discharge permit for AKG003000

Dear Local and Tribal Government Leaders

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) proposes to reissue an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) general permit AKG003000 for the Hydrostatic & Aquifer Pump Testing.

### Background information

This will be the third reissuance of the AKG003000 – Hydrostatic & Aquifer Pump Testing general permit. The permit authorizes and sets conditions on the discharge of pollutants from authorized hydrostatic testing of tanks, pipelines, and similar containers including water line flushing as well as aquifer pump testing discharges in support of mineral mining development and exploration to waters of the United States (U.S.), or to surface waters of the state or land. To ensure protection of water quality and human health, the permit places limits on the types and amounts of pollutants that can be discharged from the authorized hydrostatic and aquifer pump testing and outlines Best Management Practices (BMPs) to which they must adhere.

The APDES Program (18 AAC 83) regulates point source discharges to waters of the U.S., whereas discharges to surface water and land are regulated under the authority of 18 AAC 72 – Wastewater Disposal. The Department's statutory authority for issuing permits under 18 AAC 83 and 18 AAC 72 comes from AS 46.03.100. To meet the requirements of 18 AAC 83 to appropriately regulate surface water discharges as well as 18 AAC 72 and to appropriately regulate land discharges, both discharges to waters of the U.S. and land are covered under this general permit.

To ensure protection of water quality and human health, the permit places limits on the types and amounts of pollutants that can be discharged from the authorized excavation dewatering discharges and outlines Best Management Practices (BMPs) to which they must adhere.

### Description of discharge

Hydrostatic discharges eligible for coverage under this statewide General Permit including flushing will consist of either potable or non-potable water discharges used to pressurize a tank or vessel to conduct leak detection tests. The discharged water will be free of any additives and primary contaminants that would consist of suspended solids, residual chlorine, and petroleum hydrocarbon residue present in used hydrocarbon transport pipes and storage tanks. This permit also authorizes hydrostatic testing where water is placed within a tank or vessel under atmospheric pressure to detect leaks and the flushing of public water supply lines and storage tanks. The flushing of water lines or tanks often occurs following a new installation where the line or tank may be super chlorinated to disinfect prior to use.

Aquifer pump testing discharges covered under this statewide General Permit are for mineral mining and exploration activities only and would consist of groundwater pump tests conducted to determine well yields, recharge rates, and hydrogeological conditions. Aquifer pump testing discharges would contain pumped groundwater from a water well discharged to either the surface or to a water body. The primary pollutants would be suspended solids, dissolved solids, and potentially naturally occurring trace metals.

### General Permit additional information

Any operator that meets the eligibility requirements of the general permit will be authorized to discharge after filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) with DEC so long as all conditions of the permit are met. The public has an opportunity to comment and provide information for this general permit; however, public notice will not be issued for individual NOIs submitted by qualified facilities. The general permit will expire five years after the effective date.

**Opportunities for tribal and local government participation in this permitting decision**

DEC recognizes rural Alaska has unique needs and considerations with regard to wastewater discharges and strives to issue permits that reflect a full understanding of local conditions. This letter is intended as an **early notice** to assist you in determining whether your community may be affected and inform you of the opportunity to provide traditional, cultural, or other local information that DEC should consider as part of this permit reissuance. DEC would like to know how your area and resources may be affected by this permitting action.

**Next steps**

After the permit is drafted, there will be a **10 day applicant review period** of the preliminary draft permit. Following the applicant review period, there will be a minimum of a **30 day public review and comment period**. I will provide a copy of the public notice for the permit by mail or e-mail at the start of the public comment period. After the public review and comment period, there will be a **5 day applicant review period** of the final draft permit before the permit is issued.

If requested, I can also provide notice of the preliminary draft and proposed final applicant review periods. Due to the short timeframes for those reviews, notices are sent by email or fax. Please provide an email address or fax number if you would like to receive notices for the preliminary draft and proposed final applicant review periods.

If you would like more information or would like to provide DEC with information about this permit, please do not hesitate to contact me at 907-465-5272 or via email: [Gina.Shirey@alaska.gov](mailto:Gina.Shirey@alaska.gov); for technical questions about the permit, you may also directly contact the permit writer, Sam Kito at (907) 907-269-7542 or via email [Sam.Kito@alaska.gov](mailto:Sam.Kito@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

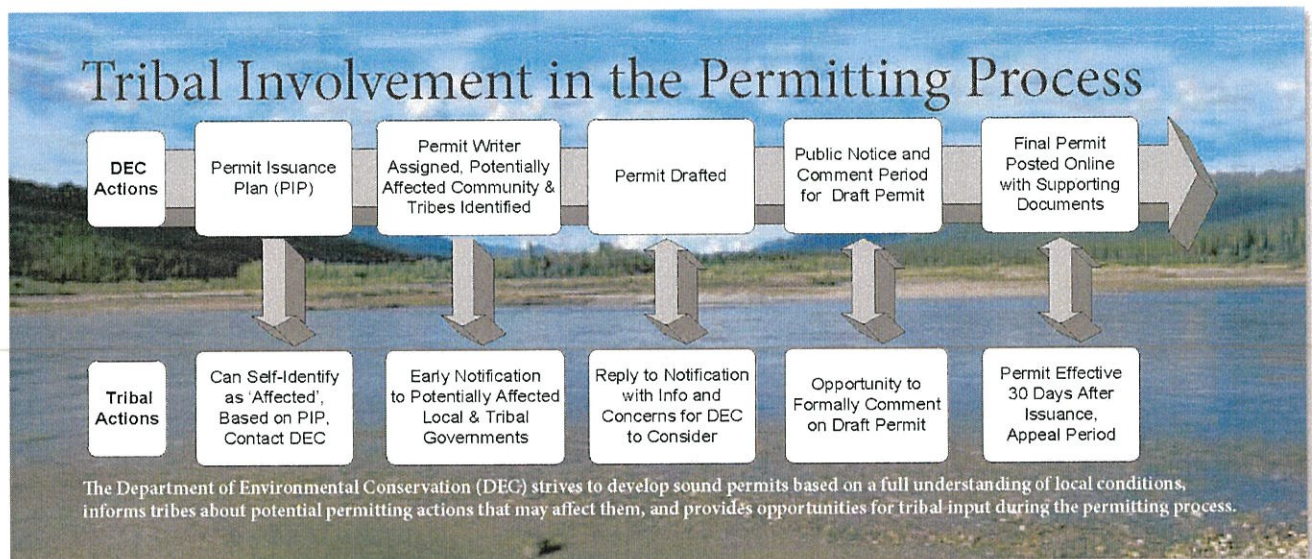
*Gina Shirey* FOR  
Gina Shirey

Local and Tribal Government Coordinator

Enclosure: Tribal Involvement in the Permitting Process postcard

cc: Potentially Affected Local Governments  
Potentially Affected Federally - recognized Indian Tribes

Tribal Involvement in the Permitting Process postcard





THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental  
Conservation  
DIVISION OF WATER  
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program

PO Box 111800  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800  
Main: 907.269.6285  
Fax: 907.334.2415

June 13, 2024

Subject: **Early notification** of wastewater discharge permit for AKG002000

Dear Local and Tribal Government Leaders

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) proposes to reissue a statewide Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) general permit AKG002000 for Excavation Dewatering.

### Background information

This will be the third reissuance of the excavation dewatering APDES general permit. The current permit was issued August 22, 2019, and expires September 30, 2024. The permit authorizes and sets conditions on the discharge of pollutants from authorized excavation dewatering discharges to surface waters of the United States (U.S.) or to surface waters of the state or land.

The APDES Program (18 AAC 83) regulates point source discharges to waters of the U.S., whereas discharges to surface water and land are regulated under the authority of 18 AAC 72 – Wastewater Disposal. The Department’s statutory authority for issuing permits under 18 AAC 83 and 18 AAC 72 comes from AS 46.03.100. To meet the requirements of 18 AAC 83 to appropriately regulate surface water discharges as well as 18 AAC 72 and to appropriately regulate land discharges, both discharges to waters of the U.S. and land are covered under this general permit.

To ensure protection of water quality and human health, the permit places limits on the types and amounts of pollutants that can be discharged from the authorized excavation dewatering discharges and outlines Best Management Practices (BMPs) to which they must adhere.

### Description of discharge

Dewatering discharges eligible for coverage under the general permit consist of water pumped from excavation areas using temporary dewatering wells or submersible pumps to lower the water table to support a construction activity. The dewatering of accumulated groundwater and storm water which may accumulate within an excavation area is an authorized discharge under the permit. This permit does provide discharge authorization for dewatering conducted within 1,500 feet of a permit defined “DEC-identified contaminated site” although special permit conditions apply, and additional requirements may be added in the discharge authorization to ensure water quality standards are met.

Any operator that meets the eligibility requirements of the general permit will be authorized to discharge after filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) with DEC so long as all conditions of the permit are met. The public has an opportunity to comment and provide information for this general permit; however, public notice will not be issued for individual NOIs submitted by qualified facilities. The general permit will expire five years after the effective date.

### Opportunities for tribal and local government participation in this permitting decision

DEC recognizes rural Alaska has unique needs and considerations with regard to wastewater discharges and strives to issue permits that reflect a full understanding of local conditions. This letter is intended as an **early notice** to assist you in determining whether your community may be affected and inform you of the opportunity to provide traditional, cultural, or other local information that DEC should consider as part of this permit reissuance. DEC would like to know how your area and resources may be affected by this permitting action.

**Next steps**

After the permit is drafted, there will be a **10 day applicant review period** of the preliminary draft permit. Following the applicant review period, there will be a minimum of a **30 day public review and comment period**. I will provide a copy of the public notice for the permit by mail or e-mail at the start of the public comment period. After the public review and comment period, there will be a **5 day applicant review period** of the final draft permit before the permit is issued.

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If you would like more information or would like to provide DEC with information about this permit, please do not hesitate to contact me at 907-465-5272 or via email: [Gina.Shirey@alaska.gov](mailto:Gina.Shirey@alaska.gov); for technical questions about the permit, you may also directly contact the permit writer, Sam Kito at (907) 907-269-7542 or via email [Sam.Kito@alaska.gov](mailto:Sam.Kito@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

*Gina Shirey* FOR

Gina Shirey  
Local and Tribal Government Coordinator

Enclosure: Tribal Involvement in the Permitting Process postcard

cc: Potentially Affected Local Governments  
Potentially Affected Federally -recognized Indian Tribes

Tribal Involvement in the Permitting Process postcard



**Debra Thompson**

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**From:** Dan McMahon <danmcmahon99x@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 3:23 PM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Proposed Upper trail route from City Cr to Sandy Beach

This proposed trail was mentioned in the 6/13/24 edition of the Pilot. It had previously been mentioned about a year ago in the Pilot as a futuristic possibility. This proposed trail segment is meant to be the upper part of a loop trail using the City Creek beach trail as the lower portion with the Frederick Pt road running between the lower and upper segments.

I'm not in favor of the upper portion mainly because I'm a bowhunter and the location of this upper trail cuts right through the heart of some of the best and easiest accessible deer hunting ground for certified archers in Petersburg. The archery only hunting area on Mitkof and the regulations that govern hunting within it were created because of the overabundance of deer near town. If a trail is built it will just serve as more sanctuary for deer near town since most hunters will avoid hunting near hikers.

There is already a loop trail in place. The City Creek Beach trail and the Frederick Pt road have served as a loop trail for years. Instead of building a redundant parallel trail I suggest maintaining the trails you already have. Examples include the Eagles Roost beach stairway and the boardwalk from the elementary school to the ball field. How about putting some funding into Papkes?

Quite possibly this is an issue that may not come before the Assembly during your tenure. However, if it does, think of the value of the borough owned lots that are getting bisected with trails. Please don't just rubber stamp every trail proposal that PIA comes up with. They may appear to be free but they don't all make sense.

Respectfully

Dan McMahon  
302 S Nordic  
Petersburg



## Gulf of Alaska Chinook Salmon: Endangered Species Act Status Review Key Points

June 18, 2024

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recently issued a positive 90-day finding on a petition to list Alaska Chinook salmon as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which starts a formal status review under the ESA. The result of the status review will be a decision on whether to list any or all GOA Chinook stocks as threatened or endangered under the ESA.

The petition was submitted to NMFS by the Wild Fish Conservancy, a Washington state-based environmental group, and requested ESA listing and designation of critical habitat of any GOA Chinook subpopulations. The massive area under review includes Chinook that spawn in the rivers of Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, and the Alaska Peninsula. The positive finding indicates that NMFS believes the petition provides substantial information that an ESA listing for these Chinook stocks may be warranted.

NMFS acknowledges that the petition has “numerous factual errors, omissions, incomplete references, and unsupported assertions and conclusions within the petition,” which should have disqualified the petition from consideration under NMFS’s regulations. Despite that, NMFS proceeded and their rationale for making the positive 90-day finding was uncertainty about the cause of missed escapement goals in recent years and evidence of decreasing size and age of Chinook at maturity.

The in-depth ESA status review will synthesize the best available scientific and commercial information on GOA Chinook salmon. NMFS will first attempt to delineate any listable stock groups, termed evolutionarily significant units (ESUs). Then NMFS will determine if any ESU meets the ESA definition for being endangered (in danger of extinction) or threatened (likely to become endangered). The status review evaluation considers all potential threats to each ESU regardless of whether the threat is natural (e.g., disease, predation) or the result of human activities (e.g., overharvest, habitat destruction). Those threats are placed in the context of each ESU’s abundance, spatial distribution, productivity, and diversity.

### **What You Can Do – Submit Public Comments**

NMFS is currently soliciting information on GOA Chinook abundance, distribution, and productivity; harvest; genetics; limiting factors and threats; and impacts of environmental variability. **The public comment period closes on July 23, 2024**, unless ADF&G’s extension request is granted. Electronic public comments can be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and enter NOAA-NMFS-2024-0042 in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. The notice can be found at 89 Fed. Reg. 45815.



### Key Points about the Status Review, GOA Chinook Stocks, and ADF&G Management

- The ESA is an inappropriate tool to address a downturn in Chinook productivity. ADF&G management is designed to protect the long-term productivity of salmon stocks when productivity is low. This is a **significant** action that Alaska opposes.
- Sustainable management is a bedrock concept enshrined in the State of Alaska Constitution. When Alaska assumed management authority of its salmon fisheries in 1960, one year after statehood, many of the state's salmon runs were depressed and its salmon fisheries were in desperate shape. Alaska's first Governor, William Egan, stated in 1960 that the newly created Department of Fish and Game "was handed the depleted remnant of what was once a rich and prolific fishery." Alaska rebuilt salmon runs from abundances that were far lower than they are today, which is a profound example of the resilience of these stocks and the sustainable management practices that have been praised around the world.
- Alaska prioritized spawning escapement as the central tenet of sustained-yield salmon fisheries management and decision making. Escapement goals are based on maximum sustained yield and are not a metric of abundance to maintain a viable population. Failing to meet escapement goals is not evidence that stocks are at risk of extinction. In contrast to that notion, the escapement goals paired with the painful restrictions in fisheries that are implemented when escapement is not met regularly are the results of robust and responsive fishery management that ensures long-term sustained yield. Alaska's salmon management was designed, and is carried out, to avoid the health of stocks ever being jeopardized again like they were under pre-statehood federal management.
- In response to a downturn in productivity and lower Chinook yield, the Board of Fisheries and ADF&G have reduced Chinook exploitation rates substantially in recent years. Additionally, several stocks have been designated as Stocks of Concern and associated action plans with proscriptive management measures have been developed and implemented. These actions have resulted in fishery closures, reduced fishing time and effort, and have impacted fisheries targeting other species that incidentally catch Chinook. Alaskans endure cultural and economic impacts during productivity downturns to ensure the long-term health and productivity of salmon stocks. Timely reductions in fishing pressure in response to downturns in productivity are indicators of Alaska's strong and responsive management approach to ensure the long-term health of subsistence, commercial, and recreational fisheries, rather than evidence of salmon stocks potentially going extinct.
- The downturn in Chinook productivity in Alaska has been largely attributed to changes in the marine environment (i.e., not freshwater habitat). Multidecadal shifts in salmon productivity are normal and have been documented prior to the current productivity downturn. Chinook populations are expected to rebound once ocean conditions become more favorable again.

- The State of Alaska has made substantial investments in salmon research to better understand the causes of recent declines, identify potential solutions, and consider how to better incorporate climatic variability into fishery management. The investments and research are actions to ensure the long-term health of Alaska salmon stocks.
- Freshwater habitat is relatively pristine for most major GOA Chinook-producing watersheds. This is contrary to assertions in the Wild Fish Conservancy’s petition and in striking contrast to the considerable habitat degradation in the Pacific Northwest. Alaska’s freshwater and marine habitats remain largely intact.
- As NMFS acknowledged, the Wild Fish Conservancy’s petition did not present “a complete, balanced representation of the relevant facts, including information that may contradict claims in the petition,” (50 C.F.R. § 424.14(d)(5)) as called for in the regulations for ESA listing petitions. NMFS never should have accepted the Wild Fish Conservancy’s petition to list GOA Chinook salmon under the ESA as a “reasonable person” should not conclude that GOA Chinook salmon are at risk of going extinct now or in the foreseeable future.
- The use of long-term climate models to predict the status of Chinook stocks into the future requires a host of assumptions that may or may not be accurate. The assessment of whether to list GOA Chinook stocks should not be driven by model assumptions.

### **Implications of a GOA Chinook ESA listing**

A threatened or endangered ESA-listing transfers the management of the listed units and their critical habitats from the State to the federal government. An ESA-listing, in essence, means that NMFS believes state management is insufficient to protect the stocks from going extinct.

ESA listing of Chinook salmon will significantly harm subsistence, commercial, and recreational fisheries, causing cultural and economic harm. The listing of an ESU will move management of that ESU from state control to federal control with restrictions that could span from fishery reductions to no-harvest at all. Any fishery with incidental catch of that Chinook ESU would also be impacted.

Listing means that “critical habitat” for Chinook salmon will be designated, which could encompass a broad swath of freshwater and marine areas. Along with ESA-required consultations and permits, this will add regulatory hurdles for any activities that may affect salmon. Development in watersheds designated as critical habitat would be greatly restricted and require considerable regulatory review.

**State of Alaska**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**Division of Forestry & Fire Protection**  
**Southern Southeast Area Office**

**Preliminary Written Finding under AS 38.05.035(e) and AS 38.05.945**

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF), gives formal notice under AS 38.05.945 that the Division has made a preliminary Best Interest Finding decision under AS 38.05.035(e) and proposes to adopt a site-specific Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) under AS 38.05.112 and the administrative standards of AS 41.17.060 regarding the sale of the following commercial timber sale: East Charley Timber Sale (SSE-1386-K).

Before this sale may be held, the Commissioner will make a written final decision that the sale is in the best interest of the State. This decision will set out the facts and applicable policies upon which the Commissioner bases his determination that the proposed timber sale will or will not best serve the interest of the State. The final decision is expected to be available to the public after July 15, 2024.

The draft Forest Land Use Plan is intended to provide the best available information regarding the proposed timber harvest on 201 acres and the management of other non-timber uses in compliance with AS 38.05.112 and AS 41.17.060, and must be adopted by the DOF before the proposed activity can occur. The Forest Land Use Plan is expected to be available to the public with or after the issuance of the final decision.

The area of the sale is proximate to the community of Edna Bay, approximately 1/2 mile to the north of the community of Edna Bay. The timber sale area is found within Sections 10 and 15, Township 68 South, Range 76 East, Copper River Meridian (CRM). The sale area is found within the Craig D-5 NW USGS quadrangle. The main access for this sale area is from the existing USFS Kosciusko Road System, specifically the 1520000 and 15250000 Roads.

The three harvest units total approximately 201 acres and contain approximately 5,000 MBF of timber. This volume will be advertised and sold under provisions of AS 38.05.120, in the form of one or multiple sales.

The public is invited to comment on any aspect of the preliminary decision. Comments can be mailed to the Alaska Division of Forestry, 2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 or emailed to [dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov). Comments must be received by the Division of Forestry office no later than **July 15, 2024**, in order to be considered in the final best interest finding decision of whether or not this sale will be held in whole or in part or to be considered in the adopted FLUP. To be eligible to appeal the final decision or the adopted FLUP, a person must have provided written comment by **July 15, 2024**.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUBMIT COMMENTS CONTACT:**

Alaska Division of Forestry and Fire Protection	Contact:	Greg Staunton
2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 213	Phone:	(907) 225-3070
Ketchikan, AK 99901	Email:	<a href="mailto:dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov">dnr.dof.sse@alaska.gov</a>

Copies of the preliminary decision are available for review at the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection at the above address and at the Ketchikan, Craig, Petersburg and Wrangell, and Edna Bay Public Libraries and the State Online Public Notice System at: <http://notice.alaska.gov/215720>.

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate in this review may contact the number above.