

August 19, 2010

RE: Matanuska River Erosion Control

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being written to bring attention to two areas of the dike on the southeastern side of the Matanuska River starting at Maud road and traveling downstream from there. Many years ago then-Gov. Walter Hickel declared an emergency, freeing up \$500,000 in state funds to build four dikes in what was seen as a short-term fix. But 2 decades later, the dikes are still there, although in need of repairs they are still functional. A permanent fix still remains elusive despite millions spent in state, federal and borough dollars on studies and work on the river. The river has continued to be problematic, without ever reaching the achieved management state we have strived for. We are now being threatened by the river due to the lack of maintenance, with too much emphasis being placed on studies versus action.

During a recent visit to the dike there was substantial damage that was noted. This drastically varied from the visit just three weeks prior. Specifically, the intersection of the Maud service road and the northern dike has lost all its' gravel bank consisting of an area encompassing the entire parking lot at the end of the service road, leaving no passable access. Additionally 15 feet of the northern dike (which is constructed of large rock) has now washed away. The second area of concern is that of which is located directly behind the Motocross Park consisting of what was a gravel road and has now washed away. This stretches approximately two hundred feet in length. If this erosion continues, there is only two feet remaining before it will intersect an existing drainage ditch.

For those that are unaware, this old drainage ditch runs parallel to the river. There are portions of this drainage ditch which are lower than that of the water level in the river. Should the river continue to erode the two foot remaining between it and the drainage ditch, it will run into the ditch. Once this happens, it will proceed to head towards the Old Glenn Highway washing out the highway and eventually making its way into Bodenbug creek. History has proven that if the Matanuska River jumps its' banks at this point, it will flow to the eastern side of the Butte. There are countless individuals that will be affected by this devastation. Repairs to existing dikes are far more cost effective than recovery from disasters. It is essential that repairs are made in a timely fashion.

We join with our fellow neighbors, residents, and business owners, to kindly request that you consider taking action to prevent catastrophic losses.

Please see attached photos taken August 18, 2010 along with the signatures from tax payers concerned for their safety and well being.

Respectfully,

Clint and Christine Nelson
Local residents and business owners

Maud / dike intersection erosion from what was a parking lot and connecting service road to the right.



The service road used to travel around and to the left.



Two feet remain between the river & the drainage ditch to the right.

