

Butte Area Residents

Civic Organization, Inc.

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PO Box 34, Palmer AK 99645

September 21, 2010

Matanuska Borough Assembly

Re: MSB Ordinance 10-089 – Matanuska River Plan

Matanuska River Plan – Reach 1, Butte: In order to prevent further erosion to the east bank and the attendant disastrous ramifications of flooding to lower lying community and public infrastructure during the next cycle of anticipated high water in July/August of 2011, please include an amendment to the Plan that makes it the Number 1 priority to implement timely structural protection measures, and to secure funding for repair and reinforcement of eroded dikes, the revetment and the levee in cooperation with other State and Federal agencies. This is the area from south of the Matanuska River Bridge downstream approx. 3.5 miles to near Triple Crown Subdivision (near Bedrock at the location of the levee that was breached in the 1971 flood). These measures were recommended in the 2003 Army Corps of Engineers Report: “Background Studies for Expedited Reconnaissance Study of Matanuska River Erosion.” (Chapt. 5.6.2. – Page 34-35 - Alternative 2 – Bank Armoring by Riprap: attached).

According to the study, ***“The 2003 value of first costs and O&M costs over the 50-year period of analysis amounted to \$7,924,930 ...”*** Annual maintenance was estimated to be \$120,000.

A rough GIS estimate of building values in the area of active erosion and the areas of lower elevation of Butte (approx. those areas which were flooded in 1971 by the Matanuska breaching the levee) for 2010 is \$143,000,000. This does not include the value of roads, power, natural gas and phone/cable utilities. Even if today’s cost for the 2003 estimate were to have doubled, investing 10% for 50-year protection of property NOW seems well worth the investment. Please note that the Corps of Engineers Analysis (pg. 35: Economic Considerations) does NOT include the benefits of erosion protection to the lower elevation areas in Butte which would be flooded if the Matanuska River breaches its banks due to erosion, such as in the 1971 flood, but includes only 7 properties and 1,200 feet of Old Glenn Highway that are affected by the erosion, not flooding.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Nilsson, Chair

Brit Lively, Secretary

Encl.: Pg 34-36, Background Study for Expedited Reconnaissance of Matanuska River Erosion.

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