

I MOVE to amend Resolution 23-104 to include the following under Borough Funding Priorities and insert it as priority number 4.

Mat-Su City Water Interconnect. The City of Palmer, the City of Wasilla, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough request \$2 million to support the design and permitting of interconnecting the two city water systems in the core area of the Mat-Su valley. This request would match local funds providing funding to design and permit an interconnect for future potential grant funding.

The City of Wasilla and Palmer water systems play a crucial role in ensuring our community's health, safety, and well-being. However, each system operates independently, which presents challenges in terms of efficiency, resilience, and long-term sustainability.

By connecting these two water systems, we can realize several significant benefits, including:

1. **Improved Resilience:** In times of natural disasters or emergencies, having a redundant and interconnected water system ensures that our residents and businesses will have a reliable source of clean water.
2. **Enhanced Water Quality:** Combining the resources and expertise of both systems will lead to improved water systems.
3. **Efficiency and Cost Savings:** By sharing resources, we can optimize water distribution, reduce operational costs, and provide access to water, enabling higher-density development.
4. **Environmental Sustainability:** The connected systems can better manage water resources, leading to more responsible water usage and improved environmental conservation efforts.
5. **Supporting Growth and Development:** A well-connected and reliable water supply is essential for attracting new businesses and residents and fostering economic growth and development.

The proposed \$2 million in State funding would be used to support the critical early phases of this project, including the detailed design, permitting processes, and initial infrastructure improvements needed to connect these two water systems. This investment will lay the foundation for a sustainable, resilient, and efficient water infrastructure that will serve our community for generations.