

POTENTIAL AMENDMENT

Assemblymember Kowalke

RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 17-071

I MOVE to amend Resolution 17-071 to add the following project:

SUSITNA/TALKEETNA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL- \$30 million

Federal Funds to protect a population of roughly 800 residents and 250,000 annual visitors. Additionally, the same flood protection infrastructure needed would also protect a vital Alaska Railroad link to the interior (Fairbanks and beyond) of Alaska. The infrastructure needed is critical to the survivability of the community of Talkeetna, Alaska and the Alaska railroad infrastructure located there. The communities well and sewage treatment plant would be among the casualties when (not if) the next major flood occurs.

The Talkeetna River flows 85 miles from its headwaters in the Talkeetna Mountains into the Susitna River at the community of Talkeetna. The Susitna River flows 313 miles from its headwaters at Susitna Glacier to its terminus at Cook Inlet and drains an area of approximately 20,000 square miles. The confluence of the Susitna, Talkeetna Rivers has migrated east north east to such an extent that a high-water event places the community in imminent danger of flooding. Such a flood occurred in 2012, essentially destroying the erosion control structure rendering it useless and causing \$1.8 million in damage to the dike and \$183,111 in damage to local roads. This event also breached an earthen berm containing the community's sewage treatment lagoons potentially releasing millions of gallons of human wastewater into the river system. In addition to monetary and environmental value, the flood threatened the Alaska Railroad bridge that crosses the Talkeetna River. This rail line connects Fairbanks North Star Borough, with a population of nearly 100,000 residents, plus two active Army and Air Force bases in central Alaska, with ports in south central Alaska which are used for military deployment and sustainment of the civil and military population. The 2012 flood also threatened the community's sole water treatment plant. Current FEMA erosion control and reconstruction projects do not address the Flood Risk Management issue that threatens the viability and resilience of the community and the rail line to federal military installations near Fairbanks.

An estimated 250,000 people visit Talkeetna annually. With the peak flow season for the Rivers being the same peak flow season for the visitors, any high-water event threatens the safety of thousands of people.