

Introduced: 02/19/19
Public Hearing: 03/05/19
Adopted: 03/05/19

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 19-022**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN UPDATED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ALASKA STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOR AIR QUALITY COORDINATION.

WHEREAS, the Borough wants to protect residents' way of life including their right to heat their homes with wood; and

WHEREAS, this legislation does not regulate wood stoves or other heat sources; and

WHEREAS, AS 29.35.055, allows the Borough to establish a local air quality control program with Alaska State Department Of Environmental Conservation approval through a Memorandum of Understanding; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and the Alaska State Department of Environmental Conservation have been collaborating to monitor air quality in the Borough since 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Borough and Alaska State Department of Environmental Conservation have had a Memorandum of Understanding in place since 2006 for Air Monitoring in the Mat-Su Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Butte air quality monitor has recorded increasing concentrations of PM2.5 at or above the national standards since 2014 and, as a result, the Borough is at risk of

being designated as a nonattainment area by the EPA; and

WHEREAS, $PM_{2.5}$ is a fine particulate matter that is a product of combustion, primarily caused by burning fuels and exposure to $PM_{2.5}$ has been linked to variety of health problems including: increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing; aggravated asthma; development of chronic bronchitis; irregular heartbeat; non-fatal heart attacks; and premature death in people with heart or lung disease; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's Comprehensive Plan identifies the goal to protect and enhance the Borough's natural resources including watershed, groundwater supplies, and air quality; and

WHEREAS, the updated Memorandum of Understanding clarifies the responsibilities of the Borough and Alaska State Department of Environmental Conservation in operating the air quality program and addressing current and future air pollution issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly hereby authorizes the Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alaska State Department of Environmental Conservation for air quality coordination.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 5 day
of March, 2019.

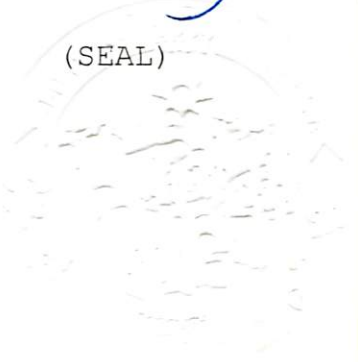


VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



YES: Sykes, Beck, Mayfield, and Boeve

NO: McKee, Leonard, and Sumner