



**SUBJECT:** A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AMENDING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND TITLE OF THE PUBLIC OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND INCENTIVES SUB-PROJECT ACCOUNT AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EXISTING FY26 PROJECT FUNDS TO SOLICIT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR A QUALIFIED HYDROLOGIST TO STUDY LONG-TERM WATER LEVEL CHANGES, ASSOCIATED PROPERTY IMPACTS, AND POTENTIAL RISKS TO DRINKING WATER QUALITY IN THE PALMER AREA.

**AGENDA OF:** April 21, 2026

**Assembly Action:**

Adopted with Assemblymembers Sumner and Fonov opposed.

**AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED:** Present to the Assembly for consideration.

Route To	Signatures
Originator	 Recoverable Signature X Jason Ortiz Signed by: Jason Ortiz 4 / 1 0 / 2 0 2 6
Department Director	X Alex Strawn Signed by: Alex Strawn 4 / 1 0 / 2 0 2 6
Finance Director	 Recoverable Signature X Cheyenne Heindel Signed by: Cheyenne Heindel 4 / 1 0 / 2 0 2 6
Borough Attorney	X Nicholas Spiropoulos Signed by: Nicholas Spiropoulos 4 / 1 0 / 2 0 2 6
Borough Manager	X Michael Brown Signed by: Mike Brown 4 / 1 0 / 2 0 2 6
Borough Clerk	X Lonnie Mckee Signed by: Lonnie Mckee 4 / 1 0 / 2 0 2 6

**ATTACHMENT (S):** Fiscal Note (1 pp)

Resolution Serial No. 26-030 (3 pp)

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:** This resolution is at the request of Assemblymember Nowers.

The resolution authorizes the Planning and Land Use Department to solicit a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a qualified hydrologist to conduct a comprehensive analysis of long term hydrologic conditions affecting areas in and around Irene Lake, Canoe Lake, Kepler Bradley Lakes, Pioneer Meadows, Crimsonview Subdivision, and the greater Palmer area and to amend the scope of work and title of an existing FY26 sub-project account and to utilize previously appropriated funds to solicit a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a

qualified hydrologist.

This effort is in response to a signed petition from 104 residents raising documented concerns dating back to 2003 regarding rising lake levels, property damage, land loss, and potential risks to drinking water quality, including impacts on private and community wells.

The proposed study would provide an independent, science-based evaluation of historic and current hydrologic conditions, including surface and groundwater interactions, lake level trends, contributing hydrologic factors, and potential future risks. The study is also expected to assess impacts to properties and water supplies and identify potential mitigation options. The intent is to develop objective technical information to inform future policy, planning, and capital decisions.

The requested scope amendment reflects a shift from the sub-project's original purpose, air quality outreach and potential PM2.5 non-attainment mitigation to a groundwater-related study. The sub-project scope was previously amended on April 4, 2023, to support public engagement activities. Following additional Assembly discussion and significant public input, it was determined that a groundwater study is an appropriate and responsive use of the funds.

Approval of the accompanying resolution does not commit the Borough to any specific mitigation measures, capital projects, or regulatory actions. It solely authorizes the solicitation of professional services to better understand the issues raised by the community and to support informed decision-making.

While the exact cost of procurement is not yet known, it is anticipated to be in the range of \$30,000 to \$50,000. No new appropriation is requested. The study would be funded using existing FY26 project funds previously approved by the Assembly.

**RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION:** Respectfully request approval.

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

**FISCAL NOTE**

Agenda Date: 04/07/26

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE PLANNING AND LAND USE DEPARTMENT'S USE OF EXISTING FY26 PROJECT FUNDS TO SOLICIT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR A QUALIFIED HYDROLOGIST TO STUDY LONG-TERM WATER LEVEL CHANGES, ASSOCIATED PROPERTY IMPACTS, AND POTENTIAL RISKS TO DRINKING WATER QUALITY IN THE PALMER AREA.

FISCAL ACTION (TO BE COMPLETED BY FINANCE)	FISCAL IMPACT <b>YES</b> NO
AMOUNT REQUESTED \$52,901.06	FUNDING SOURCE Misc. Capital Projects
FROM ACCOUNT # 480.000.000 4xx.xxx	PROJECT# 47052-4200-4202
TO ACCOUNT:	PROJECT #
VERIFIED BY:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ 4 / 1 0 / 2 0 2 6 L i e s e l Z a n t o S i g n e d b y : L i e s e l Z a n t o	

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
Personnel Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land/Structures						
Grants, Claims						
Miscellaneous	52.9					
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>52.9</b>					
<b>CAPITAL</b>						
<b>REVENUE</b>						

**FUNDING:**


(Thousands of Dollars)

General Fund	52.9					
State/Federal Funds						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52.9</b>					

**POSITIONS:**

Full-Time						
Part-Time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)**

APPROVED BY:	 Recoverable Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C h e y e n n e H e i n d e l
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Signed by: C h e y e n n e H e i n d e l