

Presented by: The Manager
Introduced: 01/07/2013
Drafted by: J.W. Hartle

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2620

A Resolution Adopting a Municipal Drinking Water Supply Plan.

WHEREAS, provision of clean drinking water is one of the most important services that the City and Borough provides to the citizens of Juneau; and

WHEREAS, the CBJ has an excellent public drinking water supply, which takes waters from both the Salmon Creek and Gold Creek watersheds. This water system was planned, designed and constructed during the 1970's through the 1990's; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Juneau have long appreciated, and been protective of, the high quality of the municipal drinking water supply; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2010, the Assembly identified consideration of development of the AJ Mine as one of its top goals, and appointed the AJ Mine Advisory Committee (AJMAC) in January of 2011 to consider the question, "Under what circumstances, if any, should the CBJ pursue the development of the AJ Mine?"; and

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2011, the AJMAC submitted a report to the Assembly on its findings, and in that report the Committee detailed its consideration of 14 areas of concern, and made recommendations, comments and circumstances under which the Assembly may wish to consider development of the AJ Mine; and

WHEREAS, the AJ Mine workings are located in the mountain range adjacent to the Gold Creek watershed, and the close proximity of the mine to the Gold Creek drinking water system is the public concern most commonly voiced about the potential development of the mine; and

WHEREAS, the AJMAC report recommends that the CBJ assign protection of the Gold Creek water system the highest priority. Throughout the AJMAC process, the Committee consistently identified concerns about the possibility of mine contamination affecting the Gold Creek water system as the most difficult obstacle to mine development; and

WHEREAS, the AJMAC recommended that “The City should make diligent efforts to increase common knowledge about the drinking water and AJ Mine drainage systems” and “Prior to proceeding with mine development, the City should comprehensively analyze a variety of water supply and mine development scenarios”; and

WHEREAS, the AJMAC report recommended that if the City were to pursue mine development that the “CBJ and Mine Operator must jointly prepare, maintain and implement a specific contingency plan to assure the community has a continuous safe water supply”; and

WHEREAS, following the AJMAC’s recommendation, the CBJ has prepared the *AJ Mine Related Water Study*, which has been presented to the Assembly and the public. The report includes information about the drinking water system as well as the Gold Creek and Salmon Creek watersheds, and includes drinking water supply and mine development scenarios; and

WHEREAS, the CBJ desires to make and adopt long range plans for the future of the municipal drinking water system, and that such plans anticipate that the AJ Mine may or may not be developed in the future; and

WHEREAS, a drinking water plan should provide a roadmap to ensure that the CBJ can provide the public with a sufficient quantity and quality of drinking water and be able to provide for growth in consumption; and

WHEREAS, regardless of the status of the AJ Mine, it is in the best interest of the community to ensure year-round water safety redundancy; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly desires to encourage an open and deliberative public process for the discussion of the drinking water supply plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The Assembly adopts the Municipal Drinking Water Supply Plan, dated June 5, 2012, and attached here as Exhibit A.

Section 2. The Manager is directed to pursue preliminary planning and design of a filtration system for the Salmon Creek Reservoir water supply.

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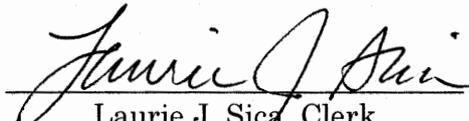
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Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 7th day of January, 2013.


Merrill Sanford, Mayor

Attest:


Laurie J. Sica, Clerk