

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ron Long, Assembly President
Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: John J. Williams, Borough Mayor
Craig Chapman, Finance Director
Bonnie Golden, Grants Manager

FROM: Max Best, Planning Director

DATE: July 26, 2007

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2007-19-12 An ordinance accepting and appropriating funding from the Alaska Division of Forestry in the amount of \$52,750 for spruce bark beetle mitigation project work on the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Continued congressional concern over the wildfire danger on the Kenai Peninsula has resulted in Congress directing the United States Forest Service to appropriate direct lump sum payments to the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) for spruce bark beetle mitigation work.

Ordinance 2000-19-19, adopted by the KPB Assembly on April 3, 2001, established the Phase II Program Outline and Description to govern KPB Spruce Bark Beetle (SBB) Mitigation Programs. Item #2 (Hazard Tree Removal) of the Phase II Program Outline and Description of KPB 2000-19-19 established: (1) the hazard tree removal program to clear rights of way and corridors; (2) the slash disposal program to dispose of woody debris resulting from wildfire mitigation projects; and (3) the Community Defensible Space Program to partner with community FireWise projects. The objective of these three programs is to clear beetle kill around communities to reduce wildfire hazards. Ordinance 2004-33, adopted by the KPB Assembly on October 26, 2004, accepted the Interagency All Lands/All Hands Action Plan as the wildfire section of the KPB All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The objective of this plan is to support Community Wildfire Protection Plans and interagency actions to continue spruce bark beetle wildfire hazard mitigation work.

Five Community Wildfire Protection Plans have listed Home Fire Risk Assessments and Slash hauling as projects they need assistance with. SBB will assist in these two projects by providing funding to be reimbursed in part from DOF. This ordinance will accept the \$52,750 direct lump sum payment from the DOF to KPB and appropriate the \$52,750 direct lump sum payment to the SBB Technical Assistance account 262.21320.05BT4.49999, established through the adoption of KPB Ordinances 2000-19-19 and 2004-33.