



## ***KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH***

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**JOHN J. WILLIAMS**  
**BOROUGH MAYOR**

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Grace Merkes, Assembly President  
Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**THRU:** John J. Williams, Borough Mayor  
Craig Chapman, Finance Director  
Max Best, Planning Director  
Bonnie L. Golden, Grants Manager

**FROM:** Roberta Wilfong, Spruce Bark Beetle Program Manager

**DATE:** June 5, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance No. 2007-19-54: Accepting and Appropriating a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, in the amount of \$984,000 – for Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation Program work.

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The purpose of this Federal Financial Assistance grant is to provide funding to continue spruce bark beetle mitigation projects within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. This grant requires a 100 percent cost share match. Cost share requirements for this grant can be met with funding from other sources, in-kind contributions, or with funds available from past lump sum payments to the KPBP Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation Program (SBBMP). None of the funds may be used to acquire equipment.

Although spruce bark beetle activity is now at endemic levels in most areas on the Kenai Peninsula, the effects of the spruce bark beetle outbreak will remain for decades. Funds from this grant will be used to continue hazard tree removal projects, continue G.I.S. work, provide resources to support Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and to provide funding to support seasonal fire crews. See the attached Phase VI Program Outline Description for details on the spending plan for this grant.

SBBMP hazard tree removal projects will continue to mitigate the impacts of the spruce bark beetle outbreak along State and Borough roads, in public use areas, and on KPBP parcels where fuel loads threaten adjacent communities. Continued SBBMP G.I.S. work will update and document the ongoing landscape changes in vegetation and wildland fire behavior on the Kenai Peninsula to provide essential data needed to model wildfire behavior and to allocate fire suppression resources. Continued SBBMP Firewise outreach will address public educational needs identified in all developed Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and support for seasonal fire crews will provide the Kenai Peninsula with critically needed initial wildfire response resources.

Funding of the project will total \$1,968,000, with the USDA-Forest Service share being \$984,000 and the Borough's Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation Program share being \$984,000. The project work using these funds is to be completed by June 30, 2011.

Although the grant funds are available until 2011, a shortened hearing date of July 8, 2008, is requested. The next scheduled meeting of the Assembly is not until August 5; nearly a month later. The grant program allows use of pre-award costs to meet the match requirement as long as those costs are within the 90-day period immediately preceding the effective date of award. The funds identified to meet the match requirement are currently

being expended on approved projects. If the grant award date is delayed, it's possible SBBMP will not have sufficient funds to meet the full match requirement. Your consideration of this request for a shortened hearing date is appreciated.

Attachments:

- Ordinance
- Phase VI Program Outline
- Notice of award from USDA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT - FUNDS VERIFIED AMOUNT: \$984,000	
Account:	_____
By:	_____ Date: _____