

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Milli Martin, Assembly President  
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

**FROM:** Ron Long, Assembly Member

**DATE:** January 23, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance 2009-09, creating a flood hazard district in the Seward area

A federal disaster as a result of flooding has been proclaimed three times within the Seward-Bear Creek Flood Service Area (“SBCFSA”) since 1986. Millions of dollars of damage to private properties and public infrastructure has resulted from these flood events. The Flood Insurance Rate Maps (“FIRMs”) are outdated and do not encompass much of the area in the SBCFSA that is subject to regular flooding. It is not known when the updated FIRMs will be released. On January 20, 2009, a floodplain task force was formed to examine options for long-term solutions to the damage caused by the regular flooding which occurs in the SBCFSA. I am sponsoring this ordinance as the first step toward finding those long-term solutions.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough’s GIS division has mapped the area encompassed by the 1986, 1995, and 2006 floods outside the FIRM area. This ordinance increases the regulated flood hazard area within the SBCFSA to include the mapped 1986, 1995, and 2006 flood areas. Base flood elevation in the SMFDA (KPB SBCFSA Mapped Flood Data Area) will be established by application of a formula set forth in the ordinance. The permitting requirements will apply only to primary structures as defined by the ordinance and work within the floodway as defined by KPB 21.06.020(G). By limited regulation of construction of primary structures and floodway work, the ordinance seeks to protect adjacent and downstream property owners from suffering increased risk to their property as a result of projects within areas subject to regular flooding that currently require no borough oversight or permitting. I appreciate your support of this ordinance.