

Introduced Drathman
Date: 09/16/97
Action: Approved
Vote: Unanimous

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 97-067**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE CITY OF
HOMER REGARDING THE ACQUISITION OF LANDS ON THE
HOMER SPIT AND IN THE BELUGA SLOUGH BY THE
EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL**

- WHEREAS,** the City of Homer supports the nomination of nine parcels of land, including approximately 68 acres on the Homer Spit and 40 acres in the Beluga Slough, as intertidal lands meriting special consideration for small parcel funding; and
- WHEREAS,** there have been few purchases to date of this kind of low-lying coastal habitat under the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill acquisition program; and
- WHEREAS,** the owners of these lands are willing to sell them to protect what has been identified as critical habitat to animal species and the subsistence and recreational activities affected by the spill; and
- WHEREAS,** the Homer Spit has a long history of public use for clamming, fishing and other recreational purposes; and
- WHEREAS,** commercial development has significantly reduced land available on the Homer Spit for public use and acquiring these lands for the public, subject to a conservation easement, would protect these properties from development and provide a valuable opportunity to help preserve the quality and way of life historically enjoyed in this area; and
- WHEREAS,** the entire Beluga Slough provides vital shorebird habitat; and
- WHEREAS,** the 40-acre Beluga Slough parcel available for sale is the most significant unprotected property remaining in the Slough as it is completely surrounded by protected property and, if developed, would compromise all of the previous efforts taken to protect this resource; and
- WHEREAS,** acquiring these parcels for such purposes would help Homer's growing nature-based tourism industry, which is critical to the health of the local economy and the creation of diverse job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Trust for Public Land, together with the City of Homer and Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, have nominated such lands for acquisition, and the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee council has declared them as "properties meriting special consideration;" and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of these unique properties will assist the ongoing work of the U.S. Fish and wildlife service and the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game in protecting the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough;

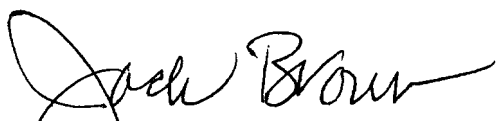
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly supports the City of Homer's efforts to encourage the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to buy these lands for habitat protection and recreational purposes.

SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution shall be mailed to the City of Homer, the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, area Legislators and the Governor of Alaska.

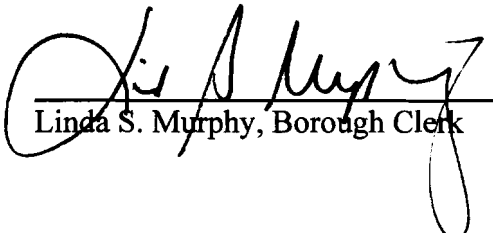
SECTION 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 16TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1997.



Jack E. Brown, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk