

By: A. Strawn
Introduced: March 7, 2022
Public Hearing: March 21, 2022
Action: FAILED

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 22-07**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE SEPARATION DISTANCE BETWEEN GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND THE SEASONAL HIGH WATER TABLE FROM FOUR FEET TO TEN FEET.

WHEREAS, in 2011 the MSB Assembly enacted an ordinance requiring a conditional use permit for mining within four feet of the seasonal high water table in order to protect water quality and quantity; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this proposed amendment is to increase the separation distance required from four feet to ten feet; and

WHEREAS, increase in separation between mining activity and the water table will provide additional protection to the water table against pollution from surface spills; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance will protect post-mining property values by ensuring the ability to install conventional onsite septic systems is maintained; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Administrative Code 18 AAC 72.020 Separation Distances requires four feet vertical separation between the lowest part of a conventional soil absorption system and an additional four feet of ground cover for insulation above; and

WHEREAS, the soil absorption system itself occupies approximately 18 inches in depth and needs to be situated at a lower elevation than the septic tank and associated pipes; and

WHEREAS, a property that has been mined down to within four feet of the seasonal high water table cannot be developed with conventional onsite septic systems in accordance with DEC regulations; and

WHEREAS, without a minimum ten feet of "in situ" soil above the water table to start with, a mounded system with a pump station or installation of an advanced treatment system will be required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission hereby recommends approval of an ordinance increasing the separation distance between gravel extraction and the seasonal high water table from four feet to ten feet.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission
this -- day of --, 2022.

STAFFORD GLASHAN, Chair

ATTEST

KAROL RIESE, Planning Clerk

(SEAL)

YES:

NO:

FAILED