



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Homer City Council

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Homer, Alaska 99603

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Commissioner John McKinnon
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
3132 Channel Dr #300
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

January 14, 2018

RE: Drainage concerns in Baycreset Subdivision, Homer, Alaska

Dear Commissioner McKinnon,

Congratulations on your appointment as Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Your experience building and maintaining the infrastructure of Alaska will be most valuable in this pivotal position.

The City of Homer would like to bring to your attention what may seem like a small concern given the breadth of your responsibilities, but one that has the potential to be devastating. Properties in Baycrest subdivision in Homer, Alaska experience unusually high levels of soil saturation, runoff and erosion. This has caused lasting damage in at least 3 homes off of Judy Rebecca Court. The slope instability in this neighborhood threatens these homes and their occupants. Contributing significantly to the water saturation is an ADOT beehive that collects water from the Sterling Highway and discharges it unrestricted onto the properties below rather than into a natural drainage pattern.

In January of 2018 the City of Homer passed Resolution 18-008 requesting the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities work to fix Sterling Highway Drainage that is Adversely Effecting Baycrest Subdivision. As a follow up, City of Homer Councilmembers met with Deputy Commissioner Holland in Juneau in February of 2018. ADOT has sent hydrologists twice to the area, but there has been no meaningful follow up to solve the problem. As a simple solution, the City has proposed ADOT divert the water coming from the beehive into a neighboring natural draining a short distance away.

The City of Homer understands that slope instability in the Baycrest subdivision is likely due to a number of factors. To that end, the City is vigilant about maintaining ditches and culverts on the City roads in the subdivision. The Planning Commission is exploring a Natural Hazards Overlay District in the area and is working with the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys on LIDAR mapping to assess landslide risk. The City asks that ADOT do its part and address the runoff from the Sterling Highway that is exacerbating the slope stability issues in Baycrest subdivision.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Mayor Castner
Oh Behalf of Homer City Council

Cc: Representative Sarah Vance
Senator Gary Stevens

Enc:
Map of Baycrest Subdivision showing beehive
Estimate for culvert diverting beehive drainage
Resolution 18-008

