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CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

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RESOLUTION 19-043

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
URGING THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO
CONSIDER THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS TO THE BEAR-
VIEWING INDUSTRY IN THE PEBBLE MINE ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT.

WHEREAS, Cook Inlet boasts the highest concentration of brown bears in the world, and decision makers have recognized this unique natural asset through the formation of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Katmai National Park and Preserve, among others; and

WHEREAS, Bear-viewing is a popular and growing pursuit for tourists and Alaskans alike; and

WHEREAS, The best access to these viewing areas is from the City of Homer and communities throughout the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS, Bear-viewing businesses play a significant role in the economy of Homer and the surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, Local businesses in the Kenai Peninsula Borough have been providing bear viewing services for over 40 years; and

WHEREAS, A recent economic study by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) School of Management gathered data from bear-viewing related businesses across Southcentral Alaska and reviewed existing pertinent research and found bear-viewing supports nearly 500 jobs annually, including jobs with air and water taxis, guiding services, lodges, food services and other small businesses; and

WHEREAS, The UAF study found bear-viewing brings in more than \$34 million in direct sales, and that ¾ of those revenues stay within Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Bear-viewing service providers paid \$10 million in direct wages and benefits; and

WHEREAS, Bear-viewing is a sustainable resource use which can produce economic benefits for many years if it is managed correctly; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Pebble Mine's transportation corridor and export terminal in Kamishak Bay would bisect important brown bear habitat; and

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WHEREAS, The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Pebble Mine does not address any potential impacts to the City of Homer communities throughout the Kenai Peninsula Borough's bear-viewing economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, hereby requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers amend the Draft Pebble EIS to include an economic analysis of potential impacts to bear-viewing businesses.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 24th day of June, 2019.

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal note: N/A