

1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

Aderhold/Evensen

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4 **RESOLUTION 21-008**

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6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
7 PROVIDING COMMENTS TO THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT
8 OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR
9 RECREATION ON THE KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK AND
10 KACHEMAK BAY STATE WILDERNESS PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN
11 INTENT TO ADOPT, DATED NOVEMBER 2020
12

13 WHEREAS, The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and
14 Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) released an Intent to Adopt Management Plan for Kachemak Bay
15 State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park in November 2020 to the public for review
16 and comment, with comments on the plan due by January 22, 2021; and
17

18 WHEREAS, DPOR states in the Intent to Adopt plan that “the planning process allows
19 DPOR to reassess its management policies to determining if they are meeting the needs of the
20 recreating public while ensuring that uses and activities are not significantly impacting the
21 natural and cultural resources. This plan, therefore, addresses several significant issues that
22 have arisen since the last management plan. The primary reason for revising the management
23 plan is to update the management guidelines and trail and facility recommendations where
24 necessary to support an increasing number of visitors to the park units and to provide diverse
25 recreational opportunities consistent with the mission of the agency and the purposes of the
26 units.”; and
27

28 WHEREAS, The plan states that Kachemak State Park and Kachemak Bay State
29 Wilderness Park were created via legislation in the early 1970s with the purpose for the state
30 park to “... protect and preserve this land and water for its unique and exceptional scenic
31 value, the park is established and shall be managed as a scenic park” (Alaska Statute (AS)
32 41.21.131) and with the purpose of the wilderness park to “... protect and preserve this land
33 and water for its unique and exceptional value, this park is established and shall be managed
34 as a wilderness park” (AS 41.21.140); and
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36 WHEREAS, The plan also provides management direction for several state recreation
37 sites on the north side of the Bay (Diamond Creek, Overlook Park, and Eveline State Recreation
38 Sites) which were created administratively and lack a purpose statement or unit-specific
39 statutes; and
40

41 WHEREAS, The City of Homer is the gateway to Kachemak Bay State Park, State
42 Wilderness Park, and the state recreation sites on the north side of the bay and derives tax
43 revenues because of its proximity to the park; and

44
45 WHEREAS, Residents of and visitors to Homer enjoy year round use of all park units and
46 Homer residents make up the bulk of park volunteers who maintain trails and other facilities
47 within the park; and

48
49 WHEREAS, Some Homer residents derive a livelihood at least in part due to the
50 proximity of the park, through concessions such as water taxis and guide services.

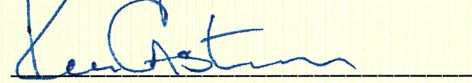
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52 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Homer, Alaska provides the following
53 comments on DPOR's Intent to Adopt Management Plan for Kachemak Bay State Park and
54 Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park dated November 2020:

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- 56 • The City of Homer appreciates the goals and objectives for each of the park units and
57 the recognition that the parks are currently understaffed to adequately manage,
58 monitor, oversee, and regulate activities in such a large and diverse park system. We
59 encourage DPOR to actively seek state funding to add much needed staff to the park to
60 maintain the goals and objectives of the park units.
 - 61 • The City of Homer agrees with the intents listed in Chapter 5 of the plan for each of the
62 park units. Related to the state recreation sites, we applaud the intent to improve
63 parking and outhouse facilities and provide accessible (terra) access and trails at
64 Eveline, enhance parking and add camping and public use cabins at Diamond Creek,
65 and recognize the unique natural resources of Overlook Park.
 - 66 • The City of Homer recognizes that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game authorized
67 use of personal watercraft (PWC) in Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area effective
68 January 9, 2021. The Intent to Adopt plan states that within the "Natural Zone" of the
69 park "If this occurs, PWC use may be authorized under 11 AAC 18.010 until a regulation
70 allowing use is promulgated." We encourage DPOR to carefully evaluate the
71 compatibility of PWC regarding the purpose of the park before authorization.
 - 72 • The City of Homer previously provided comments on DPOR's determination that
73 hatcheries (specifically the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery operated by Cook Inlet
74 Aquaculture (CIAA)) are "likely incompatible with park purposes" because the park
75 cannot dispose of land (see City of Homer Resolution 20-134). We provide the following
76 additional comments:
 - 77 • We encourage DPOR to continue evaluation of the issue of compatibility and land
78 disposal with CIAA, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and legal counsel before the
79 current CIAA operating agreement expires in 2031.
 - 80 • We request that more information be provided to justify the incompatible finding for
81 each park zone in the Intent to Adopt plan in the Fisheries Enhancement – Hatchery row
82 of the Resource Management Activities table in Chapter 5.

- 83 • We request that DPOR further evaluate the potential impact to the personal use fishery
84 within the park (China Poot) and other public uses the hatchery benefits within the park
85 before making a final determination of incompatibility.

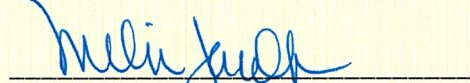
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87 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Homer, Alaska, this 11th day of January,
88 2020.

90 CITY OF HOMER

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92 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

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96 ATTEST:

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98 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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101 Fiscal note: N/A

