

Presented by: The Manager
Presented: 11/13/2023
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 3039

A Resolution of Support for the Release of the Full 50 Percent of Funds Appropriated by the Legislature to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants to Cities, Boroughs, and Tribes, and Increasing the Maximum Award to \$500,000.

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal grant program administered by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DNR DPOR) that provides funds for close-to-home outdoor recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, since the program's inception in 1965, over \$40 million in LWCF grants have supported 350 state, regional, and local government projects in Alaska, serving as an integral source of funding for Alaskan communities to acquire and develop outdoor recreation facilities like parks, trails, athletic fields, and more; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) has received over \$1 million in LWCF funding for 10 parks and other recreation facilities since 1965, including Cope Park, Treadwell Ice Arena, Capitol Park, and Eaglecrest Ski Area; and

WHEREAS, the LWCF requires a 1:1 local match, which can significantly leverage local funding to complete critical improvements to parks, playgrounds, trails, and other outdoor recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, since FY18 the Alaska Legislature has appropriated over \$12.2 million in federal funding for the LWCF, expressing its clear intent that half of all funds be provided as grants to Alaska's cities, boroughs, and tribes; and

WHEREAS, of the \$12.2 million available, DNR DPOR has expended less than \$7.6 million through FY25, with over 91% of these funds being used on state projects; and

WHEREAS, over \$4.1 million is currently available for LWCF projects in Alaska, yet DNR DPOR has offered just \$1 million in grants to Alaska's cities, boroughs, and tribes in FY25; and

WHEREAS, limiting the release of LWCF grant funds to \$1 million for the next grant round is not consistent with the intent of the Legislature, and setting a maximum award of \$125,000 limits the utility of the program to Alaskan cities, boroughs, and tribes, and deters applicants from pursuing LWCF grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. That the Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau requests the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation comply with the Legislature's intent by (1) releasing \$4.2 million in LWCF grants to cities, boroughs, and tribes, (2) providing half of all future LWCF funds as grants to cities, boroughs, and tribes, and (3) raising the maximum grant award to \$500,000.

Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 13th day of November 2023.



Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:



Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk