

BEAR VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Council Resolution – Section 36 Parkland Management

Whereas since prior to 1986, members of the public have respectfully requested a transfer of municipal management authority of Section 36 from the Heritage Land Bank to the Parks Department; and

Whereas on September 28, 1989 the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously passed a motion of continued support for the management transfer; and

Whereas on November 2, 1995, the Heritage Land Bank signed a Settlement Agreement to resolve litigation issues involving Section 36; and

Whereas the April 1996 *Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan* designates 118.30 acres of land in Section 36 as Class A wetlands, which shall be preserved for flood control and water quality and maintained in their natural state to the maximum extent; and

Whereas the *Anchorage 2020 Anchorage Bowl Comprehensive Plan*, adopted February 20, 2001, clearly portrays Section 36 as an area with important wildlife habitats and as an area dedicated or encumbered for use as parkland; and

Whereas Mayor George Wuerch asserted in a November 1, 2001-letter to the Bear Valley Community Council President: *"In summary, I assure you that efforts to designate and eventually dedicate Section 36 as parkland continue unabated"*; and

Whereas during 2002, the Heritage Land Bank Advisory Commission recommended withdrawal of approximately 632 acres of Section 36 (Parcels 2-124, 2-125, and 2-126) from the land bank inventory to transfer the parcels into park status; and

Whereas on January 7, 2003, the Assembly passed and approved an ordinance (AO 2002-160) that states in part: *"The zoning map shall be amended by designating the following described property as PLI-p (Public Lands and Institutions District-Park) zone:*

All of Section 36, T 12 N, R 3 W, S.M., AK., minus that portion zoned "AF" per AO 92-122..."; and

Whereas the *Heritage Land Bank 2003 Annual Work Program and 2004-2008 Five-Year Management Plan*, approved by the Assembly May 20, 2003, says with regard to Section 36 that the Heritage Land Bank and Cultural and Recreational Services *"remain committed to the creation of an outstanding regional park for the entire community"*; and

Whereas in a letter dated February 23, 2004, Mayor Mark Begich asserted: *"I am firmly committed to formally dedicating Section 36 as parkland"*; and

Whereas the March 2004 *Anchorage Bowl Parks, Natural Resource and Recreation Facilities Plan* depicts all of Section 36 as an existing park; and

Whereas the official transfer of the management authority for Section 36 would finally resolve and settle very long-standing land use issues if the Parks and Recreation Department were granted authority and responsibility for all land use activities within and affecting the land and water within Section 36;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Bear Valley Community Council formally requests that Mayor Mark Begich expeditiously take action in accordance with Municipal Code Section 25.10.050 to transfer the management authority of all of Section 36, Township 12 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska from the Heritage Land Bank to the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department.

Adopted and approved by a vote of Bear Valley Community Council members on this day,

September 8, 2004.

Signed: Scott Pexton
Scott Pexton
Chair, Bear Valley Community Council

Date: September 8, 2004