

Resolution 2023-04
Northeast Community Council (NECC)

March 16, 2023

JBER Muldoon Boundary Realignment

1. Whereas, the Northeast Community Council (NECC), recognizes the sacrifices the military community makes to keep our country and communities a safe and clean place to live. Providing customers for local businesses, becoming our neighbors, and keeping our local economy vibrant with active duty, retirees, and dependents; and
2. Whereas, the NECC supported the construction of the new Maneuver Trail over the ridge to Snow Hawk Valley north of the Dome from the Bull Dog Trail (Tank Trail) per JBER request; and
3. Whereas, the April 25, 2022 letter from Base Commander Colonel Kristen G. Aguilar to State Senator Bill Wielechowski states the JBER Muldoon Boundary cannot be realigned because of the location of two military training areas used for automatic weapons and tactical vehicle training. The NECC received the estimate of \$34 million cost to relocate said training areas; and
4. Whereas, the military reservation includes the Snow Hawk Valley over the ridge to the East with one access road. A second access road up from the Ship Creek Dam area off Oil Well Road could add more access to Snow Hawk Valley. The two live fire ranges could then be moved further East to a different location such as Snow Hawk Valley to allow for the realignment of the current JBER Muldoon Boundary; and
5. Whereas, the placement of a road up Snow Hawk Valley from the Ship Creek Dam area connecting with the Maneuver Trail would allow for more effective use of the reservation for military training. This could negate the need of a land swap to keep the military reservation viable as a training area. A land swap with Chugach State Park or the BLM should still be an option; and
6. Whereas, the Gas Line Trail is popular with skiers, hikers, and bikers on the Hill Side. A continuation of this trail along the gas line East of Muldoon and to connect with the Glenn Hwy Bike Trail by going under the Ship Creek Bridge, would complete a trail system along the JBER Muldoon Boundary that has been in the Municipal Area Wide Trails Plan since at least 1979. This trail could also connect Centennial Park and Chanshtnu Muldoon Park with uninterrupted trail access and connect with the Campbell Creek Greenbelt to the South; and
7. Whereas, the proposed Boundary Bike Trail along the gas line East of Muldoon could be used to run the Mayor's Marathon, Iditarod Ceremonial Start, and other sporting events that have traditionally been run on JBER property in this general area but have stopped currently or at times, at a loss to this populated area; and
8. Whereas, a recent study done for the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) stated, " trails keep young people in the community" and that our state population has dropped by 20,000 people in recent years, with many families choosing to move out of the MOA in favor of the Valley; and
9. Whereas, including the gas line easement with an in total 400 ft. wide strip of land realigning the JBER

Muldoon Boundary East of the gas line could provide enough space to safely locate the multi-use trail away from fences that would pose problems with moose if the trail were to run along a fence. It would also open up more area that could be used for community gardens, and solar panel parks and keep the trail at least 300 feet away from private property on the West side; and

10. Whereas, at the North end of the gas line near the Anchorage Water facility on top of a steep hill the boundary would have to be realigned further East to go around the hill too steep for a multi-use trail, opening the top of the hill for a hydroponic greenhouse heated with excess heat from the Chugach Power Plant. The NECC had a \$5 Million grant to build a greenhouse in this area but voted it down until a realignment of the JEBR-Muldoon Boundary could make enough land available. A 400 ft easement would give ample space between private property on the West side of the easement and the multi-use trail; and

11. Whereas, there is a 24 acre parcel of land West of the gas line and South of Peck Ave. that could become more Cook Inlet Housing Authority housing (approximately 250 units) leaving a 50 ft wooded buffer along the current fence line protecting the wooded natural boundary near the existing homes; and

12. Whereas, climate change and drought in the traditional food producing areas in the Lower 48 raises the question of food accessibility in the future. Since Alaska imports more than 90% of its food supply, the opportunity to have high density housing located near larger community garden plots needs to be recognized as a move toward food security; and

13. Whereas, due to the clear rising threat of a nuclear attack on JBER and Anchorage the possibility of using the proposed road up the lower end of Snow Hawk Valley from the Ship Creek Dam area could offer another alternative route. Access through gates at the East end of Star View Drive and Oil Well Road should be opened to access protected areas behind ridges like Arctic Valley and the proposed road up Snow Hawk Valley in times of emergency for service members and civilians, reducing heavy traffic on the Glenn Hwy that would be a likely escape route to ridge protected areas. Civil Defense Plans and designs need to be updated with the relocation of the live fire ranges up Snow Hawk Valley to facilitate these options; and

14. Whereas, the JBER-Birchwood Boundary was realigned a few years back and the Municipality of Anchorage has already started construction on a connector trail South of the Tudor Muldoon Curve.

Be it now resolved that it is in all parties interest for a realignment of the Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson - Muldoon Boundary, to allow for relocation of live fire ranges to Snow Hawk Valley, a multi-use non motorized trail under the Ship Creek Bridge on the Glenn Hwy. to the Campbell Creek Greenbelt along the gas line, more housing West of the gas line, a greenhouse heated with excess heat from the Chugach Electric Power Plant, community gardens and solar parks along the gas line, a more functional civil defense plan including emergency civilian access to Snow Hawk Valley from Star View Dr., and a more agreeable situation for all parties.

Resolution Vote: For 8 Against: 4 Abstain: 4



Ronald P. Meehan President, NECC

Murray Crookes

Murray Crookes, Secretary, NECC