2025-03 Resolution of Support from the Abbott Loop Community Council Sahalee Shaded Fuel Break Project

WHEREAS, the Abbott Loop Community neighborhoods border Anchorage's wildland-urban interface (WUI) and faces an elevated risk of wildfire due to dense vegetation and proximity to surrounding public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Sahalee project area lies West of Service High School and extends north from private property boundaries to adjacent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands; and

WHEREAS, this area includes residential neighborhoods, critical municipal utility infrastructure, and recreational lands managed by the Municipality of Anchorage, Anchorage School District (ASD), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility (AWWU); and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage, in coordination with the Anchorage Fire Department and interagency partners, proposes to implement a 200-foot-wide shaded fuel break to reduce hazardous vegetation, protect public safety, and increase wildfire resilience; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fuel break will treat approximately 15.8 acres of public land using a combination of mastication equipment and hand crews, following best practices for fuels mitigation and ecological stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the Sahalee Fuel Break Project will directly protect an estimated \$258 million in property and benefit approximately 930 residents, while improving firefighter access and tactical effectiveness during wildfire response; and

WHEREAS, vegetation treatment will focus on clumping dense stands of conifers, preserving healthy deciduous species, removing ladder fuels, and maintaining shaded canopy where appropriate to support habitat and forest health; and

WHEREAS, project implementation is scheduled for 2025-26 with an estimated duration of 6 months, occurring entirely on public lands with no impact to private property; and

WHEREAS, the Sahalee Shaded Fuel Break is a priority action under Anchorage's broader community wildfire protection planning efforts and demonstrates responsible land stewardship in the face of increasing wildfire risk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Abbott Loop Community Council supports the implementation of the Sahalee Shaded Fuel Break Project as proposed by the Municipality of Anchorage and its partners, including the Anchorage Fire Department Wildfire Division.

PASSED Unanimously by the Abbott Loop Community Council this 28th day of August 2025.

Lizzie Newell- President, Abbott Loop Community Council

08.28.25

Kathleen Easley- Secretary, Abbott Loop Community Council