

**A BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSEMENT OF THE PROPOSED EKLUTNA
BIRCHWOOD CASINO**

Resolution #2025-02-02

WHEREAS, Local Community Councils represent the voice of a neighborhood and are created in order to afford citizens the opportunity for maximum community involvement and self-determination,

WHEREAS, an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Eklutna casino was recently opened for very limited public comment. The lengthy document was available only a short time over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Large portions of the Appendices were inaccessible electronically and the promised hardcopies were not available at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library during most of the comment period. Many neighbors were unable to comment or access the document. This undermines any opportunity to involve the local community. Our Council bylaws prevented us from taking a position during that comment period.

WHEREAS, the described water and sewer systems seem problematic for Alaskan conditions and are causing many local concerns. Our neighborhood is exclusively on private wells and septic systems. There are many concerns about impact to the local water table and nearby private wells. Neighborhood experience contradicts the data given. The on-site septic is inadequately described and may not function well in cold climates, and

WHEREAS, the traffic plan proposed does not address realistic increments in traffic volume, lacks feasibility in technical terms and omits important considerations such as:

- Failure to include walking, bicycling and mass transit as modes of transport for the casino.
- Ignoring traffic from Aurora Borealis, South Birchwood, the Airport (with its necessary transient parking for aircraft) and the area shooting range.
- Omitting the impacts of local conditions such as snow and ice on traffic safety.
- Ignoring the recreational use of the neighborhood, which contributes to local traffic and community character.

WHEREAS, the financial burden to provide essential services such as road maintenance, police, fire, emergency services would unfairly fall on our community due to the tax-exempt status of the allotment site. The EA claims no impact to state or local revenue without justification;

WHEREAS, the EA discussion of adjacent Peters Creek omits any mention of bank erosion and movement, past glacial flooding experiences (which has closed local roads), fish protection and/or site runoff contamination;

WHEREAS, the EA and casino plan make no mention or provision for snow storage and removal.

WHEREAS, the plan fails to adequately address the 24-hour, 7 day a week operational impacts of noise, light and sound pollution which are likely to disrupt nearby residential homes;

WHEREAS, there was no discussion of potential impact on local internet traffic to an area already facing limited access. Local utility providers are even inaccurately identified;

WHEREAS, the project is not in alignment with the Chugiak-Eagle River Comprehensive Plan, land use code and zoning standards;

So therefore, be it RESOLVED that the Birchwood Community Council

Requests a comprehensive reevaluation of this project that accounts for the unresolved environmental impacts, infrastructural needs and community safety measures identified in the EA public comments and insists on comprehensive public engagement in any future development plans.

Further resolves that this resolution be submitted as part of the official EA comments to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other relevant stakeholders in order to ensure concerns are addressed before any further action is taken on this project.

Passed this date: February 12, 2025

Signed:

Debbie Ossiander

Matt Cruickshank
Co-Chairs