



Rabbit Creek Community Council

1057 W. Fireweed Ln. Ste. 100, Anchorage, AK 99503



March 16, 2017

Rebecca Colvin
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Pesticide Program
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(By email to: Rebecca.colvin@alaska.gov)

The Rabbit Creek Community Council (Council) supports the control of *Elodea* in the Potter Marsh watershed. At our February 9th meeting, following a presentation by Heather Stewart of the pesticide permit application by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Council passed a resolution in support of this project. Approximately 22 voting Council members were in attendance, and there was no opposition.

Potter Marsh is an extremely popular wildlife viewing area and educational resource. Its ecosystem (including its birds and other wildlife) depend on its native aquatic plants. If *Elodea* spread into the marsh, it would smother the marsh's natural plants.

DNR's proposed herbicide application is well thought out, based on successful projects at other lakes in our area. *Elodea* is currently restricted to Little Survival Creek, which flows into Potter Marsh, and has spread only about 200 yards into the edge of the marsh west of the Old Seward Highway. If the *Elodea* is eradicated now, it is unlikely to invade farther into Potter Marsh. If the weed did expand throughout the marsh, control would be more difficult and could harm the marsh's ecosystem. The proposed herbicides (diquat and flurodine) are non-toxic to birds and other animals at the proposed application rates. If the chemicals disperse into the marsh at all, they should be very dilute. DNR plans to monitor native plants in the treatment area and downstream, starting before herbicides are applied and continuing after the end of treatment.

Again, please approve DNR's permit application for *Elodea* control in Potter Marsh. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Adam S. Lees

Adam Lees
Chair, Rabbit Creek Community Council