

RESOLUTION #648

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,600,000 FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE BETHEL, ALASKA BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT AS AUTHORIZED IN SECTION 601 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1986 (PL 99-662)

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel, Alaska, located on the Kuskokwim River, is a critically important regional center of government, commerce and service for over 50 communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta; and

WHEREAS, the Kuskokwim River is a serious flood and erosion threat to the City of Bethel, as most of the town's riverfront is just a few feet above normal high water level and the normal erosion process is complicated by permafrost and ground ice; and

WHEREAS, since 1982 about 4,800 feet of bulkheads, at a cost of approximately \$23,000,000, has been installed along the Bethel riverfront to protect community and regional infrastructure from streambank erosion; and

WHEREAS, since 1985 the bank stabilization project has been the subject of several local, state and federal declarations of disaster and emergency appropriations, including, most recently, approximately \$1,000,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in conjunction with the June 12, 1989 Presidential declaration; and

WHEREAS, a July 27, 1989 memorandum from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the spring 1989 flood and high water event concludes that "[e]mergency conditions can be expected to occur more frequently as the thalweg continues its migration toward the pipepile bulkheads. Complete bank protection should be accomplished as soon as possible;" and

WHEREAS, the Bethel Bank Stabilization project was authorized in Section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (PL 99-662) at a total cost of \$19,400,000, with an estimated first Federal cost of \$14,600,000 and an estimated first non-Federal cost of \$4,800,000, and

WHEREAS, the authorized plan as described in the *Supplemental Chief's Report, Bank Stabilization, Bethel, Alaska*, prepared by the Office of the Chief of Engineers and dated August 26, 1986, calls for placement of 4,800 linear feet of rock riprap, with 3,800 feet along unprotected bank and 4,700 feet along the existing pipe pile bulkhead in such sufficient vertical dimension as to insure protection over a 50-year design life with only minimal, if any, maintenance requirements or costs, and

WHEREAS, The Chief Engineer's report named in the authorization was prepared in response to a resolution of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, adopted September 9, 1977, and

WHEREAS, the benefits of the project will include preservation of land, maintenance of regional commerce and service, and maintenance of the structural integrity of erosion control systems already in place, and

WHEREAS, this project has a benefit/cost ratio of 1.3, with annual net benefits of estimated at \$461,000, and

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is a willing and able local sponsor for this project, and

WHEREAS, State Senator John Binkley and State Representative Lyman Hoffman, co-chairmen of their respective finance committees, have strongly supported the City of Bethel's efforts to include the required non-Federal program match for this project in the State of Alaska capital budget, and

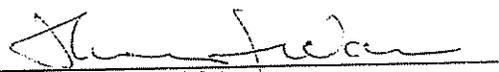
WHEREAS, the Governor of Alaska has submitted his proposed capital budget to the Alaska State Legislature (HB 463), which includes, for the first time, an appropriation in the amount of \$4,000,000 in State general funds for Corps of Engineers program match, and

WHEREAS, until the requested Federal funding is secured, the City of Bethel faces an imminent threat to the existing 23 million dollar erosion protection structure and, with it, most of the processing infrastructure related to the entire Kuskokwim River commercial salmon fishery, a regional transshipment cargo port for oceangoing ships, and a regional petroleum dock facility.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the City of Bethel respectfully requests an appropriation from the United States Congress in the amount of \$14,600,000 for the completion of the Bethel Bank Stabilization project as authorized in Section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (PL 99-662), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Senator Ted Stevens, the Honorable Senator Frank H. Murkowski, and the Honorable Representative Donald E. Young for their consideration and support of this request.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13 DAY OF February, 1990.



Tom Warner, Mayor

ATTEST:



Anna McGowan, City Clerk