

RESOLUTION #677

DISASTER DECLARATION

WHEREAS; the recent structural failure of the City of Bethel's sewage lagoon dike released an estimated 30 million gallons of wastewater and sewage into the community of Bethel; and

WHEREAS; an unknown but significant quantity of sewage remains on the ground surface and in stationary waterways within populated areas of our community; and

WHEREAS; bacteria from the sewage can cause diseases such as hepatitis, salmonella, giardia, shigella, yersina, Norwalk agent, cellulitis, pinworms, aseptic meningitis, polio, rotavirus diarrhea; and

WHEREAS; these diseases represent an immanent and direct threat to the life and health safety of Bethel residents; and

WHEREAS; recent engineering investigations have determined that the 28-acre facultative wastewater treatment lagoon is inadequate to effectively treat the present level of wastewater discharges; and

WHEREAS; the City of Bethel lacks the financial and technical capability to respond to the disaster.

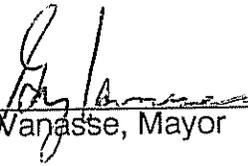
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the City of Bethel declares a state of disaster to exist and requests that the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Governor of Alaska, declare a disaster emergency to exist in order to provide assistance under the provisions of AS 26.23; and

FURTHER; that the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation provide assistance to the City of Bethel for the sewage clean up effort; and

FURTHER; that the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Emergency Services provide financial assistance for mitigating repairs to the sewage lagoon dike and outlet structure; and

FURTHER; that the Honorable Walter J. Hickel amend the Governor's proposed capital budget to the Alaska State Legislature to include an appropriation to the City of Bethel in the amount of \$3,000,000 for constructing an additional sewage lagoon cell.

PASSES AND APPROVED THIS 12 DAY OF April, 1991.



Gary Vanasse, Mayor

ATTEST:



Anna McGowan, City Clerk