

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
WASTEWATER AND SEPTAGE ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 17-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH WASTEWATER AND SEPTAGE ADVISORY BOARD (WSAB) REQUESTING THAT THE ASSEMBLY TAKE NO ACTION ON THE PROPOSED MORATORIUM ON SOIL APPLICATION OF BIOSOLIDS UNTIL AFTER THE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING PLANS FOR THE PROPOSED SEPTAGE & LEACHATE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITY ARE COMPLETE AND THE WSAB HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THEM AND PROVIDE ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE ASSEMBLY.

WHEREAS, a draft ordinance is currently in front of the Planning Commission recommending the Assembly establish a moratorium on the soil application of biosolids generated from the treatment of wastewater; and

WHEREAS, since the formation of the WSAB in 2012, it has closely followed the existing practices for septage and leachate disposal in the Southcentral Alaska region; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years, the WSAB has heard several presentations and held discussions on many wastewater and septage-related topics, including biosolids; and

WHEREAS, the WSAB, which is advisory to the Assembly, has provided numerous resolutions advising the Assembly on the advancement of the proposed facility, including site selection and funding options; and

WHEREAS, to date, the WSAB has not passed a resolution regarding biosolids and only recently became aware of this proposed legislation when contacted by the Planning Commission staff; and

WHEREAS, the Septage & Leachate Treatment and Disposal Facility will be located on Borough property at the Central Landfill and operated by the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Septage & Leachate Treatment and Disposal Facility has only just begun the design process, however, it is known that the facility will generate significant amounts of

biosolids; and

WHEREAS, disposal options for the biosolids are likely to be either via conversion of the wastewater treatment by-product to a marketable compost/fertilizer or discarding it in the municipal solid waste cells at the Central Landfill; and

WHEREAS, other options may exist but are yet to be identified; and

WHEREAS, representatives from the Borough's Planning Department agreed to provide an initial briefing on the Planning Commission's proposed legislation and its background to the WSAB at its May 19, 2017 meeting; and


WHEREAS, the Borough intends to enter into a contract this summer with local and national engineering firms to evaluate and recommend design and operational solutions for the proposed septage and leachate facility; and

WHEREAS, the analysis and recommendations will include an in-depth examination of solids disposal alternatives, including the various advantages and disadvantages of each; and

WHEREAS, a moratorium or ban on the use of biosolids would likely influence the design engineers' evaluation of the disposal options, and could lead to increased capital costs for the new facility or higher demand for landfill airspace and associated operational costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board respectfully requests that the Assembly take no action on the proposed moratorium on soil application of biosolids until after the preliminary engineering plans for the proposed Septage & Leachate Treatment and Disposal Facility are complete and the WSAB has had an opportunity to review them and provide its recommendation to the Assembly.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board this 19th day of May, 2017.


_____, Chair

ATTEST:



Debbie Passmore, Board Administration