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December 14, 1979

Avrum M. Gross, Attorney General
DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear

Over the past two years one of the primary concerns of the Water Resources Board has been to review the activities and responsibilities of state agencies and make recommendations which improve the timeliness and consistency of responses by state entities to public concerns. Other recommendations have been directed at improved utilization of tax dollars by minimizing duplicative activities.

The good news is we feel that the principle agencies of DEC, DNR, and ADF&G have made some significant advances in this regard through implementation of a cooperative water permit processing agreement, adoption of regulations which clarify procedures and policies, and in the case of DEC and DNR, implementation of departmental reorganizations, and development of new budget processes which enable a clearer understanding of allocations of staff resources and results to be delivered.

The bad news is that it takes time for the public to realize the benefit of these actions and that we continue to receive testimony from the general public which indicates more may need to be done in the area of legislation, budget priorities, and interagency relations. We have heard from the public on many specific concerns and the agencies on specific actions taken to improve agency cooperation and delivery of services.

At this time we feel it is appropriate to step back and take a look at the bigger picture of water resources in general. We desire to discuss this at the next Board meeting scheduled in Juneau on March 13-14, 1980 and request the detailed assistance of DEC, DNR, ADF&G and Law. As a basis for discussion we request that the agencies review the 1977 report of Frank Trelease and advise us on the progress made in implementing recommendations, those recommendations that may now be invalid, and any

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concerns the agencies have regarding overlapping statutory authorities or legislative recommendations that may be needed to resolve their concerns. In order to be prepared for this discussion we request that these four departments review the report and provide written comments or recommendations to the Board no later than February 28, 1980. A copy of the report and list of Board members is enclosed for your information.

We look forward to working with you and providing any assistance we can. If you have any questions on this proposal please feel free to contact me directly at 486-3157 in Kodiak.

Sincerely,

RICHARD H. SIMS
Chairman

cc: Jay S. Hammond, Governor