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February 22, 1982

Re: Hydrologic Data Collection

Commissioner John W. Katz
Department of Natural Resources
Pouch M
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Commissioner Katz:

At recent Alaska Water Resources Board meetings we have had recurring discussions on the difficulty of coordinating the Division of Geological and Geophysical Survey hydrological data collection program with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities capital improvement projects. Alaska is finally funding hydrologic data collection at a level commensurate with the size and needs of this state, yet no mechanism exists that is insuring that the data collection program will be addressing the hydrologic data needs of the capital improvement program that is implemented by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Our suggestion is that, along with coordinating your data collection program with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in the normal channels that we have recommended before, staff from the Division of Geological and Geophysical Survey, for example, or perhaps the Divisions of Land and Water Management or Research and Development analyze the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities capital improvement budget to determine what projects will have hydrologic data needs, both long-term and short-term, and in what parts of the state these needs will occur. This should be done annually and with assistance from the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Done properly, this analysis will provide a basis from which the Division of Geological and Geophysical Survey can coordinate its activities with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

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It is the Water Board's belief that the Division of Geological and Geophysical Survey should be addressing the data collection needs of all state agencies, not solely the Department of Natural Resources. We have seen progress in this regard but much is still needed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

RICHARD H. SIMS, Chairman
Alaska Water Resources Board

cc: Governor Jay S. Hammond
Commissioner Robert Ward