

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

WATER RESOURCES BOARD

323 E. 4TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
PHONE: (907) 279-5577

August 10, 1981

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

Dear Commissioner Katz:

One of the recurring topics of the Water Resources Board is organization of water resources programs in Alaska. At our meetings we are continually hearing of overlapping programs, lack of coordination and communication between agencies and a lack of direction for water resources programs in general. One idea we discussed was a consolidation of the water resources programs of the Departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation into one Department of Water Resources and in March 1981 we passed a resolution calling for a Division of Water Resources within the Department of Natural Resources. At our last meeting Dick Dworsky, director of the Southcentral Alaska Water Resources Study (Level B), gave a presentation based on the enclosed memorandum on a state water resources priority setting process which relates to our interest in organization of water resources programs.

The enclosed memorandum suggests that the Water Resources Board function as a priority setting body for water resources programs and projects. The memorandum describes what the priority setting function could entail and lists possible activity groupings. Assumption of this function would be a big change in the duties of the Board. It would require added time for the Board members plus additional staff support. The Board has not taken action on this proposal, either pro or con. It was received at the July meeting and at that time the Board members agreed to review the proposal.

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We are forwarding this proposal on to you because of the Department of Natural Resources' staff relationship to the Board and its lead responsibility for the management of Alaska's resources. With the large capital budgeting for programs involving water resources increasing annually, it is our belief that some objective direction is needed.

We welcome your views on this subject.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Sims
Chairman

cc: Governor Jay S. Hammond