

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

WATER RESOURCES BOARD

323 E. 4TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

March 12, 1981

Robert E. LeResche, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
Pouch M
Juneau, Alaska 99811

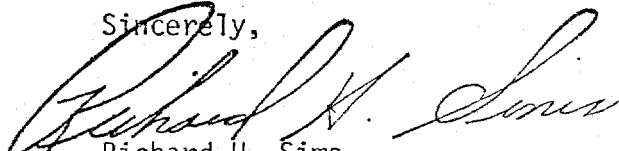
Dear Commissioner LeResche:

At our March meeting in Juneau during the Department's agency report we heard that the adjudication of water rights, including federal reserved water rights, in the Ship Creek Basin near Anchorage would be initiated soon. The need for this adjudication was identified at our December 1979 meeting and at that time we were promised that the adjudication would be done. At each of our meetings since then we have been told that the adjudication "would be initiated soon."

The Board is of a strong opinion that the uncertainty that unquantified federal reserved water rights cause the water supply planning for the Municipality of Anchorage is a problem that demands immediate attention. The adjudication, because it will be a court proceeding, could take years to complete if contested thus initiation should not be delayed. The Municipality needs to know as soon as possible how much water from Ship Creek is available. We request that you direct your staff to work with the Department of Law to get this adjudication underway.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Sims
Chairman

cc: Wilson Condon, Dept. of Law