

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

WATER RESOURCES BOARD

323 E. 4TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

December 18, 1980

Commissioner Robert Ward
Department of Transportation &
Public Facilities
Pouch Z
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Commissioner Ward:

At our December 3-5, 1980 meeting the Water Resources Board heard presentations from Steve Mack of the Department of Natural Resources on the state's grant application for the Title III program of the U.S. Water Resources Council and by Dan Wilkerson of the Department of Environmental Conservation on a proposed administrative order establishing a state water resources council. The latter presentation described the latest efforts by State agency staff to create a water resources coordination group that would meet regularly. Staff from your agency have probably participated in this effort at some time, whether it be as part of the Water Policy Working Group, Alaska Water Study Committee or Floodplain Management Subcommittee of the Alaska Land Manager's Task Force. Both of these presentations pointed out the difficulty, given Alaska's fragmented approach to water resources management, of developing a comprehensive look at the state's water resources problems and prioritizing water resources programs. Coordination and exchange of information is less than ideal and it is difficult to develop broad interagency support for any programs.

The Water Resources Board is one forum that could provide a starting point for the development of a state agency consensus for water resources issues. For our March 4-6, 1981, meeting we are asking all the agencies involved in water resources programs to give a short presentation on water resources problems from their agency's perspective and what water resources programs the agency is proposing for FY 82. We would expect this to be a staff level presentation and propose using a panel approach with all agencies present during each presentation. We expect these presentations will give the Board a comprehensive look at all the agencies' water resources programs and give agency staff an opportunity to discuss their programs with their counterparts from other agencies. This should help identify problem areas, better enable coordination of efforts and exchange of information, help interagency support for programs for the next budget cycle, and also fit in with the effort to establish a water resources coordination group. If found useful this approach could be done annually.

Commissioner Ward

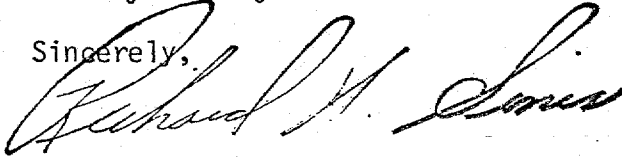
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Please contact Steve Mack of the Department of Natural Resources (279-5577) for details of the meeting arrangements.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard H. Sims". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Richard H. Sims, Chairman