

2.3 Infrastructure and Public Services

Exhibit 2-5 shows the location of public and community facilities such as schools, post offices, fire stations, police stations, major utility facilities, and water/wastewater service areas. There are private walk-in health clinics in West Anchorage but no hospitals.

2.3.1 Water and Wastewater

Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) provides public water and sewer service to most of the planning area within a certificated boundary for each permitted by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (Exhibit 2-4). Residents in West Anchorage outside the AWWU service area operate private on-site wells and septic systems or receive service from one of four small private water utilities. Detailed information about the water distribution and sewer system can be found in the 2005 *AWWU Anchorage Water Master Plan* and the 2006 *AWWU Anchorage Wastewater Master Plan*.

Wastewater Treatment Facility - The AWWU Asplund Wastewater Treatment Facility is located within the study area near the inlet at the northwest corner of the airport. It has capacity to process 58 million gallons of effluent per day for primary treatment. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is evaluating reauthorization of the facility's discharge permit under Section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act, which allows marine discharge of primary treatment effluent. Should EPA determine that Section 301(h) no longer applies, the facility may need to add equipment and facilities for secondary treatment. The 75-acre reserve south of the existing site is held to accommodate future such expansions. (See the AWWU Industrial-zoned parcel in the northwest corner of the map in Exhibit 2-1.)

2.3.2 Storm Water

The Municipality and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) own, operate, and maintain West Anchorage's storm drain system. The system comprises storm drains, catch basins, oil/grease separators, and sedimentation basins. In most of the developed areas of West Anchorage, storm water is collected and piped for discharge to reduce uncontrolled runoff from rain and melting snow on public streets and other urban areas. Most runoff is collected and filtered to remove urban pollutants prior to discharge to surface waters such as creeks, lakes, wetlands, or into Cook Inlet.

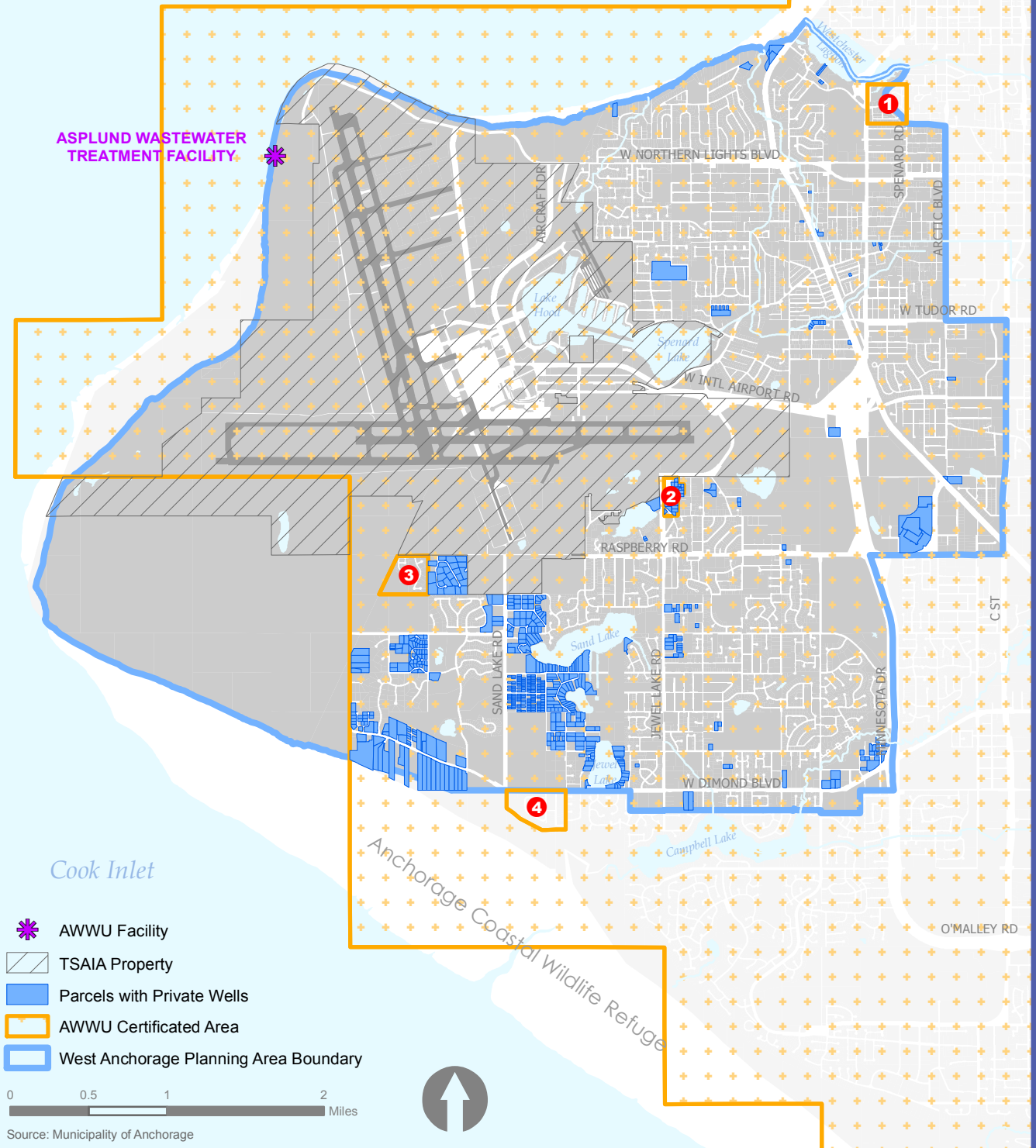
Both the Municipality and TSAIA operate under special regulations in their respective Alaska Pollution and Discharge Elimination Systems (APDES) permits, issued to each by the EPA. Both permits require that TSAIA and the Municipality upgrade their storm water controls and collection systems to ultimately maximize treatment of all runoff, both from storm events on a regional scale and at individual construction sites.

2.3.3 Solid Waste and Recycling













Alaska Waste and the MOA Solid Waste Services collects and disposes of solid waste in West Anchorage. Most residential and commercial waste is trucked to the Central Transfer Station and then hauled in trailers to the Anchorage Regional Landfill. Products not accepted at the transfer station must be delivered directly to the landfill (i.e., some commercial and industrial wastes). Clean construction material can be delivered to the privately owned Lucy Pit Fill Site at Kincaid Road and Lucy Street that is being filled for future development. The Anchorage Regional Landfill has sufficient capacity to accommodate the long-term solid waste needs of the Municipality.

Certificated Water Utility Areas

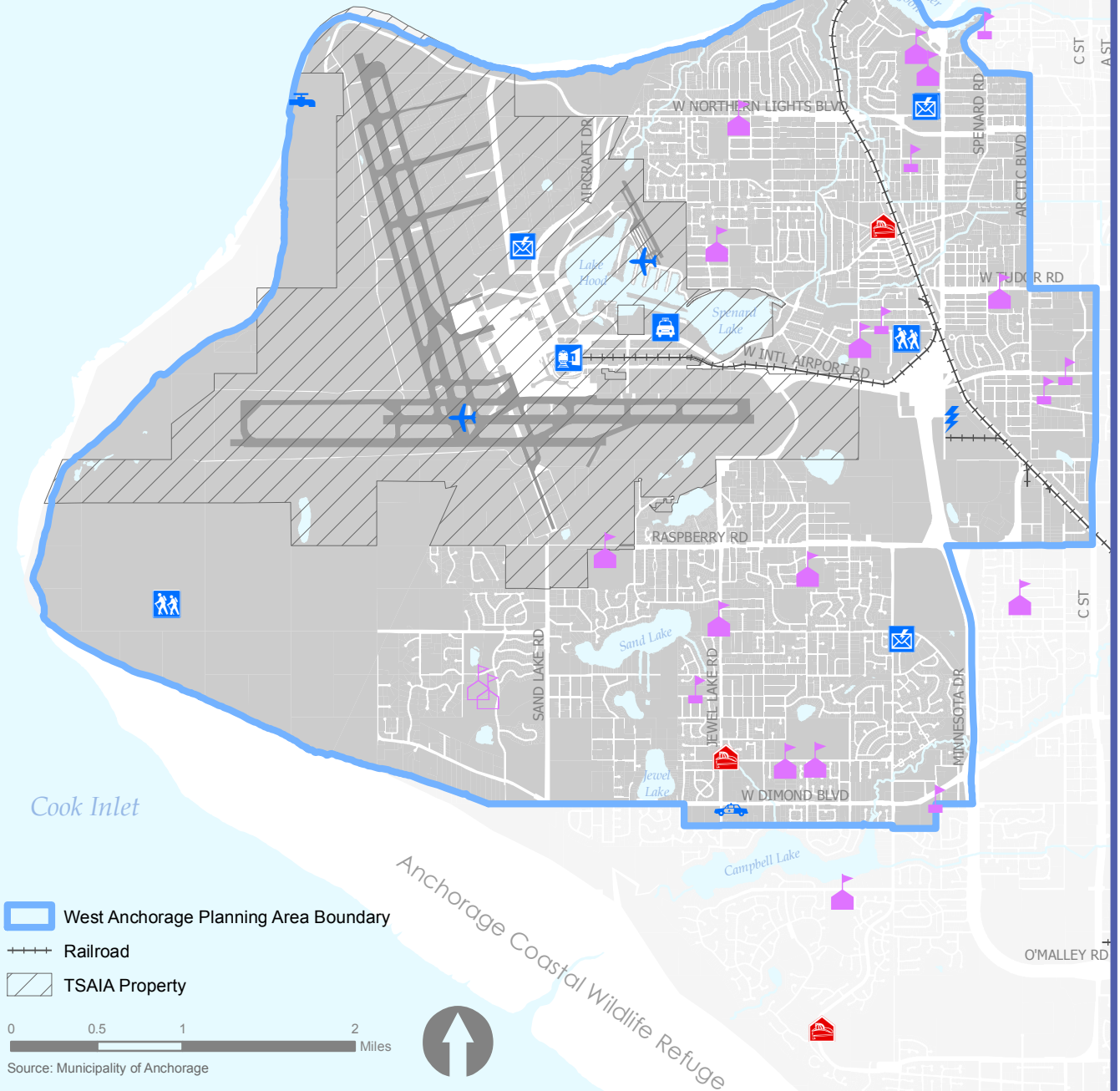
- ❶ Romig Park Improvement Company - Certificate No. 82
- ❷ Spenard Heights Water System - Certificate No. 271
- ❸ South Central Utilities Inc. - Certificate No. 361
- ❹ Sand Lake Services - Certificate No. 76



Public and Community Facilities

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|  | Post Office |  | Airport |
|  | Police Station |  | Community Recreation Building |
|  | Electric Facility |  | State D.O.T. Facility |
|  | Wastewater Treatment Plant |  | Train Depot |
|  | Fire Station |  | Charter and Private Schools |
|  | Public Schools | | |
|  | Future School | | |

Note: Facilities shown within airport property are subject to temporary discretionary use agreement.



2.3.4 Power and Heating

Enstar provides 90% of the natural gas for residential heating or appliances in Anchorage. Enstar also provides natural gas to commercial customers and to electric companies for power generation. The Enstar transmission line travels from the Kenai Peninsula and enters the planning area roughly along the Anchorage Railroad ROW.

Municipal Light & Power (ML&P) provides electricity for the northwest corner of the planning area, while Chugach Electric Association (CEA) is the power provider to the remainder of the planning area.

The Municipality conducted a baseline greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory in 2009 with the intent to follow up with the *Anchorage Climate Action Plan* that outlines strategies and policies for reducing the MOA carbon footprint. The MOA's total emissions were calculated from: public buildings, vehicle fleet, employee commute, street lights, water/sewage, and solid waste.

2.3.5 Cellular Towers

There are dozens of registered cellular towers located in West Anchorage. Service is widely available in West Anchorage, but there are areas within and around Kincaid Park with service gaps. Tower construction is regulated by Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) 21.45.265 and heights are restricted by zoning district. The MOA encourages co-use of cell towers by multiple carriers to avoid the construction of excessive towers.

2.3.6 Civic and Cultural Facilities

Civic and cultural facilities in West Anchorage include churches, the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum, Spenard Recreation Center, Asian Alaskan Cultural Center (in Northwood Elementary), Kincaid Bunker, and Turnagain Arts Building. There are no libraries in West Anchorage except those in public schools.

The Library Department's 2010 Library Plan reported that a peer analysis showed the Loussac Library, which is a few miles east of the planning area, to be among the largest of main libraries serving populations between 250,000 and 350,000. On the other hand, a comparison of libraries serving similar-sized populations showed that Anchorage has less than half the number of branch locations. The Library Plan includes the following action items:

- Increase the number of branch libraries and enhance some of the existing branches to strengthen their ability to serve as centers of community life.

Planning for additional branches should continue; however, no additional facilities should be opened until funding is available to sustain them without diluting already strained staff and material resources. Consultants strongly recommend that the Anchorage Public Library carry out a master facilities planning process as soon as is practical to determine the number of facilities, the size of facilities, and the nature of any new service outlets. A public library in the Spenard Corridor could compliment and support future revitalization efforts.

2.3.7 Anchorage Police Department

West Anchorage lies almost entirely within the Anchorage Police Department (APD) West Patrol District. Crime density maps created by the Police Department show small pockets of property crimes occur in Spenard. There are no severe "person crime" hot spots in the planning area, but there are moderate spots in Spenard and along West 88th Avenue in Sand Lake. Crime hot spot maps can be viewed on the MOA website at: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/police/stats>.

2.3.8 Education

West Anchorage contains public elementary, middle, and high schools run by the ASD, as well as privately run charter/alternative schools. There are no near-term site selections for new schools in West Anchorage identified in the ASD District Ten Year Capital Improvement Plan (2009-2019). However, two new school sites have already been selected in the Sand Lake gravel pit area.

The ASD adopted a master plan for the West Romig campus in 2010. The plan envisions restructuring the campus into a hub that integrates joint community and educational use of school facilities through the “Active Educational Enterprise Partners” program. The implementation of the plan would contribute to the Spenard town center.