MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE WATERSHED & NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 2010-02

A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING SUPPORT OF THE GREAT LAND TRUST ACQUISITION OF A 60-ACRE PARCEL AT THE CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY.

(WNRC Case No. 10-02)

WHEREAS, The Great Land Trust, a local non-profit, has worked in partnership with the Municipality of Anchorage since 1995 to identity properties within its boundaries that have high ecological and public purpose value; and

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission that Great Land Trust is seeking to purchase a 60-acre parcel at the mouth of Campbell Creek and donate it to the Municipality for parkland; and

WHEREAS, the <u>Anchorage 2020-Anchorage Bowl Comprehensive Plan</u> contains several policies (# 63, 67, 70, & 84) that address greenbelt acquisition, coastal access, and conservation easements for critical wildlife habitats. One of the Anchorage 2020 Plan's implementation strategies specifies municipal partnerships with non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements and the Campbell Creek estuary property is specifically identified as a priority parcel for natural open space; and

WHEREAS, the <u>Anchorage Bowl Park, Natural Resource, and Recreation Facility Plan</u> highlights numerous goals (such as acquiring land on both sides of all major streams and working with land trusts to secure greenbelts, especially access to public lands such as the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge), which are achieved by the conservation of the Campbell Creek estuary; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust has successfully raised over half the funds to purchase the 60-acre parcel at the mouth of Campbell Creek, which would be turned over to the Municipality for parkland; and

WHEREAS, the property would have a conservation easement, which would allow for public access and limited trail and educational uses but limit impacts to the wetlands and nearby uplands; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust has raised funds for a stewardship endowment to ensure that the property is annually monitored for encroachments at no cost to the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust has also committed \$175,000 to fund the cleanup of the site, a park development plan, and modest infrastructure development, and to work with the Municipality to raise additional funds for a maintenance endowment.

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission Resolution No. 2010-02 Page 2

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission supports Great Land Trust in its efforts to secure funding to purchase the 60-acre parcel and finalize the details of the transfer to the Municipality of Anchorage for parkland.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission on the 26th day of May 2010.

Jerry T. Weaver, Jr. Secretary

Tamás Deák Chair