

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
WATERSHED & NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 2011-02

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE DRAFT WEST ANCHORAGE DISTRICT PLAN CONCERNING A COMPREHENSIVE LAND TRADE TO RESOLVE LAND USE ISSUES IN THE VICINITY OF THE AIRPORT.

(WNRC Case No. 11-02)

WHEREAS, in response to long-standing land use issues generated by the location of the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (TSAIA) in proximity to neighborhoods and popular public recreation areas, *Anchorage 2020-Anchorage Bowl Comprehensive Plan* directed the *West Anchorage District Plan* to address and resolve these issues; and

WHEREAS, several areas used by the public and the Municipality as parks or public facilities, including portions of Kincaid Park, Connor's Lake Park, the Coastal Trail, and the Kloop Snow Dump, are actually on land owned by TSAIA; and

WHEREAS, because TSAIA has the capacity to use these parcels for airport activities at such time as the airport has the need, public uses of these areas cannot be permanent; and

WHEREAS, Federal Aviation Administration regulations require TSAIA to maintain airport designated land for airport uses in perpetuity, so TSAIA cannot dispose of these parcels readily; and

WHEREAS, the TSAIA's master plan identifies a future North-South runway and related airport facilities in areas west of the existing North-South runway in acreage owned by the Municipality, including AWWU land, HLB land, and Point Woronzof Park; and

WHEREAS, throughout the West Anchorage District planning process, the public has stated its intent to retain buffers for neighborhoods and public uses and access to these areas on the airport while at the same time TSAIA has maintained an interest in municipal lands for a future runway and related airport activities; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed & Natural Resources Commission acknowledges the importance of TSAIA to the Municipality of Anchorage and to the State of Alaska and supports long-term airport development and commercial enterprises on airport properties; and

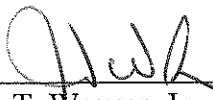
WHEREAS, the Watershed & Natural Resources Commission acknowledges the importance to the public and the Municipality of Anchorage for continued use of and access to the TSAIA property now used as buffers, wildlife habitat, and public recreation areas; and

WHEREAS, the *West Anchorage District Plan* is currently under public review for a Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing and the Watershed & Natural Resources Commission has reviewed the draft plan specifically for items under its purview at their regular meeting of August 24, 2011.

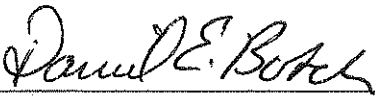
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

- A. The Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission supports those sections in Chapter 4 and 5 of the Draft *West Anchorage District Plan* that recommends a comprehensive land trade between TSAIA and the Municipality as an implementation action to resolve long-term land use conflicts.
- B. The Commission finds that this land trade or similar acquisition process offers maximum and realistic benefits to both land owners and to the public.
- C. The Commission acknowledges that the land trade recommendations may include compromises and considerable negotiations but these are outweighed by the overall public benefits. This resolution does not imply Commission support for a future North-South runway or other development at TSAIA, which will require significant public and agency scrutiny.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission on the 24th day of August 2011.



Jerry T. Weaver, Jr.
Secretary



Daniel E. Bosch
Acting Chair

(Case No. 11-02)