

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

- P.O. BOX 111000
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-1000
PHONE: (907) 465-2400
FAX: (907) 465-3886
- 550 WEST 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1400
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3650
PHONE: (907) 269-8431
FAX: (907) 269-8918

October 12, 2011

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Pam Finley
Revisor of Statutes
Legislative Affairs Agency
Legislative Legal and Research Services
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: Certification Letter –Mineral Closing Order 593, Amendment 3

Dear Governor Parnell and Ms. Finley:

The purpose of this letter is to certify, pursuant to sec. 4, ch. 8, SLA 2003, that development of a resort within the Glacier and Winner Creek drainages near Girdwood has begun, with the effect of terminating Mineral Opening Order No. 603. Under sec. 2, ch. 8, SLA 2003, the Legislature closed state-owned land within the Glacier and Winner Creek drainages to mineral entry. Sec. 3 of the Act repeals the mineral closure effective April 3, 2012, unless the Commissioner of Natural Resources certifies to the Governor and the Revisor of Statutes on or before April 2, 2012 that development of a resort as described in sec. 1, ch. 8, SLA 2003 and as provided in state and Municipality of Anchorage land use plans has begun in the area closed to mineral entry.

Community interest in expanding recreational opportunities within the Girdwood Valley has increased significantly within the last decade. The original development vision of a new four season resort has expanded to include a variety of recreational development opportunities. Local interest groups, private businesses, and governmental agencies have developed Nordic ski trails, expanded backcountry helicopter and snowcat skiing opportunities, and upgraded local trails including the Winner Creek Trail system, and the owner of Alyeska Resort has commissioned the development of a Master Development Plan to promote skier based recreational facilities within the Glacier and Winner Creek drainages. This continued development was further supported by the administration's approval of 3.5 million dollars to the Municipality of Anchorage to extend Arlberg Road to secure access into the Winner Creek area. This road extension project will encourage additional recreational infrastructure and support a variety of recreational opportunities.

As the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, I hereby certify that development of a resort as provided in State and Municipality of Anchorage land use plans has begun in the Glacier and Winner Creek drainages. Therefore, by operation of sec. 4, ch. 8, SLA 2003, Mineral Opening

"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans."

Order No. 603 is terminated and the mineral entry closure of all land described within Mineral Closing Order 593, Amendment 3, remains in effect.

Respectfully,



Daniel S. Sullivan, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Cc: Hon. Gary Stevens, Senate President
Hon. Mike Chenault, Speaker of the House of Representatives
John Burns, Attorney General
John Byrne, Alyeska Resort President