

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

substantially been exhausted with Spring 2009 disbursements. At this time, there is a need to postpone processing 2009-2010 loan applications until such time as funding has been secured. Currently, market-based issuance costs have reached prohibitive levels relative to the economics of ASLC programs. ASLC has been attempting to issue Variable Rate Demand Bonds (VRDB), for which a market still exists. Structurally, VRDBs are attractive to investors because they are credit enhanced through some form of external liquidity provider, thereby eliminating investor liquidity risk. VRDBs can be held in money market accounts due to the liquidity facility expanding the investor base for ASLC bonds. However, over the course of 2008 the cost of liquidity/credit enhancement increased dramatically as demand grew exponentially and supply declined at an alarming rate due to financial institution consolidations, ratings downgrades, and a general reluctance of the usual players to put further strain on their balance sheets. Liquidity costs have more than quadrupled and there is nothing currently occurring in the financial services arena to indicate this problem will improve any time soon to once again enable ASLC to finance its programs as it has successfully done over the preceding twenty years of operation.

The FY09 cost will require a supplemental amendment of \$60,000 to ACPE's Program Administration and Operations component (2738) using postsecondary receipts as the funding source (1106). The remaining FY09 cost of \$70,000 will be absorbed by the Department of Revenue's current appropriation of Alaska Postsecondary Education Commission Receipts (1106) which are projected to be available for that purpose.