

**Municipality  
of  
Anchorage**



*P.O. Box 390  
Girdwood, Alaska 99587  
<http://www.muni.org/gbos>*

*Suzanne LaFrance Mayor*

*GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Briana Sullivan & Mike Edgington, Co-Chairs  
Jennifer Wingard, Brian Burnett, Kellie Okonek*

**Resolution 2024-12  
Of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors  
Resolution of Support for Seeking Grant Funding to Extend Girdwood Water Service**

WHEREAS, Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) provides sewer service to almost all of lower Girdwood Valley and water service to a majority of residences in Girdwood Valley, and

WHEREAS, water service is limited to the section of the valley east of Glacier Creek and some of Girdwood Town Center, but does not serve properties to the west of California Creek, including much of Alyeska Highway, the Mine Roads and Old Girdwood, hereafter the “unserved area”; and

WHEREAS, housing and commercial property in the unserved area rely on wells or forego on-site water source; and

WHEREAS, new development in the unserved area is increasing pressure on the local aquifer and reports of unreliable and decreased well performance have risen, in addition to many wells beginning to reach end of service life, requiring homeowners to invest in more extensive maintenance, and;

WHEREAS, accounts of saltwater intrusion into private wells in the Old Girdwood area and other water-quality problems have been documented, including arsenic contamination, described at private wells within the unserved area west of Glacier Creek; and

WHEREAS, there are no fire hydrants in the unserved area of Girdwood Valley, so the fire department relies on water tender shuttle service from sources such as Glacier Creek; and

WHEREAS, during a structure fire, active fire suppression requires constant water flow from a hydrant versus drafting water into an engine from a portable water tank or a nurse tender operation with an additional apparatus, all of which is dependent upon water tankers bringing water from other hydrants in Girdwood; and

WHEREAS, the lack of hydrants is the primary reason of a higher ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule of a 4 for the areas with no hydrants, leading to a higher insurance rate now and into the future; and

WHEREAS, several Municipality-owned parcels suitable for higher density housing development are located within the unserved area, where future municipal water service would strengthen the feasibility of attainable housing; and

WHEREAS, AWWU has recently adopted a model of “levy on connection” for grant-funded capital projects, such that property owners only pay assessments when they choose to connect to a new system, and

WHEREAS, there are currently a historically large amount of grant opportunities available, many arising from the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, along with other State and Federal sources; and

WHEREAS, AWWU has produced a conceptual plan and cost estimate for Girdwood water system extension as Attachment A, split into multiple phases to allow maximum flexibility to respond to specific grant conditions.

WHEREAS, support for this action was received from the Girdwood Land Use Committee by a vote of 13 in favor, 4 opposed and 4 abstaining at their December 9, 2024 regular meeting.

THEREFORE, Girdwood Board of Supervisors supports working with AWWU to seek grant funding to extend the water system within Girdwood Valley to include Alyeska Highway, the Mine Roads, and Old Girdwood. PASSED AND APPROVED by a vote of 4 to 0 this 16th day of December 2024.

*Mike Edgington*

Mike Edgington  
GBOS Co-Chair

*Margaret Tyler*

Attest