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August 29, 2000

This serves as the final report of the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) required by 3 AAC 110.530 concerning the pending petition of the City of Ketchikan to annex 27.41 acres in Bear Valley.

The annexation petition was initiated at the request of the owners of all property proposed for annexation. The territory proposed for annexation is uninhabited.

On July 31, 2000, DCED issued its requisite preliminary report on the annexation proposal. The preliminary report was distributed to interested parties and was also made available for review by the general public in Ketchikan. The seventeen-page preliminary report concluded that all applicable standards for annexation set out in State law had been met with respect to the pending annexation proposal. Consequently, the report made a preliminary recommendation that the Local Boundary Commission approve the City of Ketchikan's petition.

DCED provided an opportunity for written comments on its preliminary report as required by 3 AAC 110.530 and 3 AAC 110.640. August 28, 2000 was set by the Local Boundary Commission Chairman as the deadline for receipt of written comments on the preliminary report. Timely comments on DCED's preliminary report were received only from the City of Ketchikan. In a one-page letter dated August 21, 2000, the Ketchikan City Manager stated, in part:

The City has no comments on the report other than concurring with the report's recommendation that all of the relevant standards for annexation have been satisfied. The City urges the Local Boundary Commission to approve the Petition of the City of Ketchikan to annex 27.41 acres in Bear Valley.

Therefore, DCED has determined that the analysis, conclusions, and recommendations set out in its July 31, 2000 *Preliminary Report Regarding the City of Ketchikan's Petition for Annexation of 27.41 Acres in Bear Valley* are appropriate as the final position of this agency. Accordingly, the preliminary report is incorporated herein by reference and is adopted as DCED's final report in this matter.

Cordially,

Patrick K. Poland

Director