

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)

Grant Recipient: Ninilchik Fair Association

Project Title:

Ninilchik Fair Association - Fairgrounds Water System Improvements

State Funding Requested: \$ 51,700

House District: 34 - Q

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Provides for improvements to the water system at the Ninilchik Fairgrounds.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$51,700

<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
There is no other funding needed					

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The project repairs and improves the drinking water system at the Kenai Peninsula Fairgrounds in Ninilchik.

In 2007, the drinking water at the fairgrounds was posted by ADEC as "DO NOT DRINK". Thousands of residents who attended the fair were witness to the problems with the water system.

The Fair Association not only hosts the State Fair in August but the facilities are also utilized as a community center for Ninilchik. It serves as the place to hold weddings, funerals, christmas programs, halloween events, and many other events through out the year.

Currently, there is a 10,000 gallon water tank that is maintained there as a service to the community. It serves as a source of water to the local fire department, obviously a critical function for the safety of the community.

The budget to improve the system is as follows:

Engineering plans: \$6,500
 Drill new well & install pump: \$5,700
 Excavation contractor: \$9,500
 Plumbing contractor: \$15,000
 Materials/tank/pump: \$15,000 (includes faster pump for Ninilchik Emergency Services fire system)

TOTAL: \$51,700

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

4:52 PM 4/29/2008

Project Timeline:

Upon notification of inclusion in the capital budget, the project will be bid and purchased - constructed with two years.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Ninilchik Fair Association

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Shirley Schollenberg

Phone Number: 567-3670

Address: PO Box 39210; Ninilchik, AK 99639

Email: kpsfair@acsalaska.net

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



Kenai Peninsula State Fair/Ninilchik Fair Association
P.O. Box 39210, Ninilchik, AK 99639
907-567-3670, kpsfair@acsalaska.net, www.kpsfair.org

February 27, 2008

Senator Tom Wagoner
State Capital, Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Attn: Mary Jackson

On behalf of the Ninilchik Fair Association (NFA) I am requesting \$51,700 to repair and improve the drinking water system at the Kenai Peninsula Fairgrounds in Ninilchik. For detailed cost breakdown, please see budget below.

We have been working with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for several years to address the water problems at the fairgrounds and we have finally reached a critical point.

As you may know, the fairgrounds is used as a location for the annual three-day fair in August and is very important as a community center, not only for Ninilchik but for other nearby communities. Currently, NFA has a wonderful partnership with the Ninilchik Traditional Council (NTC) to operate a health club on the grounds.

NTC has launched an open-access club in one of the fair buildings using grant funds that were designated to address health issues such as diabetes in Native Americans. With funding for operation, but not to construct a building, NFA and NTC collaborated to donate the use of a large fairground building to house equipment and the club activities, free of charge, for over four hundred members.

This winter, another fairgrounds building was opened as a Teen Center each Friday. The center provides teens with a safe place to study, complete homework as well as providing activities including computer use, movies and video games.

The fairgrounds is used for weddings, funerals, 4-H educational events and annual events such as the Community Christmas Program, Halloween Hoot, Horse Camp, Ninilchik Rodeo and Ninilchik Emergency Services Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast fundraiser.

In relation to the water system, there is a 10,000 gallon water tank we maintain as a service to the community. This is the only large source of water available to the fire department for fighting fires. It is very important that we maintain this system for protection of our community.

As you can see, being threatened with shut down due would be devastating to our community and all those that depend on the fairgrounds to meet their needs.

It has very recently come to our attention that several organizations, (i.e. Rasmussen Foundation and the Homer Foundation) will only grant funds to a 501(c)3 non-profit. The fair was

incorporated in 1957 as a 501(c)5. We are addressing this but it will take time to establish a history as a 501(c)3 as required and we are rapidly running out of time to address the water issue.

I have contacted other grantors, such as the State of Alaska DCRA and was told unless our project is chosen by the Borough as one of their capital projects, it won't qualify for their program. I have recently made numerous calls to ADEC Village Safe Water and have received no reply. ADEC has a large VSW project in Ninilchik but we don't expect it to be online for 3-5 years. Again, we don't have that much time.

The proposed budget for repair to drinking water system at Kenai Peninsula State Fairgrounds, Ninilchik, Alaska is as follows:

Engineering plan:	\$6,500
Drill new well and install pump	\$5,700
Excavation contractor:	\$9,500
Plumbing contractor:	\$15,000
Materials/tanks/pump	<u>\$15,000</u> – (includes faster pump for Ninilchik Emergency Services fire hydrant)
	\$51,700

Thank you for considering this worthwhile project and please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Shirley Schollenberg
NFA Board Member
Water Committee