

presented 3/22/99  
H.

**WASILLA CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION MEMORANDUM**

**IM No. 99-32**

**SUBJECT: Attached Correspondence**

PREPARED BY: Administration

DATE: March 15, 1999

FOR AGENDA OF: March 22, 1999

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**SUMMARY:**

**FYI:**

Please see attached correspondence:

- Alaska Railroad Corporation
- In-Kind Donations Report

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  No  Yes, amount requested: \$

Fund:

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

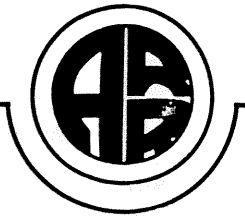


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Reviewed by: SARAH PALIN, Mayor

Attachments: Alaska Railroad Corporation Letter  
In-Kind Donations Report

# ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION



Corporate Address: P.O. Box 107500, Anchorage, Alaska 99510  
327 W. Ship Creek Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

March 12, 1999

Mayor Sarah Palin  
City of Wasilla  
1018 Westpoint Drive  
Wasilla, AK 99654

*Council - the  
RR has assured  
us this does  
not affect  
Wasilla* (AP)

Dear Mayor Palin,

I am writing to let you know that the Alaska Railroad Corporation has applied for a permit to apply a widely used herbicide in limited areas of its right-of-way during the 1999 summer season.

We plan to use a variety of methods to cut back and control vegetation along the railroad. But we plan to apply the herbicide *Roundup Pro* in the rail yards of Whittier, Seward, Anchorage and Fairbanks, along with sections of Palmer, Eielson and Fairbanks Airport spurs, and at the Curry siding. These are the areas where safety concerns, the level of traffic and the lack of potential access by the public make herbicide control the safest and most effective solution.

The problems with uncontrolled vegetation are acute, and the most important problems are railroad worker safety and rail operational safety. Weeds obscure tripping hazards to employees working the rail yards, where most employee "on the ground" activity takes place, often around moving equipment. Weeds interfere with track safety inspections and operations of switches and signals. The root systems of the plants gradually destroy the gravel roadbed by impeding drainage and destabilizing the roadbed. Weeds also present a significant fire danger.

Since 1990, we have spent more than \$1 million in studies and field tests of alternative methods to control vegetation, including burning, infrared treatment, steam, hot water and hand pulling. All of these methods have their own drawbacks, but the basic problem is that they do not kill root systems and the vegetation tends to grow back quickly. In some cases, the alternative controls actually speed up re-growth.

Although this herbicide degrades quickly and its environmental safety has been solidly established, we chose not to apply for widespread application of this chemical due to past public concerns about herbicide use. Further, we have asked the Department of Environmental Conservation to hold public hearings in the communities where the applications are planned, and we will sponsor an "open house" informational session before each hearing.

We are convinced that applying herbicides is the best option available to us, but we are mindful of the public's past sensitivity to this issue. For that reason, we will be working closely with the Department of Environmental Conservation to ensure that residents near the areas to be treated are kept aware of our activities and have ample opportunity to comment on our permit application.

We will let you know when the Department of Environmental Conservation sets a schedule for public hearings. In the meantime, if you would like a copy of our permit application or have any questions about our application, please contact Ernie Piper at 265-2410.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Very truly yours,



Bill Sheffield  
President and CEO

# Memorandum

**To:** Councilmember Keller  
**CC:** City Councilmembers  
**From:** Mayor Palin  
**Date:** 03/16/99  
**Re:** In-Kind Donations Report

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**The following information should help answer your question regarding City resources spent on "Community Events".**

**The Iditarod seems to take more time than other community events:**

WPD "donated" eight hours of OT for one officer at the Iditarod. I allowed Chief Fannon and Walt Gilmour to attend prep meetings for the event and the actual event itself. Mr. Gilmour obtained 22 officers and men from the ASDF, along with their equipment, to ensure a safe re-start event. This equaled at least 308 hours of volunteer time by the ASDF. Three times last year the Chief authorized four hours of OT for one officer to help at a large school dance. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July the Chief authorized 16 hours of OT for extra traffic control during the parade and street dance and at Newcomb Park. Two officers are usually needed for four hours each at the Christmas Tree lighting and fireworks ceremony at Wonderland. (This includes time spent on traffic control for the hayrides.) This totals = 46 hours.

Planning Dept. gave four hours of the Planner's time to the Iditarod. The Planning Clerk was given approximately eight hours to work on maps and give other assistance to the Iditarod. Other events and permit-required activities take a minimal amount of the Planning Dept's time.

The Parks Assistant (Parks and Properties Tech) spent 34.29 City hours on Iditarod events. She works with the Chamber of Commerce on other events throughout the year. She also works on events such as the Bike Rodeo, Safe Kids-type programs, swim programs, volleyball tournaments, Wonderland events, etc.

March 16, 1999

The Library Director reports the Library provides "in-kind" contributions to the community by posting and/or distributing information, providing income tax forms, assists schools with contests, etc. but it is tough to quantify the monetary level of contribution.

Public Works Dept. provides "in-kind" help with community events such as the Iditarod when it is appropriate for City crews to help with infrastructure needs to assist the event. By far the most significant project undertaken by Public Works is the re-start site prep. (Please see the attached memo and invoice that spells out the department's role in the airport site prep.) Public Works and Parks and Rec continually help out with projects such as beautification-type activities, the clean-up event, etc.

It is tough for me to quantify the amount of "in-kind" contributions made by Admin. I have many, many meetings, events, involvements in projects, etc. that require many hours beyond an 8 to 5 work schedule. Just about every weekend, on many evenings throughout the week and during most lunch hours I have something that I am requested to attend or participate in as the Mayor. I attempt to attend as many as possible I do not know if you consider my activities as City donations.

I hope some of your questions have been answered. City staff reminds me that providing the information you seek is a difficult request to comply with because so much of our duties as public servants involve assisting the public with their activities and projects. Some employees have never considered their involvement in activities in the community as "City donations" so it is not easy to differentiate between doing their jobs and going above and beyond their jobs where we may get into the "contribution" territory.

Please let me know if you need more information or if the City Council, as a body, would like to set a policy that addresses this issue.

RECEIVED

MAR 10 1999

CITY OF WASILLA, ALASKA

# Memorandum

**To:** Mayor Palin  
**Thru:** ~~Don Shiesl~~ Don Shiesl, Public Works Director  
**From:** ~~Larry Bridge~~ Larry Bridge, Roads Supervisor  
**Date:** March 10, 1999  
**Re:** In house costs Iditarod Restart

Per your request, the cost estimate for the Iditarod restart is as follows. This is a total cost of the actual hours of contract rental equipment time, in house man-hours; city owned equipment operation time, and fuel costs.

Because of unknown factors as to how much parking was needed as well as the total snow needed for the actual starting track, it may not be a good future reference. With no actual knowledge of what it would take, the department chose to make room for more spectators and parking at the time of preparation.

Contractor Rental Time - Rappe Excavating

Road Grader with wing	13.5 hrs @ \$76.75	=	\$1,036.13	
Wheel Loader	16.5 hrs @ \$72.00	=	\$1,280.50	
End Dump Trucks	47 hrs @ \$63.00	=	<u>\$2,961.00</u>	
	Total Rappe Invoice		\$5,277.63	see attached
In house man hours	60 hrs @ \$25.00	=	\$1,500.00	

In house equipment hrs and fuel cost

Loader and Snow Blower	83 gal	=	\$ 91.30
Motor Grader	55 gal	=	<u>\$ 45.00</u>
	Subtotal		\$ 136.30
	Total		<u>\$ 6913.93</u>

RAPPE EXCAVATING  
P.O. Box 878293  
WASILLA, ALASKA 99687

# INVOICE

3006

Phone 373-6655 • 495-6655

TO City of Wasilla  
290 East Herning  
Wasilla, AK

DATE 3/9/99 JOB NO. \_\_\_\_\_

JOB NAME Iditarod Preparation

JOB LOCATION City Airport

TERMS A 1½ service charge will be added monthly on the unpaid balance. (18% per annum)

	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	AMOUNT
>	City Airport Iditarod Restart Work		
3/2	Loader opening parking area 7¾ hours Loader @ \$78.80/hr		610.70
3/3	Grader blading parking area 9 hours Grader @ \$76.75/hr	MAR 9 1999 CITY OF WASILLA PUBLIC WORKS	690.75
3/4	Hauled off 236 End Dump loads for parking area 8½ hours loader @ \$78.80/hr 32 hours 4 End Dumps @ \$63/hr		669.80 2,016.00
3/5	Parking area and road widening cleaned up with Grader 4½ hours grader @ 76.75/hr		345.38
3/6	Hauled snow on Runway with Trucks 15 hours 4 End Dumps @ \$63/hr		945.00
<b>APPROVED FOR PAYMENT</b>			
Vendor# _____	Date: _____		
F/A. Yes _____ No _____ By _____			
TOTAL			\$ 5,277.63

Batch # \_\_\_\_\_ VR# \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU