



Ted Stevens

United States Senator for Alaska

Please Note:

- Fill out one request form for each request
- This form (and any attachments) can be returned via:

Fax - (202) 224-2354

Mail - The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

- Requests are due by February 15, 2008.

FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: Preliminary Planning and Engineering for Waste Water Treatment Plant

Project Location: Palmer, Alaska

Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):

Please see attached page.

Related Appropriations Bill: Department of the Interior

Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: \$138,719

Total funding to complete this project: \$287,500

Number of years to fund this project: 1 year

Matching funds from the State of Alaska: \$148,781

Matching funds from local and private entities:

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:

N/A

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: 0

Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: \$148,781

List legislation that authorizes this project:

Check all that apply:

- A change in the current law is necessary in order to proceed with the project. (If so, attach language and a list of laws that need to be amended)
- Bill or report language is needed. (If so, attach requested language)

Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

This project includes the planning and preliminary design of upgrades to the City of Palmer's (City) waste water treatment plant (WWTP). The City is currently operating an aerated facultative lagoon sewage treatment system that exceeds the ammonia limits specific in its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge permit. In 2006, the EPA issued a new NPDES discharge permit with restrictions on ammonia. The City must be in compliance with the new effluent limits by 2011.

This projects includes planning and preliminary design of upgrades or expansion of the existing lagoons, construction of new mechanical waster water treatment processes, and/or extending the sewage outfall to the main channel of the Matanuska River. This project will include preliminary design of improvements that will address the ammonia issues and the projected waste water flows. The cost of updating the WWTP is estimated to be \$30 to \$60 million depending on the treatment alternative selected by the City.

The City is currently completing a study of six treatment alternatives with cost estimates to bring the WWTP into permit compliance. The final study is anticipated in late February. Palmer has also begun working with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the City of Wasilla to investigate the creation of a regional facility. While this project was initially conceived for the City of Palmer as is reflected in Governor's Palin's budget, the scope became so large the City embarked upon the course of a regional facility which would benefit the Borough and both the City of Palmer and the City of Wasilla. More information regarding this will be available throughout the later winter and early spring.

The City of Palmer expanded its water and sewer service area from 13.2 square miles to 31.1 square miles in 2004. This action doubled the number of potential users of public sewer from 5,400 to 11,000. The service area now includes the Mat-Su Regional Medical Center and medical support buildings. The service area expansion, coupled with the Matanuska Valley's rapid population growth rate, has accelerated the forecast flows to the WWTP.

In addition, Eagle Utilities, a separate, regulated utility located south of the Palmer utility district requested that the City of Palmer consider allowing them to discharge effluent into the Palmer sewer system for treatment. Eagle Utilities will service the proposed Ranch Subdivision which is slated to construct 1,900 homes over a 10-year period. The City is currently evaluating the Eagle Utilities request; if granted, there will be additional hydraulic and biological loading on the WWTP.



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FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: Palmer Southwest Utility Extension Water Reservoir and Line Extension

Project Location: Palmer, Alaska

Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):

Please see attached page.

Related Appropriations Bill: Department of the Interior

Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: \$1,663,695

Total funding to complete this project: \$3,430,300

Number of years to fund this project: 1 year

Matching funds from the State of Alaska: \$1,766,605

Matching funds from local and private entities:

n/a

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:

n/a

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: 0

Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: \$1,766,605

Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

List legislation that authorizes this project:

Check all that apply:

- A change in the current law is necessary in order to proceed with the project. (If so, attach language and a list of laws that need to be amended)
- Bill or report language is needed. (If so, attach requested language)

This project provides for the site selection, planning, and design of an approximate 1.0 million gallon water storage reservoir to be located near Trunk Road to serve the southwest portion of the water service area. The project will include extending the existing water mains north approximately 5,000 feet along Trunk Road, adding fire hydrants, and constructing a new reservoir on high topography in Pressure Zone 1. The water lines will be routed along the Trunk Road right-of-way to a new water reservoir site near Trunk Road. The City is currently analyzing potential sites and discussing land acquisition with land owners. The need for a new water well near the reservoir will also be evaluated and included in the design if necessary. This project is a continuation of the Southwest Utility Extension project and is part of the City's water utility master plan.

The purpose of the new reservoir is to provide a redundant water supply to the southwest portion of the Palmer Utility District. This area currently includes the Mat-Su Regional Medical Center and medical office support buildings and will include proposed growth near the University of Alaska's Mat-Su College campus. This part of the City's water system is separated from existing reservoirs by 5 miles of pipeline, constructed under the Southwest Utility Extension project and will increase available fire flows. The new reservoir will allow the Southwest pipeline to be closed periodically for maintenance without affecting the users.

Trunk Road is scheduled for significant expansion to a four-lane arterial in the next two years and the surrounding area is expected to grow rapidly once the this road project is complete. The benefits of the this project will be a more reliable supply of drinking water and fire fighting water to important community facilities, particularly in the event of a major earthquake.



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FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: City of Palmer Steel Water Mains Replacement

Project Location: Palmer, Alaska

Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):

Please see attached page.

Related Appropriations Bill: Department of the Interior

Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: \$1,697,000

Total funding to complete this project: \$7,988,000

Number of years to fund this project: One year

Matching funds from the State of Alaska: \$4,584,000

Matching funds from local and private entities:

Local Funds - \$1,308,000

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:

n/a

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: 0

Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: \$744,793

List legislation that authorizes this project:

Check all that apply:

- A change in the current law is necessary in order to proceed with the project. (If so, attach language and a list of laws that need to be amended)
- Bill or report language is needed. (If so, attach requested language)

Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

The City of Palmer has undergone a phased approach to the replacement of 50 year old steel water mains, installation of storm drain improvements, paving gravel roads, installing handicap accessible curb ramps in sidewalks, installing sidewalks and streetlights and rehabilitating roads in poor condition in the central downtown core. Many of the water mains within the City of Palmer Water Utility are constructed of thin-walled steel pipe material. Over time, the material develops pinhole-sized leaks due to corrosion and abrasion. Once a pinhole develops, the opening can introduce debris and contaminates into the public water supply or leak water to the surrounding area. This is a public health issue which the City must mitigate.

The City proposes to replace 7,340 lineal feet (lf) of steel water main with ductile iron on portions of Cobb Street, Geranium Street, Fireweed Street, Dimond Street, Elmwood Street, Blueberry Street, Chugach Street, Bonanza Street, and Eklutna Street. This project is essential to the life, public health and safety of all users of the City of Palmer's water utility. Leaks from the aging, thin-walled, steel water mains throughout the City account for an almost 40% differential between water pumped from City wells and water recorded through end-users on city water meters. This loss is costly to the City, and an inefficient stewardship of these vital resources. The leakage also has the outside potential to adversely affect the ground water table within the City's water and sewer service delivery area.

The City's five-year plan will finish replacing all the old water mains, ensure the users of the City utility have efficient delivery of this essential utility service, and improve costs to the entire user group.

Funding for this project consists of the following:

State of Alaska DEC Funds - in FY 09 Capital Budget	\$ 744,793
State of Alaska DEC Funds on Hand	1,240,207
Local Match money - City of Palmer, Mat-Su Borough	1,308,000
State of Alaska Funds Requested from Legislative Delegation	2,599,000
EPA Grants on Hand	399,000
EPA Grant Request	1,697,000
TOTAL PROJECT	\$7,988,000



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FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: Roof for Public Safety Buildings, City of Palmer

Project Location: Palmer, Alaska

Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):

Please see attached.

Related Appropriations Bill: _____

Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: \$255,200

Total funding to complete this project: \$255,200

Number of years to fund this project: 1

Matching funds from the State of Alaska: 0

Matching funds from local and private entities:

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: 0

Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: 0

List legislation that authorizes this project:

Check all that apply:

- A change in the current law is necessary in order to proceed with the project. (If so, attach language and a list of laws that need to be amended)
- Bill or report language is needed. (If so, attach requested language)

Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

Two of the public safety buildings in the City of Palmer have aging roofs which are badly in need of repair. One is located at Fire Station 3-1, in the heart of downtown Palmer. The other is at the Police Station. What follows is a brief description of these roof conditions.

Fire Station 3-1

Fire Station 3-1 was constructed in downtown Palmer in the late 1970's. This is the only fire station within the Palmer City limits. This station is used by the City of Palmer and Greater Palmer Fire Department to store apparatus and equipment. In addition, the Palmer Fire Department utilizes this station for most of the prevention training provided to the elementary school children. This station is the central location where all of Palmer's volunteer firefighters meet to train, and is the primary location for response to any fire in the core area.

Station 3-1 houses two fire engines, a ladder truck, a tanker and the quick attack truck, over forty sets of turn-out gear, and an air bottle refilling station.

The roof system on Fire Station 3-1 is failing. On September 28, 2000 the City contracted with Grand Engineering to inspect the roof and provide a budgetary number to correct the roof deficiencies. The current system consists of plywood panels constructed of board insulation between two sheets of ½" plywood with 2x4 framing at 16 inches on center. These panels are inadequately supported and are delaminating. The delamination of the panels is excessive and the roof system is failing.

The engineers provided a preliminary design of the proposed improvements which include installation of new glue-lam beams and new Trus Joists for structural support. A new metal roof would also be installed at the same time. To expedite repair, this project would bid as a "design-build" project. The estimated repair costs from the September 2000 report have been updated.

Public Safety Building

The Palmer Public Safety building houses the Palmer Police, as well as Mat-Su Pre-Trial Facility, a correctional facility operated by the State of Alaska Department of Corrections. The building also houses the "B" Detachment of the Alaska State Troopers. The building was designed and constructed in the late 1970's. The roof design consists of a membrane liner as a vapor barrier with concrete pavers on top to prevent the wind from moving the membrane. Palmer, next to the Matanuska River, experiences a great deal of high wind which transports windblown silt. This silt has become trapped between the liner material and the metal roof concrete pavers. This silt on the public safety building roof has become great habitat for vegetation. Trees and other materials must be removed annually from this roof. The service life of the roof membrane, estimated at 20 years was exceeded in the late 1990's. This roof requires a complete inspection to determine the remaining useful life of the vapor barrier and a thorough cleaning of the roof to remove the trapped silt and vegetation.

The City of Palmer's police/fire/EMS dispatch center is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for the Matanuska Susitna Borough area. In the event of a terrorist event, these two public safety buildings would be critical in emergency response. Fire Station 3-1, serving as the central hub for the local firefighters' response, would be the rallying point for all local firefighters, while they awaited response orders from Incident Command. Along the same lines, the Public Safety Building houses Palmer Police officers, the Alaska State Troopers, and the Mat-Su Pre-Trial holding facility (holding jail). Local police officers and state troopers, and correctional officers would assemble in this building. It is essential for our citizens' life, safety and health that public safety responders have buildings with safe, sealed, functioning roofs.

The City of Palmer has submitted a request for funding for this project to the Alaska State Legislature.



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FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: Road Grader for City of Palmer

Project Location: Palmer, Alaska

Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):

Please see attached.

Related Appropriations Bill: _____

Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: \$280,000

Total funding to complete this project: \$280,000

Number of years to fund this project: 1

Matching funds from the State of Alaska: 0

Matching funds from local and private entities:

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: 0

Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: 0

Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

List legislation that authorizes this project:

Check all that apply:

- A change in the current law is necessary in order to proceed with the project. (If so, attach language and a list of laws that need to be amended)
- Bill or report language is needed. (If so, attach requested language)

The City of Palmer Public Works Department has four road graders to maintain 76 lane miles of paved and gravel roads within the City limits. The existing road graders are old, expensive to maintain and must be replaced.

Public Works purchased three well-used Champion 740 road graders from the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation in Fairbanks 12 years ago in 1985. These road graders were intended to be phased out over time as new replacement equipment was purchased. However, budget constraints failed to allow this plan to be implemented. These 3 road graders are now 23 years old with 7,000 to 9,500 hours of run time. The maintenance requirements for these road graders are extensive. With every snow event one of these three road graders is promptly towed back to public works not long after being deployed for plowing service.

The newest grader presently used at Public Works is a Champion 780 purchased used from the Palmer Municipal Airport in 2006. This road grader is 17 years old and has over 5,000 hours of run time.

On order and expected to arrive in Palmer by February 2008 is one new road grader. This new road grader will be a huge asset to the Public Works department but acquiring a second new road grader is essential.

The City of Palmer currently has two full time mechanics on staff responsible for the repair and preventative maintenance on over 200 vehicles and equipment ranging from fire apparatus, police vehicles and public works equipment. Of greatest concern to the mechanics is the loss of an engine on one of the older road graders. Replacement cost for an engine is expected to exceed \$40,000 which is beyond the present capability of the public works budget. The City relies on these road graders to clear snow from all city streets. A catastrophic mechanical failure in such an aging fleet would result in the City's roadways being impassible.

A new road grader will reduce maintenance costs and the amount of time the equipment is not available for service. Public Works personnel must have reliable equipment for clearing snow to ensure safe and secure travel on roadways. Public Safety requires efficient and effective snow removal to ensure that ambulances, fire engines, and police vehicles can respond to an emergency. The City's Emergency Dispatch Center has received federal Homeland Security monies to assist in upgrading our emergency fire/police/EMS dispatch response with equipment capable of interoperable communications. It is essential that emergency responders be able to travel on roadways unimpeded by snow and ice buildup. Additionally, having roads cleared of snow allows for school bus and private vehicle access to federally funded local schools. Having the proper equipment to clear the roadways is essential for the life, safety, and health of our citizens.



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FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: City of Palmer Urban Revitalization Project

Project Location: Palmer, Alaska

Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):

Please see attached page.

Related Appropriations Bill: _____

Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: \$ 600,000

Total funding to complete this project: \$1,400,000

Number of years to fund this project: 1 Year

Matching funds from the State of Alaska: n/a

Matching funds from local and private entities:
n/a

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:

Senator Stevens did provide funding for the project in 2001, for a total of \$1,242,925

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: 0

Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: _____

Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

List legislation that authorizes this project:

Check all that apply:

- A change in the current law is necessary in order to proceed with the project. (If so, attach language and a list of laws that need to be amended)
- Bill or report language is needed. (If so, attach requested language)

The project includes upgrades to the City's bike and walking paths from downtown Palmer along the historic and partially active Alaska Railroad Corridor beginning at Evergreen Avenue and ending at Arctic Avenue. In addition, improvements are proposed around the historic Railroad Depot to improve accessibility to the facility, parking and beautification.

The City received federal funds to design and construct sidewalk and pathway improvements within the railroad right-of-way in downtown Palmer. These improvements are expected to increase non-motorized visitation to the downtown area. Because adequate funding does not exist for construction of the entire project, the City will construct the project in sections beginning with improvement in the vicinity of the Railroad Depot. Additional funds are needed to complete the pathway and beautification project to Arctic Avenue.

The historic Railroad Depot is owned and managed by the City of Palmer. It is Palmer's community center and is available for lease to the public and non-profit groups for a variety of community events. The facility hosts weddings, craft fairs, Palmer Arts Council events and many other events. The proposed improvements are vital to ensure continued use of the facility. At the Railroad Depot, a new 13 space parking lot will be constructed north of the Depot, an ADA compliant access walkway is proposed from the existing parking lot on the west side of the Depot to a concrete rail crossing pad and concrete boardwalk to the main entrance of the Railroad Depot.

The remaining improvements proposed include replacing, constructing, and/or resurfacing the sidewalk south of the Depot along West Evergreen Avenue from Alaska Street along South Valley Way to Arctic Avenue, minor storm drainage improvements along South Valley Way, some new streetlights, sidewalk improvements along South Colony Way between Fireweed Avenue and Evergreen Avenue, and landscaping.

An application to the Alaska Trails Initiatives will be submitted for this project by March 16, 2008.