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MEMORANDUM

TO: Haines Borough Assembly

FROM: John Brower, Assistant Lands

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan Community Survey Results

DATE: June 11, 1998

The Borough planning Commission has received the final report from the McDowell Group on the survey questionnaire for the Comprehensive Plan. That report is attached for your review and records. Though the Comprehensive Plan will present the opportunity for further analysis and recommendation from this report, there are some noteworthy conclusions that can be drawn at this time for the Assembly to take note of; as follows;

- (1) The management of borough owned lands. The public clearly favors a change in the current policy of "disposal of the borough lands as soon as is practical". Instead the public has chosen to plan for land sales over a period of time whereby the Borough can project a systematic revenue gain from this source of investment. Additionally, it was a nearly unanimous statement that the public wants the Borough to retain some of these lands for public use.
- (2) Improving use of local resources for employment opportunity. A clear statement was made that the public wants the Borough to be involved in providing opportunities for year round economic growth. Near unanimous approval by the public was to encourage growth in the seafood processing industry; with an additional strong voice in support of efforts to enhance a forest products industry. Though the public did not generally favor further growth in the tourism industry, they did voice a strong opinion in the development of

destination tourism to assist in the diversification of the community's economic base. The survey voices strong support for the Borough to become involved in providing for a sustainable economic base for the community. Providing for a planning process. As in past surveys, it appears that the public generally favors planning; especially in consideration of the comments noted above. However, when it comes to land use planning, the public seems evenly split on how best to establish a planning system on a borough wide basis. One thing is clear, it would be wise for the Borough Assembly to further discuss this planning issue and explore options involving the public in the planning and land use management process.

- (4) **Quality of life.** The Borough Assembly should note the importance of a quality school system to the community. The importance of fish and game habitat protection to the community relates well to the other responses within this planning survey. Again, economic development ranked high with 2/3 of those surveyed stating that this is a very important quality of life issue. There is little doubt that the community believes in the concept that in order to have a strong economy, you also need a healthy and protected environment

This planning survey was conducted as a vital part of the Comprehensive Plan. It is meant to serve as a tool to assist the Borough Assembly, as well as the Planning Commission, with the development of policy in the matters pertaining to the planning issues noted above.