

**KAWERAK, INC.  
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT POLICY  
ADOPTED BY THE FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MARCH 2007**

**BOARD POLICY TO GUIDE RESOLUTION IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE  
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES MAY REQUIRE A POSITION**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Kawerak's vision statement is: "Building on the Inherent Strength of our Cultural Values, We Shall Assist Our Tribes to Control And Create Their Future."

"Strategic Goal 2: We Will Have A Thriving, Self-Sustaining Economy".

"Strategic Goal 3: Tribes Will Develop Their Tribal Governments' Capacity and Control Their Resources and Assets."

There will be instances when the Kawerak board will be faced with determining whether to take a position to support or oppose development.

Subsistence is central to our existence. Our culture is based on hunting and fishing. It is how we have sustained ourselves, our families and communities. In order to continue subsistence hunting and fishing, we must protect our land and resources upon which the ability to hunt and fish depend. Subsistence is vital to the health and welfare of Alaska Natives. Some past developments including land, river and ocean mining and prospecting have negatively impacted subsistence activities.

Economic development of our village economies is also important and one of Kawerak's goals. Often economic development comes about through resource development and can include mining, mineral, petroleum and fisheries (CDQ) development on land and at sea. These efforts help establish small businesses and are economic driving engines in a region where there are virtually no jobs and few business opportunities exist.

We need to balance economic opportunity and subsistence so that those living in rural Alaska don't have to leave their villages for work.

There are policies in place to protect the environment from carelessness and abuse while allowing for appropriate resource development.

It's the governments' permitting agencies duty to educate the public on upcoming potential resource development. It's the citizen's and governing bodies' responsibility to gather the information, attend public hearings, to make an informed decision and participate in the public process.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

In keeping with our vision and goals and to be proactive, Kawerak staff recommends the following actions be taken by the board when faced with taking a position on resource development activities.

- 1) Empower community level decision making in social, economic and development issues. Staff will provide all permit documentation to the Tribal Government, City Council and Native Corporation urging them to review the documents thoroughly.
- 2) Kawerak will encourage the company interested in resource development to consult with the tribe(s) nearest to the resource to be developed, and may facilitate such consultation and/or otherwise provide advice and assistance to the tribe(s) when requested.
- 3) Kawerak staff will attend public hearings and public open houses from the beginning of the project introduction.
- 4) Guests will be invited to provide information and answer questions on the proposed project. Guests will also be queried as to how the negative impacts of the project can be minimized or mitigated. Guests will include the project developer's representative and governmental permitting staff to answer technical questions in fairness to both parties. The meetings will be recorded and available for future reference and discussion. For all meeting discussions on the topic, time should be allowed for open and free exchange of ideas.
- 5) Kawerak board may schedule a facilitated discussion on the topic of whether Kawerak should support, oppose, get engaged to minimize negative impacts or remain neutral on the project development.
- 6) Kawerak staff will develop position papers that present the pros and cons of the project. The position papers shall include: development objectives and timeline, potential habitat and resources to be impacted, economic development opportunities to be created and other impacts to the communities. Staff will also develop recommendations to minimize or mitigate the impact to subsistence resources.
- 7) The comments in the position paper will consider sustainable development for each project, to include a review of the project plans to assure the following are done:
  - A) Accurate and complete baseline data is collected for known ecological parameters to be used to gauge changes in the environment so the impacts of economic development can be measured.
  - B) Request that for proposed projects, the government produce environmental assessments or environmental impact statements that accurately identify probable negative impacts to the environment, as required by federal law. The process of data collection and analysis should be open to the public.
  - C) Stringent enforcement by the responsible permitting and oversight government agencies.
- 8) In some instances, the Kawerak Board may choose to remain neutral and instead list the economic benefits and possible environmental concerns for the permitting agencies, concerned entities, affected tribes, cities and their respective memberships to consider when making a decision as to support, oppose or intervene in any particular resource development project.