

Funds for continued water quality tests delivered

JUNEAU--Governor Bill Sheffield has authorized the use of \$110,000 in contingency funds to continue water quality testing of selected Anchorage area streams during breakup.

"Anchorage's problem with streams polluted by human wastes is a long-standing one, and while at this point, it could not be classified a disaster, it could pose a serious health hazard and deserves immediate attention," Sheffield said.

"This money will be used to pay the lab costs for testing Campbell and Little Campbell Creeks, Chester and Fish Creeks, and Eagle River," Sheffield said.

The Governor applauded the volunteer field teams assigned to collect stream samples in order to locate the sources of human and

industrial contaminants. "We're all aware of the seriousness of the problem, and I'm especially pleased at how the community has responded with this volunteer effort."

"Once the points where the pollutants enter the streams have been identified, the state's Department of Environmental Conservation will be working with city health officials to bring the situation under control. Although we should be able to see some relatively quick improvement, the pollution problem is not new and cannot be solved overnight," Sheffield said.

"The state and municipality will work together to develop long-term solutions, and to make this a priority in future budget requests."
