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**Governor Walker Announces Leadership Transition at DCCED**

*Chris Hladick to serve as EPA Region 10 Director; Mike Navarre appointed as new Commissioner*

October 16, 2017 ANCHORAGE — Governor Bill Walker today announced leadership changes in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED). Commissioner Chris Hladick has been chosen as the Region 10 Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and will be stepping down, effective November 1. Governor Walker has appointed outgoing Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Mike Navarre as the department’s new commissioner; he will start at DCCED when his current term as mayor ends in early November.

“Chris has been an incredible asset in our drive towards building a Stronger Alaska,” Governor Walker said. “While he will be missed, I’m very pleased to see him take on this new role, and know he will serve Alaska and the country well. I commend Administrator Pruitt for appointing an individual who can effectively represent the interests of varied stakeholders.”

Commissioner Hladick came to DCCED from Unalaska, where he served as city manager for over a decade. Previously, he served as the city manager in Dillingham, and city manager and public works director in Galena. He has been Commissioner of DCCED since 2015. In his new role, he will oversee EPA administration in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

“I am pleased to appoint Mike to be the new Commissioner at DCCED,” continued Governor Walker. “His thorough understanding of Alaska’s economy, the challenges we face, and the bright opportunities in our future will be of great benefit to our team and the state as we continue to push towards solving our fiscal crisis, and building a Stronger Alaska.”

Mayor Navarre is concluding his second consecutive term as mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and 3<sup>rd</sup> term overall; he has also twice been president of the Alaska Conference of Mayors. Previously, he served in the Alaska House of Representatives for six terms (1985-1996) where he held multiple leadership positions, including Majority Leader, and chair of the Finance and Rules Committees. Mayor Navarre has over 30 years of business experience in restaurant and retail operations throughout Alaska. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Government with a minor in Economics from Eastern Washington University.

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