

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 26-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, ENDORSING THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND REGIONAL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RECERTIFICATION BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (RCAC) is seeking recertification as the alternate voluntary advisory group for Prince William Sound as set forth in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Valdez is familiar with specific projects which the Prince William Sound RCAC has been involved in and contributed to in a positive manner that benefit the residents of the City of Valdez; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound RCAC oil spill response operations program monitors the operational readiness of Alyeska's Ship Escort Response Vessel System and the tanker companies, and through participation in major Prince William Sound oil spill drills, training and exercises assures that the council itself is prepared to respond to oil spills and other emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound RCAC contributes to the prevention of oil spills and plans for spill response through the review of and input into the contingency oil spill prevention and response plans for the Valdez Marine Terminal and TAPS shippers; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound RCAC continues their Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program (LTEMP) which monitors hydrocarbon pollution and impacts from the terminal and tankers in the Exxon Valdez oil spill region; and

WHEREAS, Prince William Sound RCAC maintains two weather buoys in Port Valdez, which have been collecting data for six years: one near the Valdez Marine Terminal, the other near the Valdez Duck Flats. These buoys improve understanding of weather conditions in Port Valdez that could affect marine vessel safety and movement of spilled oil, as well as help with decisions regarding the timing of protecting environmentally sensitive sites in the area; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound RCAC devotes considerable effort to monitoring drills, exercises, and training events, as well as the responses to actual incidents, which fortunately are relatively rare in Prince William Sound. Staff often participate as members of drill planning teams along with ADEC, USCG, and industry. When significant spills occur, Council staff, Board members, and volunteers work with Alyeska staff to understand why they occurred and how Alyeska would prevent similar incidents in the future; and

WHEREAS the Prince William Sound RCAC continues to monitor piping and tank inspection work and advocate for increased frequency and increased technical rigor regarding the maintenance of aging terminal piping and storage tanks and other associated crude oil infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Prince William Sound RCAC works collaboratively with the City of Valdez to ensure the adequacy of secondary containment liners for crude oil storage tanks at the Valdez Marine Terminal to protect ground and surface water from contamination in the event of an oil spill. RCAC continues to coordinate with Alyeska and the City of Valdez as part of the ADEC's established confer process as this issue moves forward; and

WHEREAS, Prince William Sound RCAC participated in a workgroup that helped develop a legislative solution to allow the current fleet of vessels contracted by Alyeska's Ship Escort Response Vessel System, or SERVS, to remain in their spill prevention and response system. This legislative solution was included in the new National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) passed by Congress in 2025; and

WHEREAS, Prince William Sound RCAC works with industry and regulators to ensure response readiness, evaluate risks, and propose solutions with the primary goal to prevent complacency in the oil industry and government agencies so that it shall never become a factor in a future oil spill.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, that:

The Valdez City Council hereby encourages the U.S. Coast Guard to recertify the Prince William Sound RCAC as the alternative voluntary advisory group as set forth in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 20th day of January, 2026.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Dennis Fleming, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk