



June 4, 2025

Mayor Dennis Fleming
Valdez City Council
P.O. Box 307
Valdez, AK 99686

Dear Mayor Fleming and City Council Members,

As you know, the PWS Economic Development District is a federally-recognized economic development district supporting the communities of Chenega, Cordova, Tatitlek, Valdez, and Whittier.

With the change in staff in the Valdez City Manager position, I am writing to ask that the Mayor and City Council appoint a new representative to the PWSEDD Board. Board members serve four-year terms, and our board holds four quarterly meetings plus an annual meeting of members in the fall.

In compliance with our by-laws, our Board of Directors is made up of nine members:

- a. Five (5) directors will be appointed to the Board, one each by the City of Cordova, the City of Valdez, the City of Whittier, the IRA Council of Tatitlek and IRA Council of Chenega Bay. These appointments are to be determined by the governing body of each entity.
- b. Four (4) directors-at-large will be elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting of the Membership. (Article V., Section 2.1).

Our 2021 – 2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is written to achieve the vision of PWS as an alliance of vibrant, coastal communities collaborating to build on and sustain our blue economy through responsible economic development of our natural and cultural assets (pwsedd.org). Attached is a two-page summary of our five-year CEDS plan for an “at a glance” overview of our working priorities.

Having a representative from Valdez’s city government on our board is a great resource for keeping our communities across the Sound coordinated in their regional and local priorities, and we greatly appreciate the participation of a City of Valdez board member.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristin Smith
Executive Director

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