

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION #25-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, SUPPORTING EFFORTS BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS), THE ALASKA DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS (DGGS), AND THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) TO CONDUCT A SNOW AVALANCHE AND LANDSLIDE HAZARDS ASSESSMENT IN THE CITY OF VALDEZ AND THE NEARBY RICHARDSON HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez has never conducted an area-wide snow avalanche or landslide hazards assessment; and

WHEREAS, lives and property in Valdez and around the state of Alaska have been greatly impacted by these hazards historically and in recent years; and

WHEREAS, a snow avalanche and landslide hazards assessment will help inform local government officials and the community about potential hazards that are currently unknown; and

WHEREAS, goal 7.1 of Plan Valdez, the 2021 comprehensive plan, is to reduce the community's vulnerability to natural events and to plan for and reduce the community's vulnerability from extreme weather events and natural hazards including landslides, flooding, avalanches, earthquakes, tsunamis, significant precipitation, and other events; and

WHEREAS, actions under goal 7.1 of Plan Valdez include working with partners to compile and maintain hazard mapping and make easily available to the public, identify and secure sites for future locations of critical infrastructure out of areas that could be impacted by natural disasters or climate change impacts, coordinate work and obtain 2021/2022 Alaska Avalanche Hazard Inventory and implement recommendations; and.

WHEREAS, Objective 1.8 of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan (adopted by City Council in October 2024) is to form partnerships to leverage and share resources; and

WHEREAS, Objective 6.1 of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan (adopted by City Council in October 2024) is to enhance understanding of natural hazards and the risks they pose; and

WHEREAS, Objective 6.2 of the City's approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (adopted by City Council in October 2024) is to improve hazard information, including databases and maps; and

WHEREAS, Mitigation Action 3 of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan (adopted by City Council in October 2024) is to develop a submarine and subaerial slope instability identification and monitoring program with Local, State, and Federal partners; and

WHEREAS, a snow avalanche and landslide hazards assessment will support and inform response actions in the 2020 City of Valdez Emergency Operations Plan; and

WHEREAS, the data from a snow avalanche and landslide hazards assessment will be used to help improve community resilience by guiding future planning and land use decisions made by City of Valdez staff and elected and appointed officials; and

WHEREAS, the data from a snow avalanche and landslide hazards assessment will help the city of Valdez, other governmental agencies, and local utility providers understand what infrastructure may be vulnerable to hazards, and can help guide planning for future infrastructure placement to aid resilience to known hazards; and

WHEREAS, supporting USGS and DGGs in the development of a snow avalanche and landslide hazards assessment will produce susceptibility maps for both hazards, create opportunities for specific hazard-site monitoring, and support the development of an area-wide monitoring program for Valdez that involves a novel probabilistic approach to enhance detection, mitigation, and response to those risks, as a model for the rest of the state; and

WHEREAS, the 70/30 match-grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, awarded to the City of Valdez (2024) for a new hydrographic survey of Port Valdez (summer of 2025) was specifically acquired in support of this slope-hazard mapping; and

WHEREAS, having a snow avalanche and landslide hazards assessment will benefit the citizens of and visitors to Valdez and the surrounding area by providing accurate scientific information about those hazards inform efforts to further safeguard the community.

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

The City Council of the City of Valdez supports efforts by the State of Alaska and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a snow avalanche and

landslide hazards assessment in the City of Valdez and nearby Richardson Highway transportation corridor.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 4th day of February, 2025.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Dennis Fleming, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk