

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 26-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, EXPRESSING CONCERNS ON PROPOSED MINING ACTIVITIES AT GOLD CREEK AND REQUESTING ADDITIONAL REVIEW BY THE UNITED STATES CORPS OF ENGINEERS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received permit application POA-2024-00607 from Indmine LLC for a 5-year placer mining operation at Gold Creek in Port Valdez; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project would impact 4.0 acres of waters of the United States, including 3.5 acres of estuarine wetlands and 0.5 acres below the high tide line; and

WHEREAS, this permit application has been withdrawn by the applicant, but exploration activities could still be considered in the area under a nationwide permit; and

WHEREAS, the project site is located along the popular Shoup Bay Trail and includes beaches, wetlands, and nearshore areas heavily used by Valdez residents and visitors for recreation; and

WHEREAS, Valdez residents and tourists regularly use the project area for shrimp fishing, salmon fishing, beach access, picnicking, hiking, kayaking, camping, and wildlife viewing; and

WHEREAS, local businesses including water taxi operators, sea kayak companies, and fishing charter services utilize this area as part of their operations, contributing to Valdez's tourism economy; and

WHEREAS, the proposed mining operation would impede or eliminate public recreational access and use of this area for a minimum of five years; and

WHEREAS, the project area contains Essential Fish Habitat for nine species and provides a healthy near-shore estuarine habit for the juvenile salmon populations relied upon by commercial fisheries vital to Valdez's economy; and

WHEREAS, estuarine wetlands provide critical ecological functions including fish rearing habitat, nutrient cycling, and coastal protection, and are difficult to successfully restore; and

WHEREAS, Valdez community members have expressed concerns about the limited public information available and lack of public engagement on the proposal.

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

Section 1. The Valdez City Council expresses significant concern that proposed mining operations at Gold Creek have the potential to adversely impact recreational opportunities, public access, sustainable salmon fisheries, tourism business activities and the natural environment.

Section 2. The Valdez City Council requests that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers review the proposal further to ensure that any future mining activities at this location are in the public interest.

Section 3. The Valdez City Council asks the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers take the following actions:

1. Ensure adequate public comment periods and provide public information for any future permit applications or activities conducted under a nationwide permit in the Gold Creek area or other popular commercial and recreational areas within Prince William Sound.
2. Conduct enhanced economic analysis comparing project benefits to adverse impacts on recreational opportunities and the ecosystem.
3. Conduct enhanced environmental review given the project's impacts on Essential Fish Habitat and sensitive wetlands.
4. Require specific enforceable conditions or alternative methods addressing concerns identified if a permit is approved.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 3rd day of February, 2026.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

ATTEST:

---

Dennis Fleming, Mayor

---

Elise Sorum-Birk, Deputy City Clerk