

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 22-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA,
SUPPORTING USE OF THE VALDEZ GRAIN TERMINAL AS MATCHING
RESOURCES FOR GRANT FUNDED MARICULTURE-RELATED
DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, The City of Valdez is a founding member of the Alaska Mariculture Alliance (AMA), which is a private non-profit organization established in June 2021 with a mission to “develop and support a robust and sustainable mariculture industry, producing shellfish and aquatic plants for the long-term benefit of Alaska's economy, environment and communities;” and

WHEREAS, The City of Valdez is a municipal member of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF), which is a nonprofit representative of harvesters, processors and support sector businesses that identifies opportunities common to the Alaska seafood industry and collaborates with coastal communities, research institutes and government agencies to develop effective solutions with shared benefits; and

WHEREAS, in October 2021, The City of Valdez coordinated and hosted an AFDF-sponsored tour with the goal of increasing the capacity of seaweed processing in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, as part of the COV-AFDF October 2021 Valdez visit, local, state, Tribal, university and seafood industry leaders engaged with international seaweed processing experts in a series of visits to local sites of relevance to mariculture development; and

WHEREAS, it has been identified by industry experts that the Valdez Grain Terminal is a potentially significant asset for use in secondary processing of macroalgae (kelp and seaweed), and which is unique infrastructure among coastal Alaskan communities considered for shore-based macroalgae processing; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska Governor’s Mariculture Task Force recommended that mariculture stakeholders utilize existing Alaska assets and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, The City of Valdez is engaged with The University of Alaska Fairbanks Alaska Blue Economy Center (ABEC) and has convened a team that includes, University of California (UC) Davis, Blue Evolution, a broad consortium of Alaska Native stakeholders, the Alaska Conservation Foundation, and others to apply for the USDA Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities grant (Grant); and

WHEREAS, the Grant application proposes to pilot and scale various seaweed processing technologies and develop markets for these products. UC Davis is the lead investigator and one of USDA's primary grantees. As such, they have the public private partnerships in place to pilot and commercialize products that could be sold into large-scale markets including animal feed, fertilizer, building materials, carbon credits, etc. that would then be primed for the Alaska seaweed industry to sell into as a whole.

WHEREAS, similar parallel market development programs will also be created within Alaska in partnership with UAF. The Grant also serves as an opportunity to develop the relationship between the University of California and University of Alaska.

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

Section 1. The City of Valdez, subject to all required appropriations and approvals from the City Council, will allow partial and pro-rated use of the Valdez Grain Terminal or a portion thereof to support proposed Grant activities, including, but not limited to, the research and development of seaweed-based agricultural feed and fertilizer products.

Section 2. For purposes of in-kind valuation of this partial and pro-rated use of the Valdez Grain Terminal, the City of Valdez, subject to all required appropriations and approvals from the City Council, will commit the use of Port of Valdez infrastructure and in-kind services for the life of the Grant as matching resources for the Grant.

Section 3. Subject to all required appropriations and approvals from the City Council, ABEC will use the Valdez Grain Terminal as part of an AMC-sponsored "Prince William Sound Mariculture Hub" project, which will be managed by ABEC in coordination with the City of Valdez and its stakeholders.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this __* day of May, 2022.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Sharon Scheidt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk