

September 15, 2016

To: Mayor Knight & Valdez City Council Members  
From: Lisa Von Bargen, CED Director  
Re: Navigational Servitude WRRDA Report

---

One of the City's top 2016 Federal Legislative Priorities was titled the WRRDA Project Request. Please see the excerpt below from the approved 2016 Federal Legislative Priorities.

*WRRDA Project Request: Release of Tract J, Harbor Subdivision from Navigational Servitude. The property known locally as "Sea Otter RV Park" is land that was created from dredge material taken from construction of the existing Small Boat Harbor. As a result, this property is under navigational servitude, a protection mechanism put in place by the Corps of Engineers so the agency has unrestricted future access in the case additional navigational improvements (like expansion of the harbor) are required. This designation significantly limits the developability of property. Tract J and the tidelands south of it were investigated as a potential harbor site and found to be unsuitable. The City of Valdez requests the navigational servitude designation be removed from this property in the next iteration of the Water Resources Reform & Development Act (WRRDA) so it may be used to its maximum potential as a waterfront upland development location with permanent improvements.*

Staff worked with Stratton Edwards, our federal lobbyist, to ensure language was included in the WRRDA bill removing the Navigational Servitude from the Sea Otter property. We were informed today by Mr. Edwards that the Senate passed the WRRDA bill this afternoon. It is expected to pass the House next week. As more information on the status of the legislation becomes available it will be reported to the Council and P&H Commission.