



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALASKA DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 6898
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, AK 99506-0898

Mr. Dennis Ragsdale
City Manager, City of Valdez
P.O. Box 307
Valdez, AK 99686

Dear Mr. Ragsdale

Thank you for your interest in working with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District to seek solutions to the City of Valdez's flooding and erosion concerns. While we see potential for future projects, we feel the appropriate path for the City of Valdez at this point is a community-wide flood and erosion assessment study to incorporate the Lowe River, Valdez Glacier Stream, and Mineral Creek. Such a study would be best conducted under our Section 22 Planning Assistance to States (PAS) authority. This is a similar approach to what we provided for the Seward Bear Creek Flood Service Area. The PAS authority allows us to provide analysis, technical assistance, and suggestions; however, there would be no detailed designs for project construction as a direct result of the PAS study. We would assess the threats to current infrastructure, review existing data, identify critical data gaps, and collect data to fill these gaps where possible. We could also conduct numerical modeling to better quantify processes and threats. Modeling seems a particularly good fit along Valdez Glacier stream to better understand the connections between the glacial outburst floods, sediment transport, and the Richardson Highway Bridge.

Our analyses will better assess the level of threat along each waterway and identify appropriate responses and discuss their likelihood for success. This information will be a great help to the City in prioritizing their resources to address the multiple threats in the community. Where appropriate, Corps programs to implement potential solutions will be recommended, but we will not limit our recommendations solely to Corps constructed solutions. We will work with other stakeholders such as the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska District's Regulatory Division, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop a comprehensive approach to flooding and erosion in Valdez.


A rough cost estimate for such a study is \$200,000. Our staff would work with City staff to develop the detailed scope, schedule, and budget for the study. The budget developed would be the basis for entering into a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) between the City and the Corps. The study is cost shared at 50/50; the non-Federal share of a \$200,000 study would be \$100,000. The non-Federal share can be provided in cash and/or work-In-kind (WIK) services. While up to 100 percent of your portion can be provided as WIK, we cannot give credit for services provided prior to the signing of the FCSA. This is an important consideration if you are planning to conduct efforts that might be considered within the scope of our proposed PAS study. Since it

seems the City has a lot of ongoing efforts to address flooding and erosion, entering into an FCSA soon could be beneficial to assisting with meeting the City's cost share for the PAS study.

If you are interested in pursuing a PAS study with us, I have attached a sample letter of intent that can be adjusted and placed on city letterhead for submittal to us. We are hopeful that by signing an FCSA that Federal funds could be available to initiate the study as early as October. We hope to possibly get our staff back on site before the first snowfall.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (907) 753-2871 or by email at: Jeffrey.A.Herzog@usace.army.mil

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Herzog
Project Manager