

CITY OF VALDEZ ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 17-51

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST FOR ADJUDICATORY HEARING BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION REGARDING VALDEZ MARINE TERMINAL OIL DISCHARGE PREVENTION AND CONTINGENCY PLAN PROTECTIONS FOR THE VALDEZ DUCK FLATS AND SOLOMON GULCH HATCHERY

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has consistently recognized the Solomon Gulch Hatchery and the Valdez Duck Flats as sensitive areas requiring enhanced protection; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 2017-1 to the Valdez Marine Terminal Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (C-Plan) could significantly delay the deployment of protective equipment at the Valdez Duck Flats and the Solomon Gulch Hatchery during an oil spill response by removing the commitment to simultaneously deploy protections for both areas in no more than 10 hours; and

WHEREAS, ADEC approved the amendment by changing the Solomon Gulch Hatchery and Valdez Duck Flats Sensitive Area Protection Mobilization Decision Matrix (Matrix) that provides criteria and assessment points for use within the first one or two hours of a spill; and

WHEREAS, the changes to the Matrix resulted in deployment protections for the Solomon Gulch Hatchery to begin by hour 12 and deployment of protections for the Valdez Duck Flats to begin by hour 36 in Scenario 4 of the plan; and

WHEREAS, the Valdez Duck Flats provides important habitat for water birds, anadromous fish, and other estuarine and intertidal species and is regarded by federal and state resource agencies as the most productive ecosystem in Port Valdez; and

WHEREAS, Solomon Gulch Hatchery supports the largest recreational fishery in Prince William Sound and the largest pink salmon commercial fishery in the state, bringing economic value to Valdez in excess of \$80 million dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Valdez, Alaska, that:

The Valdez City council hereby requests a hearing with the Commissioner of ADEC to consider reinstatement of protections for the Valdez Duck Flats and Solomon gulch Hatchery in the VMT C-Plan.

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PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 5th day of December, 2017.

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Ruth E. Knight, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk