

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 20-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, ENDORSING THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND REGIONAL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RECERTIFICATION BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (RCAC) is seeking recertification as the alternate voluntary advisory group for Prince William Sound as set forth in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Valdez is familiar with specific projects which the Prince William Sound RCAC has been involved in and contributed to in a positive manner that benefit the residents of the City of Valdez; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound RCAC oil spill response operations program monitors the operational readiness of Alyeska's Ship Escort Response Vessel System and the tanker companies, and through participation in major Prince William Sound oil spill drills, training and exercises assures that the council itself is prepared to respond to oil spills and other emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound RCAC contributes to the prevention of oil spills and plans for spill response through the review of and input into the contingency oil spill prevention and response plans for the Valdez Marine Terminal and TAPS shippers; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound RCAC has participated in the marine services transition from Crowley Maritime to Edison Chouest Offshore through monitoring, evaluating and providing advice on many components of this transition; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound RCAC continues their Long Term Environmental Monitoring Program (LTEMP) which can be used to identify environmentally sensitive areas in the event of an oil spill in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound RCAC devotes considerable effort to monitoring drills, exercises, and training events, as well as responding to actual incidents which occurred from the Valdez Marine Terminal in September 2017 and February 2018; and

WHEREAS the Prince William Sound RCAC continues to monitor piping and tank inspection work and advocate for increased frequency and increased technical rigor regarding the maintenance of aging terminal piping and storage tanks and other associated crude oil infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Sound RCAC conducted outreach to stakeholders throughout the EVOS region to increase public awareness of the ARRT's identification of dispersant use avoidance areas and facilitated a literature review of scientific studies focused on chemical dispersants; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 and 2019 the Prince William Sound RCAC worked with the City of Valdez and other regional partners to deploy new weather buoys at the Alyeska Marine Terminal and Valdez Duck Flats which will improve understanding of weather conditions in Port Valdez and could affect marine vessel safety and movement of spilled oil, as well as help with decisions regarding the timing of protecting environmentally sensitive sites in the area; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 Prince William Sound RCAC finalized a report evaluating Potential Places of Refuge focusing on those places of refuge suitable for use by crude oil tankers transiting Prince William Sound which identified three sites that would allow for the safe anchoring of a distressed tanker; and

WHEREAS, Prince William Sound RCAC works with industry and regulators to ensure response readiness, evaluate risks, and propose solutions with the primary goal to prevent complacency in the oil industry and government agencies so that it shall never become a factor in a future oil spill.

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

The Valdez City Council hereby encourages the U.S. Coast Guard to recertify the Prince William Sound RCAC as the alternative voluntary advisory group as set forth in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 21st day of January, 2020.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Jeremy O'Neil, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk