

September 10, 2020

Mayor O'Neil and City Council Members
City of Valdez
P.O. Box 307
Valdez, AK 99686



Dear Mayor and City Council,

You don't need any introduction to the PWS Economic Development District since it was founded by earlier community leaders in Valdez in 1991, but I would like to introduce myself as its current Executive Director. I look forward to working with the City of Valdez and all of its community organizations as partners to move economic development forward for Valdez and the Sound.

In its early days, funding for the PWSEDD came from the State of Alaska through the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) program. Now the organization's funding comes primarily from the federal Economic Development Administration, with some support from the Denali Commission. We also submit grant applications for project funding so occasional support comes from project work.

Our next big undertaking will be developing a five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Prince William Sound region. We'll be reaching out to stakeholders all across the Sound to create an inclusive, thorough planning process that identifies achievable action steps and projects for benefiting our Sound communities and businesses. Other issues that I'm focusing on include AMHS ferry reform, promoting mariculture in PWS, CV-19 response, and of course the 2020 Census.

I hope you'll be able to participate in the CEDS process for Prince William Sound, and of course feel free to share your ideas with me or a PWSEDD Board member any time on regional and local efforts to strengthen our coastal economies.

Sincerely,

Kristin Carpenter
Executive Director