

November 14, 2003

Gregg Renkes
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State of Alaska

James W. Balsiger
Administrator, Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service

Ernesta Ballard
Commissioner
Alaska Department
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Drue Pearce
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
for Alaskan Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior

Kevin Duffy
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Joe Meade
Forest Supervisor, U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Attn: Gail Phillips, Executive Director
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
441 West Fifth Avenue, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: The Cordova Center

Dear Members of the Trustee Council:

We request that you favorably consider this proposal by the City of Cordova that the Trustee Council approve Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Settlement funds for use in support of the Cordova Center community and economic restoration project. This multi-purpose facility will incorporate scientific research and oil spill response elements. There will be cultural and educational components housed in the facility. It will allow for small convention capability that will contribute to community economic development.

Congressional Support for the Cordova Center

The Cordova Center project occupies the preeminent role in the recovery and rejuvenation of this community from the economic set-back experienced after the 1989 oil spill. Thanks to the tireless work and continuing support of Senator Ted Stevens and his staff, as well as the rest of the Alaska Congressional Delegation, our community has obtained funding to plan and design this facility. Senator Lisa Murkowski visited our community earlier this year, is strongly supportive of this initiative, and is working with us to help make this project a reality. The funding support to date has enabled Cordova to identify our community's needs and plan this landmark project. We have preliminary architectural renderings and engineering schematics and

will have completed construction design documents by March 2004. The City is currently acquiring the site selected through a community public process.

In addition to the work over the past several years by Senator Stevens and Congressman Young on the Cordova Center, this project was in then Senator Frank Murkowski's vision for our city in 1999. At that time, in the Committee Report to accompany the bill S.711 in the 106th Congress, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Frank Murkowski stated:

"Speaking of the human element, I also hope this bill will lead to the Trustee Council placing a greater emphasis on economic development projects for the impacted communities as provided for in the legislation. It is for this reason that language specifically authorizes 'community and economic restoration projects and facilities . . .' [i]t is my intent that this provision include economic development projects such as the Cordova Center which is proposed by the people of the economic and emotional ground zero of the spill."

Highly Functional Multiple-Use Facility

The City has made a special effort to design the Cordova Center to revitalize and enhance our community. Components of the Cordova Center include: an oil spill response training and incident command and communications center; an education room; a state-of-the-art conference center; the public library that also serves as the elementary school library; the historical museum and a performing arts theatre. There will be a wide variety of exhibits including those from the Oil Spill Recovery Institute. These will include information about oil spill prevention developments, as well as the results of marine research conducted since the spill. The Center will showcase advancements that are being made to assure safe oil transport. These will protect the natural resources of Prince William Sound on which this and other communities in the Sound are dependant.

Throughout the design process our community has emphasized functionality, energy efficiency, multiple and year-round uses of the Center. The facility is designed to achieve those goals.

Public Consensus

Through well-attended meetings, public input in the project planning and design process has been very strong and inclusive. This project is bringing our diverse community together to plan for a future of economic opportunities and higher quality of life.

Community support continues to grow and strengthen for the Center. Please see enclosure #3 for user groups that will utilize and benefit from the project. Community support is key to the ultimate success of the project. The Cordova Center has elicited more widespread support than any other project within our community.

Energy Efficient 100-Year Design Equals Low O and M Costs

The community has committed considerable effort to designing this project to be one of the most energy efficient facilities in the entire state. We anticipate that it will receive the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for its energy efficiency. This will translate to substantial operation and maintenance savings annually. Construction materials designated by the design ensure that the facility will have a very long, useful life.

Economic Diversification

The design for the Cordova Center connects streets on two different elevations. It links the harbor to the heart of the downtown area with covered walkways. The building site offers a commanding view of the picturesque waterfront in one direction and of spectacular mountains in the other. The facility is designed to withstand the extreme weather Cordova experiences at times. It will become the centerpiece of the economic rejuvenation and cultural expansion of the City of Cordova. The Cordova Center will improve the quality of life for residents and visitors, which is a high priority in our community.

Diversifying and strengthening the local economy has been a focus throughout the process. Since 1989, Cordova has experienced an economic downturn. Overnight, the spill's impact on Prince William Sound changed Cordova's economy dramatically. The fishing fleet in Cordova was a principal contributor to oil spill response efforts from the first day of the spill. The Center will facilitate continued improvement to oil spill response capability.

To meet its economic challenges, the City plans to provide a stimulus to the local economy through the Cordova Center. The new facility will attract a wide variety of conferences, retreats, meetings, and smaller conventions to the community. Oil spill response training sessions, scientific and research conferences, conventions and workshops related to government, tourism, the corporate world, non-profit organizations, commercial fishing and other sectors will be a major step in diversifying and providing a much needed catalyst for the economy of the entire region.

The community of Cordova will contribute substantially to this project through site acquisition, community funding, in-kind and other contributions. A public/private funding strategy will be implemented to raise necessary project funds. Grants will be sought from foundations, corporations, government agencies and other sources. The community is united to move forward from the devastating impacts of the spill. We are proactively creating a positive future for our city. The Center offers an opportunity for empowerment and a return of civic pride.

Community and Economic Restoration

We look forward to discussing our project with you once you have had the opportunity to review the enclosed information. We value your guidance and suggestions on how to implement

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our plan for this "community and economic restoration" project (Governor Frank Murkowski). We can think of no better way to revitalize this area of the spill region. We deeply appreciate your favorable consideration of our request for assistance.

Sincerely,

Tim Joyce
Mayor

Scott Hahn
Manager

Cathy Sherman
Museum/Library Director

cc: Governor Frank Murkowski

Enclosures: (1) Preliminary Design, Cordova Center, Overview
(2) Long-term Operation and Maintenance
(3) Supporting Organizations
(4) Cost Analysis