

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2007-2008 SCRA 12417



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2007-2008

SENATE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

LIST OF FILES (PAGE 2)

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**Emil Notti**  
**Commissioner**

# **2007 Annual Report**

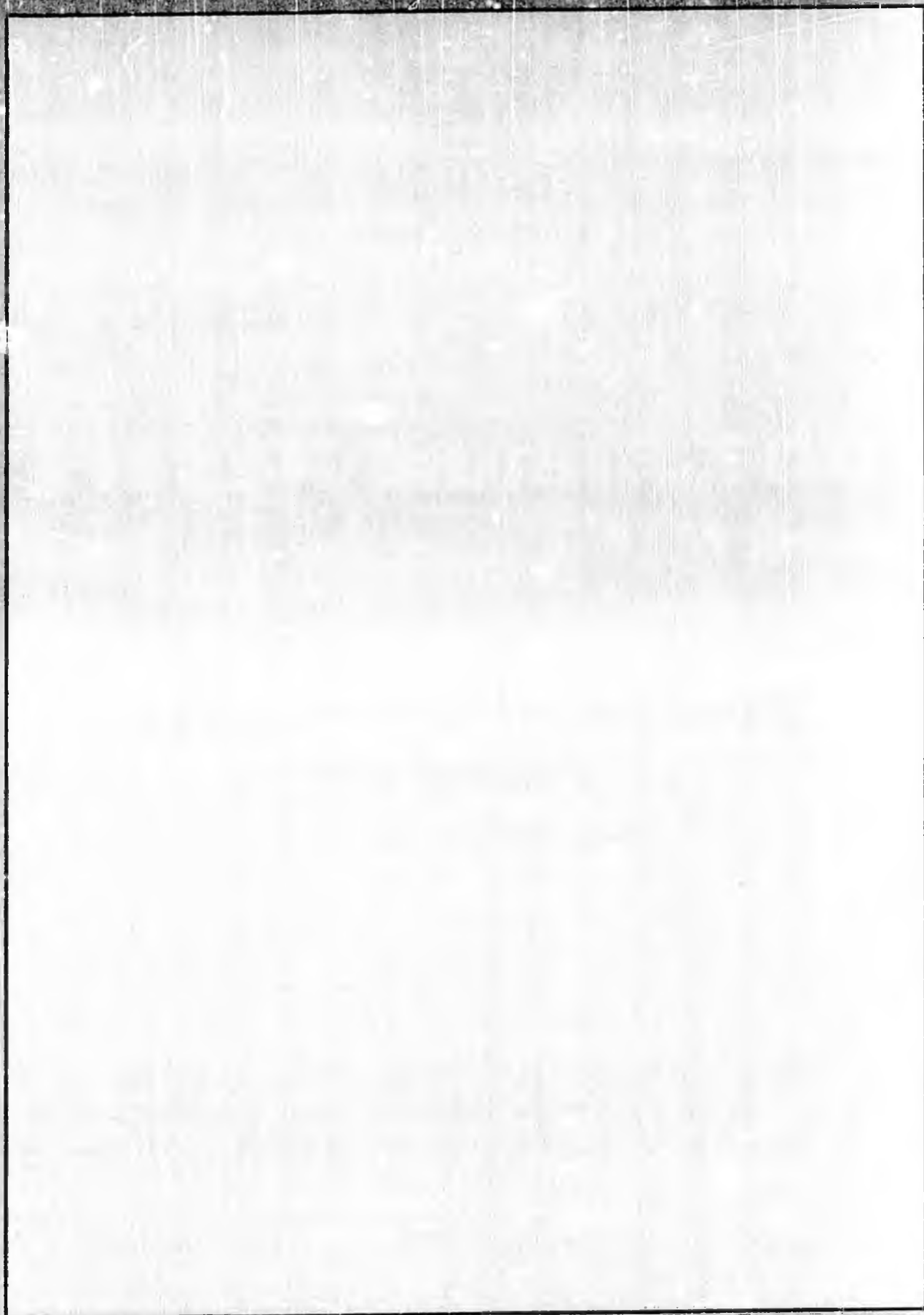
## **Division of Community Advocacy**

**Michael Black, Director**

**Article X, Section 14, of the Alaska State Constitution states:**

**“An Agency shall be established by law in the executive branch of the State government to advise and assist local governments. It shall review their activities, collect and publish local government information, and perform other duties prescribed by law.”**

**The Division of Community Advocacy is this agency.**



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## **Acknowledgment**

The Division of Community Advocacy has undergone tremendous changes in the past six years. The longevity of its staff has been a hallmark of the Division; these long-serving employees have shaped the Division's priorities and goals through diligent work and selfless dedication. DCA owes a great deal of gratitude to all those employees who have given it direction and fortitude throughout the years. With this in mind, the Division's present Director, Michael Black, and current staff would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals who contributed over 10 years of dedication (and up to 30 years) to the Division and its mission to serve rural Alaska. These staff have retired or left the Division to pursue different opportunities, but have left an incomparable legacy for the rest of us:

- Bob Aiken, Local Government Specialist
- Roxanne Auge, Local Government Specialist
- Irene Catalone, Local Government Specialist
- Midge Clouse, Local Government Specialist
- Michael Cushing, Research Analyst
- Patricia Dudley, Clerk
- Rick Elliott, Natural Resource Manager
- Peter Freer, Local Government Specialist
- John Gliva, Planner
- Marita Hanson, Local Government Specialist
- Judy Hargis, Publication Technician
- Sharon Harris, Secretary
- Gene Kane, Local Government Specialist and Director
- Sam Means, Natural Resource Manager and Local Government Specialist
- Christy Miller, Planner
- Pat Poland, Local Government Specialist, Deputy Director, Director
- Jim Sanders, Local Government Specialist
- Leroy Seppilu, Local Government Specialist
- Ike Waits, Planner
- Laura Walters, Research Analyst
- Nelda Warkentin, Planner

## **Division of Community Advocacy Contact List**

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## Division of Community Advocacy

The Division of Community Advocacy (DCA or Division) fulfills its Constitutional mandate "... to advise and assist local governments ... review their activities, collect and publish local government information, and perform other duties prescribed by law" through its mission to promote strong communities and healthy economies.



The Division coordinates and focuses the resources of State agencies and commissions, federal agencies and commissions, regional nonprofit organizations, municipal governments, and tribal governing bodies to develop public service facilities and efficient public service delivery. The Division also fulfills its mission by delivering technical assistance, financial assistance, statistical information, and other capacity-building and economic development resources to communities, its public and private clientele.

In order to provide direct service, the Division has staff in seven locations across the state. Staff in these regional offices are in frequent contact with the communities in order to develop and maintain local capacities that help ensure the efficiency and effectiveness local governments.

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The Division is comprised of the following sections:

- Financial Assistance/Grants Section
- Local Boundary Commission
- Local Government Assistance/Rural Utility Business Advisor
- Office of the State Assessor
- Planning/Land Management & Municipal Lands Trustee
- Research & Analysis

## === Advocating for Sustainable Solutions ===

The Division works to address long term and short term issues that affect the sustainability and success of Alaskan communities across the state. The Division is especially focused on helping and monitoring rural communities and local governments. In 2006 the Division's efforts addressed key issues such as:

- Mitigating the impacts of the high cost of energy in Alaska by maintaining state-wide and interagency focus on the energy issues via timely and pertinent research, development of funding programs, and ongoing dialogue with communities. Research reports about the cost of fuel in Alaska include: *Current Community Conditions: Fuel Prices Across Alaska, Fall-Winter 2005; Community Fuel Report Supplemental, September 2006; Current Community Conditions: Fuel Prices Across Alaska, Fall-Winter 2006 Update.*
- Serving as a mediator to coordinate and find solutions that help communities impacted by flood and erosion, specifically working with communities such as the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Kivalina, Napaskiak, Newtok, and Shishmaref.
- Helping educate the public, agencies and communities about land ownership issues, and taking an active role in the 14(c) process.
- Serving as a key facilitator in the formation of regional governments and the incorporation process via providing staff for the Local Boundary Commission.



- Working with communities to ensure that they can sustain basic water/ utilities system operations via the Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA). In 2006, RUBA staff made 188 trips to 167 different communities to conduct utility assessments and provide a wide variety of on-site assistance.



- Working to support local governments by providing information and resources ranging from statutory guidelines, election information, and training. In 2006, Division staff presented ten 32-hour Utility Management Classes in six different regional centers throughout the state. Division staff also presented a number of educational opportunities in the form of training and courses on Newly Elected Officials, Tide 29 information, and on-site training of local government issues.

- Administrating a wide range of State and federal grants and other funding for communities, on average grant administrators manage the equivalent of 314 grants each. The Division is also responsible for allocating and disbursing financial aid to communities such as Municipal Energy Assistance program (MEAP) and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) whenever funds are available.

- Developing online resources to enable communities to plan better, have full access to their own information, and contribute to growing mapping, photos, and document resources. In 2006, the Division brought new systems online such as the Municipal Officials Directory and overhauled static web pages to make them more intuitive, easier to navigate, and faster.

- In 2006, the State Assessors Office monitored local assessment practices to assure compliance with state and local assessment laws and practices, provided educational training opportunities for assessment personnel, enabling competent job performance and enhancing professional growth in order to focus on continued improvement of the assessment processes and systems. These efforts assist in equalizing values around the state to be used in conjunction with a variety of other programs, including educational funding and various forms of revenue sharing.

## Success through Partnerships

The Division of Community Advocacy leverages its experience and resources through key partnerships and relationships with local governments, non-profits, State and federal agencies, as well as other entities. The Division works with a large number of partners on a wide range of projects. The following are some key partnerships that have helped maximize the positive impact of DCA on communities:

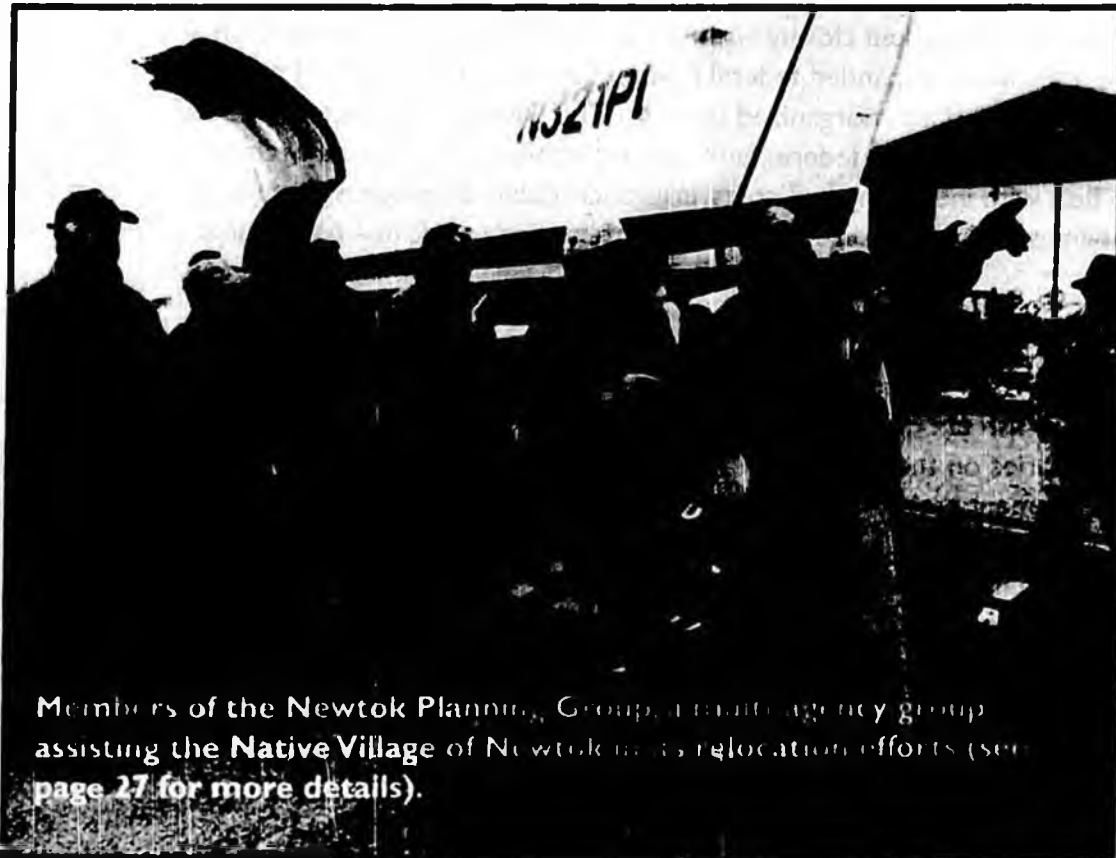
- Alaska Association of Assessing Officers (AAAO)
- Alaska Cooperative Extension College of Rural Alaska, UA Fairbanks
- Alaska Department of Labor (AKDOL)
- Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)
- Alaska Federation of Natives
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC)
- Alaska Inter-Tribal Council
- Alaska Mental Health Authority
- Alaska Municipal League (AML)
- Alaska State Water Association
- Alaska Training and Technical Assistance Center (ATTAC)
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)
- Alaska Water and Wastewater Managers Association
- Denali Commission
- Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management



### Featured Partnership: Denali Commission and DCA

The Denali Commission is one of the Division's key partners. Through this partnership the Division plays a key role in the Denali Commission's Planning Workgroup through which the Division is able to collaborate with other agencies. The Division also administers several Denali Commission grants including the Mini-Grants Assistance Program and the Multi-Use Facilities Grant Program. Currently there are over 50 grants open and active, totaling about \$15 million. The Research & Analysis section also works closely with Denali Commission to maintain the Plans Library and the Capital Project Database.

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - Federal Department of Defense
  - Federal Department of Health & Social Services
  - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
  - Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
  - Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER)
  - Internal Revenue Service
  - Municipal Clerks Association
  - National Rural Water Association
  - Norton Sound Health Corporation
  - Office of Economic Development, DCCED
  - Rasmuson Foundation
  - Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA)
  - Rural Alaska Fuel Services
  - RurAL CAP Inc.
  - Rural Community Action Corporation (RCAC)
  - US Corps of Engineers
  - US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
  - US Economic Development Administration (EDA)
  - Village Safe Water (VSW)
  - Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
- And many more ...



Members of the Newtok Planning Group, a multi-agency group assisting the Native Village of Newtok in its relocation efforts (see page 27 for more details).

## **Financial Assistance/Grant Programs**

The Division of Community Advocacy administers a number of programs that provide financial assistance to communities to supplement local revenue generation. A number of these revenue programs help allocate State or federal funds to local communities. The Division also administers grant programs which can help communities with the finances to build infrastructure needed to support community and business development. Federally funded programs and State resources support this effort. Some of these programs continue from year to year while others are special programs that have a limited time frame or limited funding. Program staff are available to answer questions about the various funding sources and help direct communities to the most appropriate source for a proposed project.

### **Community Financial Assistance Programs**

#### **Federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for Cities in the Unorganized Borough**

Division staff worked closely with U.S. Senator Ted Stevens to establish and administer this program which expanded federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments to include cities located in Alaska's unorganized borough. The Division distributed \$6,366,514 to 98 Alaska cities in FY 07. These federal funds are especially crucial for many cities as they continue to deal with increasing fuel costs, insurance, Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) liabilities, and reduced revenues while attempting to provide basic public services.

#### **Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program**

This program provides for an annual sharing of State fish tax collected outside of municipal boundaries on the basis of 19 "fisheries management areas." The funding available within each of these areas is distributed among municipalities in that area based on the level of significant impacts resulting from fishing industry activity compared to the level of impacts experienced by other municipalities in that area. In FY 07, \$1,867,596 in State fisheries business tax will be distributed to 106 eligible municipalities.



### **Fisheries Resource Landing Tax**

A Fisheries Resource Landing Tax is levied on processed fishery resources first landed in Alaska or on any processed fishery resource subject to Sec. 210(f) of the American Fisheries Act. The State tax is based on the unprocessed value of the resource. The unprocessed value is determined by multiplying a statewide average price per pound (based on Alaska Department of Fish and Game data) by the unprocessed weight. Fisheries Resource Landing Tax is collected primarily from factory trawlers and floating processors which process fishery resources outside of the State's three mile limit and bring their products into Alaska for transshipment. The Fisheries Resource Landing Tax revenues are allocated to eligible municipalities on the same basis as the Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program. The Division will distribute \$1,235,290 to eligible municipalities in FY 07.

### **National Forest Receipts**

The Division distributes federal National Forest Receipts under the authority of 16 USC 500 and under AS 41.15.180. The federal law was amended in 2000 under the "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act." The Act provides that for State fiscal years 2002 - 2007, the State shall receive an annual payment equal to the average of the three highest National Forest Receipts payments made to the State during fiscal years 1987 - 2000. In FY 07, the Division will allocate over \$9 million to nine boroughs, nineteen cities, four Regional Educational Attendance Areas (REAs), and the Metlakatla reservation.

If the Secure Rural Schools Act is not extended, National Forest Receipt payments in FY 2008 will revert back to the original distribution formula. Under that allocation formula, 25% of the annual income derived from the National Forest is returned to the State to be distributed to communities located within the Forest for the benefit of schools and roads. Recent Forest Service estimates show that under the original distribution formula, National Forest Receipt payments may decrease by roughly 85% in FY 2008. This will place many of Southeast Alaska's school districts in serious financial difficulty as they rely substantially on National Forest Receipts funding for the operation of their schools. It is unclear how and if municipal school districts and REAs will be able to address these potentially large school funding shortfalls.



### **Municipality Energy Assistance Program**

The State of Alaska implemented the Municipal Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) for FY 2007; MEAP is an expanded version of the previous 2004 Small Municipality Energy Assistance Program (SMEAP). Under the SMEAP, \$6.45 million in fuel grants was allocated to municipalities with populations less than 2,500 for the following prioritized uses: 1) repay any indebtedness of the municipality to the Bulk Fuel Revolving Loan Fund; 2) repay any indebtedness of the municipality to a fuel company or fuel vendor; and, 3) purchase fuel.

Under the MEAP, the State Legislature appropriated \$48 Million to all municipal governments "for the purpose of defraying increased energy and other costs." In order to qualify for funding, a municipality was required to submit: 1) a MEAP budget showing its proposed use of grant funds; 2) a copy of its current year approved municipal budget; and, 3) a copy of its previous fiscal year municipal audit or certified financial statement.

With the elimination of funding for the long-standing State Revenue Sharing and Safe Communities Programs in 2003, these two programs have been vital to local governments in providing basic local government services and addressing increased fuel costs and escalating local taxes.



Fuel Storage in Atmiutlaurk

## Grant Programs

The Grants Section of the Division is responsible for administering a variety of federal and State grant programs. Responsibilities include preparing, updating, and amending federal and state plans for receipt of program dollars under each program as well as quarterly reporting to the federal or state government. Staff provides technical assistance to municipalities, unincorporated communities, non-profit organizations, tribal governments, and the public on objectives of each grant program; eligible recipients of grant funds for each program; specific requirements and project eligibility for each program; and, reporting and record-keeping requirements for each program. Staff are responsible for issuing notices of funding availability; reviewing applications for eligibility; negotiating grant agreements; writing, amending, monitoring, and terminating grant agreements; overseeing project implementation to ensure compliance; and, processing and approving requests for payment.

The Grant Section consists of 10 permanent staff including a Grant Manager; eight Grant Administrators; and a Training Specialist. There are also two non-permanent Grant Administrators to help with specific projects. On average, Grants Administrators manage the equivalent of 314 grants each. The Grants Section's website is:

<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/grt/grantsMenu.cfm>

## Grants Tracking Information System Database

An Internet-based management system was completed in May 2000, for internal use by the Division's Grant Administrators. The database tracks detailed information needed for all of the grants administered by the Division. View-only grant information from the Grants Tracking System is available to the public in the Community Funding Database at:

[http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF\\_Grants.htm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Grants.htm)

## Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

The goal of the federally-funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is to enhance the quality of life for low and moderate-income residents, particularly in rural Alaska. The Program provides grants for public facilities and planning activities that address conditions detrimental to the health and safety of local residents. The grants reduce the costs of essential community services. Special economic development funds may be used to



provide capital to assist in the creation or retention of jobs that principally benefit low and moderate-income persons. During FY 07, approximately \$3.0 million was awarded in grants.

During the fall of FY 07, Division staff provided four Grant Writing workshops in communities throughout the state. Approximately 65 local government officials participated. The purpose of the workshops was to provide an overview of the CDBG



grant program and to train potential grant applicants how to successfully complete the CDBG application packet. Feedback from the workshops was very positive and the Division hopes to continue and perhaps expand on those in FY 08.

**Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program**

The goal of the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program is to reduce and/or prevent poverty through community-based educational activities, which lead to a greater degree of self-sufficiency on the part of low-income persons. Services are provided through the state's only Community Action Agency, RurALCAP. During FY 07, approximately \$2.4 million was made available to RurALCAP to provide eligible services to people in poverty across the state.

The goal of the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program is to reduce

**Emergency Shelter Grant Program**

The goals of the federal Emergency Shelter Grant Program are to assist with the following activities relating to emergency shelter for the homeless: renovation, major rehabilitation, or conversions of buildings for use as emergency shelters for the homeless; payment of maintenance, operation, insurance, utilities, and furnishings; and, payment for provision of essential community services including those concerned with employment, health, substance abuse, education, food, or prevention. During FY 07, approximately \$120,000 was made available statewide for the program.

**Legislative Grants Program**

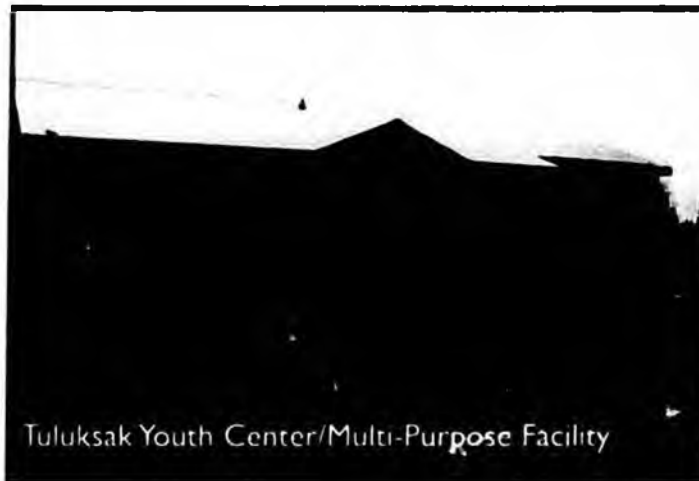
Legislative grants are awarded by the State Legislature, with final approval by the Governor (delegated to a specific Division for administration). It is the Division's responsibility to notify grantees of their awards, develop and execute grant agreements based on each project, monitor



performance, and manage the reimbursement process. These awards can be for a variety of projects such as health, fire and safety, water and sewer, construction of community facilities, economic development initiatives, cemetery restoration, and program operations. This Division also ensures grantees obtain site control, State Fire Marshal approval, and other regulatory agency permits, as required. The Division currently administers approximately 1,060 active legislative grants for a total value of \$375 million.

### **Denali Commission**

The Grants Section administers several Denali Commission grants, including the Mini-Grant Assistance Program and the Multi-Use Facilities Grant Program. Since 2001, the Division has administered over 150 Denali Commission grants totaling approximately \$17 million. Over 50 grants are currently open and active, totaling about \$15 million. The Division also supports a position to liaison with Denali Commission full-time on development issues, as do several other State and federal agencies.



Tuluksak Youth Center/Multi-Purpose Facility

### **Mini-Grant Assistance Program**

The Mini-Grant Assistance Program is federally funded by the Denali Commission and formerly the U.S. Forest Service. The program provides grants on an annual competitive basis to rural Alaska communities for a wide range of development projects and



Fire Lookout Station

development strategies. Grants are awarded to the most viable projects that promote development by diversifying the economic base to provide jobs, income and long-lasting economic benefits to the communities served. One application per community is accepted annually for a maximum of \$30,000. The funding level in FY 07 was approximately \$400,000. Currently there are 30 active grants totaling \$860,000.

The Mini-Grant Assistance Program is one of the most popular grant programs the Division administers. DCA generally receives between 75 and 100 applications requesting in excess of \$1.5 million. The program provides a source of funding for many activities that are not funded through other means. Planning activities (including feasibility studies, business plans, and community development plans) are very popular as are projects that provide seed money for economic development activities. Without the Mini-Grant Assistance Program, many innovative and exciting projects would likely never get off the ground. Although a small investment, the Mini-Grant Assistance Program provides significant benefits to a large number of communities across the state annually.

**Success Story: Mini-Grant Program Assessment**

In 2006, the Research & Analysis section conducted an assessment of the Mini-Grant Program and published its findings in a report titled, *Mini-Grant Program: Community Impact and Program Evaluation*. Program strengths included Mini-Grant recipients consider the Mini-Grant Program to be "friendly" along various factors including: 1) minimal application process; 2) minimal reporting requirements; 3) quick award process; 4) ready Mini-Grant funds; 5) minimal reporting requirements; and 6) quick award process. Although there were some criticisms of the Mini-Grant Program including: 1) short application cycle and 2) inconsistent application deadlines. Communities were asked to rate the Mini-Grant Program on a scale of one to five with one as very poor and five as very good. On average (16 communities reporting), the Mini-Grant Program rated a 4.75 on the five point scale, further illustrating the popularity and utility of the Mini-Grant Program as administered by the Division. The full report can be found at:

<http://commerce.state.ak.us/dca/grt/pub/MiniGrantProgramReport.pdf>

**Multi-Use Facility Grants**

The Multi-Use Facility Grant Program is federally funded by the Denali Commission. The purpose of the program is to encourage consolidation of compatible essential community services while eliminating duplication of services and increasing the efficiency with which services are provided. Multi-Use Facilities can meet a variety of needs in Alaska and enhance the delivery of vital community services.





Over the past several years, the Commission has been made aware of many additional needs throughout Alaska through its Multi-Use Facility Program. Recognizing the challenge of getting projects to the construction stage, the Commission has expanded the program to assist with the planning and design of such facilities. The Commission wants to assist in bringing projects to completion and, where appropriate, move projects to their next level. Applicants can apply for one of the four types

of available funding: conceptual planning, design, construction, or repair and renovation. Priority for funding goes to projects associated with life, health, and safety. Projects funded with Multi-Use Facility funds are generally limited to serving communities with populations estimated of no greater than 2,500 people. In FY 07, there are 23 active projects totaling approximately \$6 Million that the Division is administering.

Division staff have worked with the Denali Commission since early 2005 to make the changes necessary and expand the program to include conceptual planning and design projects. This work entailed rewriting the application/proposal templates and providing a Multi-Use Business Plan template for applicants to use.

### **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program**

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program is a federal grant program that provides assistance to National Flood Insurance participating communities for flood mitigation planning and project activities. Project grants are to elevate, relocate, or buy out flood-prone, flood-insured structures. The Division administers these Federal Emergency Management Agency pass-through grants. For detailed information on these grants please see the Floodplain Management section of this report.

### **National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska (NPR-A) Impact Program**

The State receives 50 percent of the revenues from federal oil and gas lease sales in the NPR-A under 42 U.S.C. § 6508. Oil and Gas development in the NPR-A region places economic and environmental stress on municipalities in the area. In order to minimize the impact of oil and gas development to these communities, Impact Program funds are allocated to municipalities, with priority given to those most heavily impacted for planning; construction, maintenance, and operation of essential public facilities; and, other necessary provision of public service.



In September 2006, Division staff traveled to Barrow to conduct a workshop for communities within the NPR-A. This is the fourth year that the Grants Section offered an NPR-A workshop. Staff reviewed the overall program objectives, eligible activities, completion of application forms, the level of funds anticipated to be available, and answered specific questions from community representatives. Staff also reviewed general grant management expectations. Feedback was positive and the Division plans to continue offering similar workshops in coming years.



In January 2006, the Division recommended funding awards in the amount of \$4,278,502 for 15 NPR-A projects. In FY 07, there were 90 active NPR-A grants totaling approximately \$80 Million. For FY 08 it is anticipated that approximately \$12 Million will be available for NPR-A grant awards in January or February 2007.



#### **Community Project Capital Matching Grant Program for Incorporated and Unincorporated Communities**

As of FY 2004, the Capital Project Matching Grant Program has not received new funds and is not expected to receive funding in the future. However, there are approximately 350 active Capital Project Matching Grants totaling approximately \$17,000,000 that the Division continues to administer.

#### **Department of Defense Ground Based Missile Defense Impact Grants**

The Division administered two missile defense impact grants for the community of Delta Junction totaling over \$24 Million during FY 07. One for the City of Delta Junction and one for the Delta Greely School District. Currently one grant remains open with a balance of over \$2.5 Million.

#### **Alaska Coastal Management Grants**

The Grants Section assisted other Division staff in the administration of 55 Alaska Coastal Management Grants totaling approximately \$840,000 in FY 07.

#### **Coastal Impact Assistance Program**

The Grants Section assisted other Division staff in the administration of 56 Coastal Impact Assistance Program Grants totaling \$3 Million during FY 07.

## Local Boundary Commission

Of approximately 120 State boards and commissions, the Local Boundary Commission (LBC) is one of only two executive branch boards named in Alaska's Constitution, the University Board of Regents being the other. The framers of Alaska's Constitution established the LBC to adjudicate municipal boundary matters. The framers recognized that city and borough governments were the fundamental political subdivisions of State government for the delivery of vital public services at the local level. The LBC has the duty to judge proposals for:

- incorporation of cities and boroughs;
- reclassification of cities;
- annexation to cities and boroughs;
- detachment from cities and boroughs;
- dissolution of cities and boroughs;
- merger of cities and boroughs; and
- consolidation of cities and boroughs.

The Division of Community Advocacy carries out the Department's statutory duty [AS 44.33.020(a)(4)] to provide staff for the (LBC).

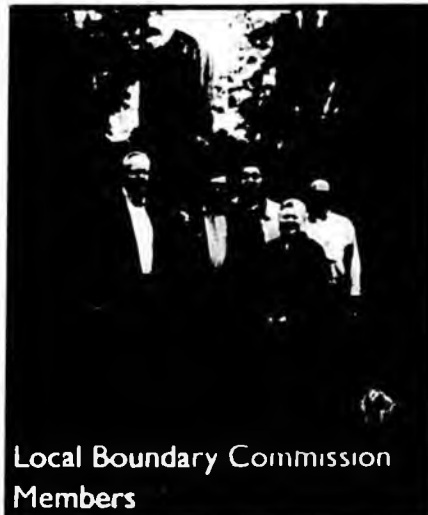
Those duties are further defined in AS 29.04

– 29.06. The LBC has other duties set out in AS 44.33.812, including the responsibility to "make studies of local government boundary problems."

DCA staff provides technical support to the LBC, petitioners, respondents, and other interested individuals and organizations.

The LBC files a report with the State Legislature each year detailing its activities and decisions. That report will be presented to the Legislature in January 2007, and will be available on the following Website:

<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/lbc/LBCreport.htm>



Local Boundary Commission Members

## **LBC 2006 Activity Highlights**

During 2006, the LBC worked diligently on a wide range of activities encompassing incorporations, annexations, detachments and much more. Here are some of the year's highlights.

### **City Incorporation**

City incorporation activities and inquiries occurred to various degrees with respect to six communities. The six communities are Big Lake, Healy, Horseshoe Lake, Igiugig, Levelock; and Naukati. In Naukati, the LBC approved a city incorporation proposal; however, voters rejected the proposal.



### **City Annexation**

In 2006, city annexation was explored or pursued to various degrees with respect to the 10 city governments listed below. At the time of this report, however, no city annexation petitions are pending before the LBC.

- City of Homer (conclusion of litigation)
- City of King Cove
- City of Klawock
- City of Kodiak
- City of Palmer
- City of Petersburg
- City of North Pole
- City of Seldovia
- City of Soldotna
- City of Wasilla

### **City Dissolution**

During 2006, interest was expressed in dissolving the City of Tanana, a first-class city in unorganized borough. However, no petition for dissolution was filed.

### **City Reclassification**

There was interest in 2006 in reclassifying Houston, currently a second-class city to a first-class city.

## **Borough Incorporation**

In 2006, activities regarding borough incorporation occurred to varying degrees in 15 areas of the state. Three formal proposals to the Commission were pending during 2006 (Delta-Greely, Skagway and Wrangell). Four other areas were subject of formal studies: Eagle River-Chugiak; Glacier Bay-Chatham; Middle Kuskokwim; and Yukon Flats. The 15 areas are:

- Copper River Basin
- Delta-Greely region
- Ekwok
- Eagle River-Chugiak territory
- Greater Nenana territory
- Glacier Bay-Chatham region  
(Angoon, Elfin Cove, Kake,  
Hoonah, Pelican, Gustavus, and  
Tenakee Springs)
- Kake
- Middle Kuskokwim region
- Petersburg
- Prince William Sound
- Skagway
- Yukon Flats
- Yukon-Koyukuk
- Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
- Wrangell

## **Borough Annexation**

In 2006, Haines Borough (Klukwan), Ketchikan Gateway Borough, and the City and Borough of Juneau expressed interest in annexation activity. A petition for annexation to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough was filed.

## **Borough Detachment**

Interest in borough detachment occurred in the following boroughs during 2006. However, no petitions were filed.

- Kenai Peninsula Borough (Hope)
- Haines Borough (Swanson Harbor/Excursion Inlet)
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Ahtna, Inc. lands)
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Little Nelchina area)
- Municipality of Anchorage (Eagle River-Chugiak area)
- City and Borough of Juneau (Greens Creek Mine)

## **Merger**

Interest in merger occurred with respect to the City of Kachemak and the City of Homer in 2006, although no petition was filed.

### **Consolidation**

A petition for consolidation of the City of Ketchikan and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough was considered and approved by the LBC during 2006. In a subsequent by-mail election, voters rejected the consolidation proposal.

### **Special Projects**

In addition to the activity listed above, the LBC initiated a comprehensive review of its regulations. That effort is continuing at the time of this report.

### **Additional LBC Information**

Further information on the Local Boundary Commission is available at:

<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/lbc/lbc.htm>



LBC Members and Staff



LBC Staff at Public Information Meeting



LBC Hearing

## Community Technical Assistance/Rural Utility Business Advisor

A significant portion of Division's personnel resources are dedicated to providing technical advice and assistance directly to communities. This assistance is provided under two main sections, Local Government Assistance and the more focused Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) program.

### Local Government Assistance

Alaska's Constitution, statutes, and regulations define the powers and responsibilities of local governments. Examples of assistance and training frequently requested of DCA include:

- ordinance development and codification;
- elections training;
- personnel practices;
- tax assessment and collection;
- Title 4 (Alcohol) local option laws;
- council powers and procedures;
- interpretation of State and local laws;
- development of land disposal ordinances; and
- Newly Elected Officials (NEO) training.



Training in Regional Centers

With a demanding work load and limited resources, the Division prioritizes not only what services are provided but how to most effectively provide the services. The Local Government Assistance section provides assistance through the following methods:

- one-on-one assistance either on-site or through remote methods;
- development of training materials and presentation in regional workshops;
- development of the Local Government Online (LOGON) web based information system.



**One-on-One Assistance:** Local Government Specialists (LGS's) are assigned to specific communities throughout the state. They are charged with answering the technical assistance questions asked by communities, and as necessary and given available resources, travel to communities to provide one-on-one training. With the large increase in the cost of fuel and insurance; sound budgeting, accounting systems, and financial reporting systems received renewed attention in many communities. DCA staff spent a

significant amount of time working with communities to address specific problems/issues, especially the financing/purchase of fuel oil.

**Development of Training Materials and Presentation in Regional Workshops:**

One way the Division has provided a larger distribution of technical assistance is through the development of training materials and presentations. Presentations include statewide meetings such as Alaska Municipal League Conference, or the Alaska Conference on the Environment; regional meetings such as Yukon-Kuskokwim Housing Conference or Norton Sound Regional Economic Conference; specific sub-regional workshops on topics such as payroll tax reporting, financial accounting systems. The Division also provides training for newly elected officials, this training is an effective way to reach a larger number of constituents. DCA, has over the years, produced a large number of technical assistance publications which are used for many of these trainings. A complete list of publications available is on our website at:

[www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/StaffDir/GetPubl.cfm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/StaffDir/GetPubl.cfm)

**Success Story: City of Chignik**

The City of Chignik has been very proactive over the last year in seeking assistance with local government issues and working to improve its services for utility services. In response to administrative staff and council member turnover, as well as a prior RUBA management assessment noting deficiencies, a city resolution requesting DCA/RUBA assistance was received and a RUBA agreement with work plan was signed November 2005. The most significant issue facing the community was reconciling declining levels of revenue with increasing costs from an earlier administration. Previous budgets were not realistic and Council members were not receiving timely and meaningful financial information with which to manage the entity.



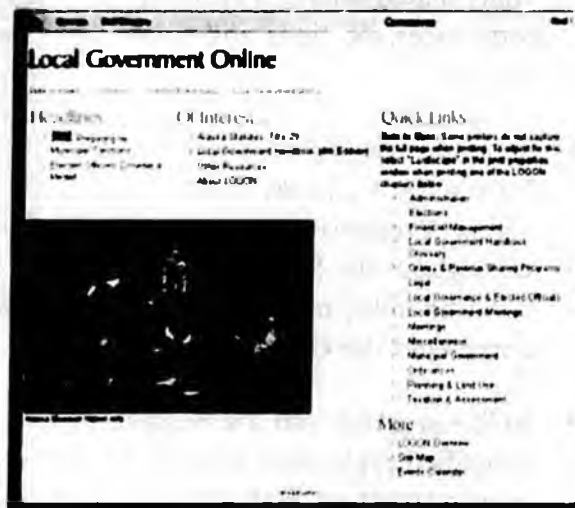
RUBA staff assisted the City in drafting and adopting a realistic and balanced budget. Recommendations were made concerning problems on how the accounting systems were set up in QuickBooks. These changes were necessary to facilitate the creation of more meaningful financial reports for the Council. Assistance was also offered on how to complete personnel evaluations with a sample form provided; utility hiring practices and suggested changes to the utility personnel policies; and rate setting. Local government issues addressed included assistance with the Open Meetings Act; local government procedures, including Department of Justice pre-clearance for special elections; council seat termination ordinance adoption procedures.

With RUBA assistance, the City of Chignik was able to correct deficient management indicators that were required to be eligible for funding of a community sanitation project. RUBA helped the community secure a fuel loan to provide winter fuel. The community has realized the seriousness of its situation and is taking steps to become a viable entity. To provide for necessary services and local government while working to complete several utility improvement projects, close attention will be paid to budgeting, rate setting and collections. RUBA will continue to offer assistance so that City staff, in addition to Council members now have the necessary technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide for their community.



**Local Government Online (LOGON):** LOGON is a web-based local government information system created by the Division of Community Advocacy to provide information to municipal and tribal governments, non-profit corporations providing public services, and residents. Its web-based availability makes it a more accessible source of information on local government procedures and issues.

LOGON provides easily accessible information on local government topics such as: duties and responsibilities of elected officials, the Open Meetings Act, financial and personnel management issues, and election procedures.



Each LOGON chapter contains an overview of the respective topic, a frequently asked questions (FAQs) section, and web links to applicable Alaska Statutes, regulations, and sample documents. As an ever-evolving resource, LOGON is continually updated and includes a newsletter, calendar of events, annual Title 29 updates, and links to other resources, agencies, and programs. In addition to the online website and attendant resources, the Division is currently developing training materials that builds on the information contained in LOGON. Explore LOGON at:

[www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/LOGON/home.cfm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/LOGON/home.cfm)

### **Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA)**

The goal of the Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) Program is to prepare rural communities for, and help them meet, the challenge of managing and operating sanitation utilities. RUBA is achieving this goal by providing assistance in the areas of business, finance, personnel, and general management to governments and organizations responsible for operating water and sewer utilities in rural Alaska.

Visit RUBA at:

<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/ruba/ruba.htm>

FY 06 RUBA staff activities include:

- Completed 188 trips to 167 different communities for a total of 497 days on-site to provide RUBA assistance on a wide range of topics including utility management, personnel, ordinances, elections, and much more.
- Presented ten 32-hour Utility Management Classes in six different regional centers throughout the State. One hundred utility managers completed the classes.
- RUBA worked with the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) to develop a simplified application process for rate changes, including allowances for a sinking fund in rate structure. Staff attended public hearings and a follow-up workshop to identify best practices and mechanisms to protect the fund collected for future development of sanitation infrastructure.
- Worked with the RCA to develop potential regulatory changes for water and wastewater utilities. These changes include (1) a request to allow utilities to increase rates to include charges to create a reserve fund to amortize (or replace) contributed capital, and (2) to identify a standardized rate setting methodology for use by rural utilities. RUBA staff also provided assistance to rural utility staff in meeting RCA Provisional Certification Requirements.



**Success Story: Ninilchik Village Townsite Assessment**

RUBA staff completed a utility management assessment for the Ninilchik Village Townsite Association. The Association requested the assessment in preparation for a sanitation project. The RUBA assessment identified several management deficiencies. In response to the findings in the assessment, the Ninilchik Village Townsite Association Administrator met with RUBA program staff and requested that the series of six utility management workshops be presented in Ninilchik. Since the Association does not currently provide any utility services and needed to obtain skills necessary to set up the service, the series of management courses was a good fit. RUBA staff has provided four of the series in Ninilchik since November 2005 with a commitment from both parties to complete the final two courses in the spring of 2007.

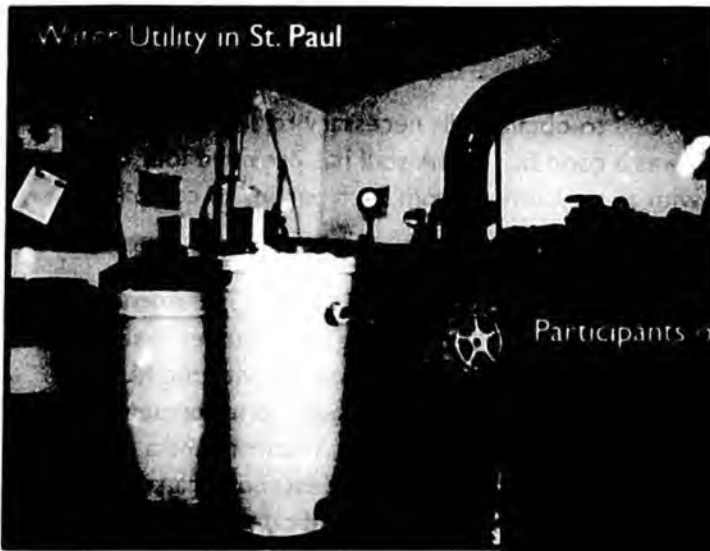


Staff from communities surrounding Ninilchik have also attended these workshops. Anchor Point, Nikolaevsk, and Voznesenka have committed to attending the remaining two courses in the series. A year ago the communities of Anchor Point and Voznesenka did not comply with the RUBA assessment of management indicators. After the RUBA utility management series presentation and on-site RUBA assistance, both communities have met the essential indicators and a majority of the sustainable indicators for their utility. Nikolaevsk has also met all essential management indicators and a majority of the sustainable ones. Meeting all essential indicators is a requirement prior to Village Safe Water funding construction of a water/wastewater project. Meeting essential indicators also ensures successful day to day operations of public utilities.

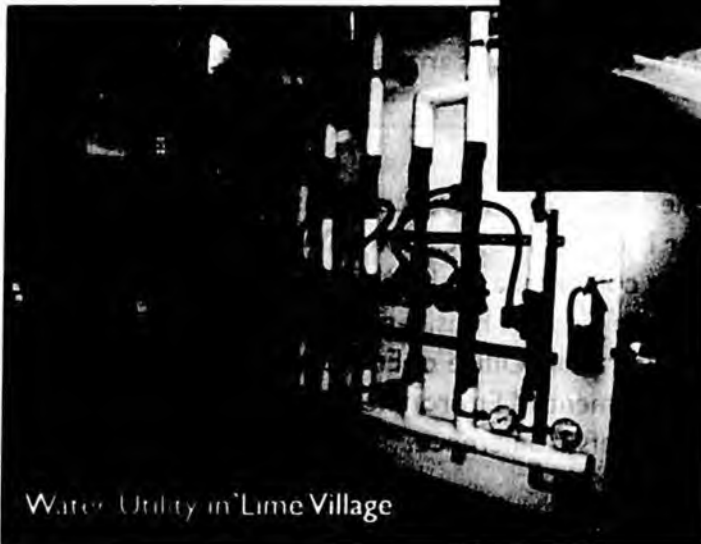
Ninilchik Village Townsite staff has continued to work closely with the RUBA program in cosponsoring the course and providing classroom space plus arranging participant registrations.

- Presented information sessions at the following conferences: Alaska Municipal League (AML), Alaska Water and Wastewater Manager's Association (AWWMA), Alaska Rural Water Association (ARWA), Southeast conference of the AWWMA, Kodiak Rural Regional Leadership Forum, Alaska Village Council Presidents Region Housing Summit, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation, Office of Environmental Health, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Department of Environmental Conservation, Kawerak Regional Conference, and the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

- Attended and participated in the Alaska Sanitation Facilities Organization Joint Meeting. This inter-agency meeting was well attended by staff from Village Safe Water, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Environmental Protection Agency, Remote Maintenance Workers, health corporation representatives and all regional RUBA staff. The event provided management and leadership of all the entities an opportunity to present an overview of current issues and field questions from participants. Small working groups were also formed to learn firsthand about the roles of their counterparts at other agencies.
- Served on the evaluation committee for DEC Village Safe Water Grants.



Participants of a Utility Management Class



## Office of the State Assessor (OSA)

In accordance with state law, the Office of State Assessor (OSA) conducted the annual full value determination (FVD) for taxable property in the 16 organized boroughs and 76 home rule, first class, and second class (with a population over 750) cities, for a total of 92 municipalities. The results are published in a report titled, "Alaska Taxable."

To review the report, contact the OSA or visit the Division's website at:

<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/osa/assessor.cfm>

In 2006, the OSA worked with the Alaska Association of Assessing Officers (AAAO) to complete a standard on Community Purpose Exemption in accordance with Alaska Statute 29.45.050(b)(1)(A). The standard provides relevant issues and guidance for administrative analysis regarding the "Community Purpose" property tax exemption as an optional exemption authorized by AS 29.45(b)(1)(A). In addition, the OSA worked with the AAAO and the Alaska Municipal League (AML) to support legislation that narrows the definition of property which is used for "charitable" purposes. The current definition of "charitable" is so relatively broad that it may include a large variety of uses which may not, in the ordinary sense of things, be considered "charitable."



In 2006, the OSA completed restructuring and calibrating various models used in valuing personal property, including vessels and privately owned aircraft throughout the state. The OSA also began work on revaluing the Lake & Peninsula Borough. The revaluation process fulfills a cyclical economic requirement to determine true and fair value of properties approximately every four years, with a desired on-site inspection every two years. A preliminary survey was completed which will be used to estimate the scope of work necessary to complete the revaluation on the Borough. The OSA conducted three week-long educational courses within the state. The courses included Fundamentals of Property Appraisal and Fundamentals of Mass Appraisal. In addition, the OSA also prepared and presented workshops at the annual Alaska Municipal League meeting in November 2006 in Juneau. The OSA is preparing a new workshop on tax policy for the Newly Elected Officials (NEO) at the AML conference in 2007.

## **Planning/Land Management & Municipal Lands Trustee**

The Land Management and Community Planning programs provide assistance to communities on regional and local land issues. The main areas of assistance are technical advice and training on local planning and land management efforts, the Alaska Coastal Management Program, the Municipal Lands Trustee Program, and the National Flood Insurance Program. The section performs an integral role in the Denali Commission's Planning Workgroup.

### **Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP)**

Through balanced stewardship, the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) strives to sustain the long-term economic and environmental productivity of the Alaska coast. The ACMP provides a balance of decision making that addresses all interests, coastal resources, and coastal uses. Twenty-eight coastal districts participate in the program by developing local coastal management plans, implementing local plans through the consistency review process, and informing and educating the public about the ACMP. The Division's role in the program, established in AS 44.47.095, supports the coastal districts through research, training, and technical assistance. DCA also manages the ACMP grant program, which awards approximately \$1 million annually in grant funds to the coastal districts.

In Fiscal Year 2006, ACMP coastal districts were engaged in amending district coastal management plans to bring the local plans into compliance with revised ACMP statutes and regulations. Staff provided technical assistance and administered the grants through which the plan amendment and required tasks process was funded. In addition to overseeing and providing assistance with the development and implementation tasks of ACMP coastal districts, DCA staff provided assistance in the following areas:

- **Technical Assistance Visits to Coastal Communities:** Staff visited the cities of Nome, Gustavus, Bethel, Hoonah, Thorne Bay, Pelican, Whittier, and Bering Straits CRSA (Norton Sound) in order to provide technical assistance on district coastal management plan amendments and district plan implementation.
- **Training and Technical Assistance to Coastal District Coordinators:** Staff provided training and technical assistance to the new district coordinators of Bethel, Cordova, Whittier, Bristol Bay Borough Kodiak Island Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough, and Thorne Bay on the required tasks of coastal districts in the ACMP.
- **Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grants:** Staff completed the administration of this program of fifty-six grant projects located in communities throughout the state, from Barrow to Ketchikan. The grants included projects related to:

- Conservation, restoration, enhancement or protection of Alaska coastal and marine areas, including wetlands and watersheds.
- Education, particularly of young people, to develop an understanding and appreciation for Alaska coastal environments and watersheds.

### **Taking the Lead: Newtok Planning Group**

The Division of Community Advocacy has served as the lead coordinator for the **Newtok Planning Group**, a multi-agency group assisting the Native Village of Newtok in its relocation efforts. The Village of Newtok has been threatened for years by high rates of erosion and more recently a dramatic increase in seasonal flooding. Federal and State studies have concluded that there is no permanent and cost-effective way for Newtok to remain at the current village site and in 2003, the village was able to acquire land to relocate to on Nelson Island after Congress passed S. 924. Division staff has facilitated Newtok Planning Group meetings on a monthly basis to coordinate agency efforts in the village relocation. In addition to coordinating the Newtok Planning Group, the Division has provided critical technical assistance to the Newtok community in its relocation efforts:



- The Division prepared, on behalf of the Newtok Traditional Council, a grant application for Investment Assistance to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for the design and construction of a Multi-Use Marine Support Facility at the village relocation site on Nelson Island. The Division, in co-application with the Newtok Traditional Council, was awarded an EDA grant of \$800,000 for the project. This facility, which includes a barge ramp, floating dock and upland staging area, will provide critical support to the delivery of equipment and materials for construction of the new village site.
- The Division also provided technical assistance to the Newtok Traditional Council in its application for a Mini-Grant for the development of a community layout plan for the new village site. The Traditional Council was awarded a Mini-Grant of \$26,682 for this project, which will guide the efficient and orderly development of the new village site.

- **Participation in Federal Initiatives funded through the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA):** Staff participated in federally-funded initiatives led by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting including:
  - Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP).
  - Staff participated on the review panel for project proposals to NOAA for federal funding under the State's CELCP program.
  - **CZMA Section 6217 Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.** Staff participated in efforts to meet the remaining conditions to achieve federal approval of Alaska's Coastal Nonpoint Program. The focus of this federally-funded program is to more effectively manage polluted runoff in Alaska's coastal areas.
  - **CZMA Section 309 Enhancement Grants Program:** Staff participated in efforts to update the 2005 Alaska Enhancement Grants Assessment and Strategy. This program provides grant funding to ACMP coastal districts and State agencies to update district coastal management plans and to complete projects that improve local implementation of district programs. DCA administers Section 309 Enhancement Grants to ACMP coastal districts. Staff also participated in the review of Fiscal Year 2006 Section 309 Enhancement Grants submittals, and in the development of grant agreements for the selected projects.

## Land Management and Mapping

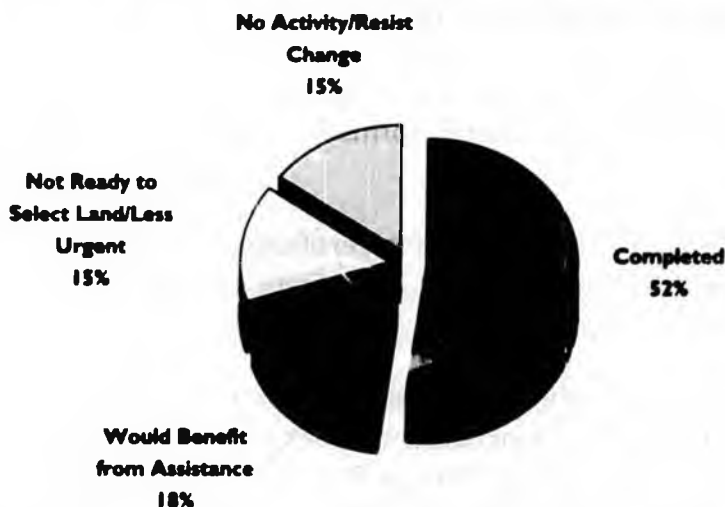
Unresolved land claims and inadequate information about land sometimes hinder development for both the private and public sectors. The land management section provides information, maps, and assistance to agencies, contractors, and rural communities so they may overcome land problems that currently impede development. Some of the services provided include the following:



- **Site Control.** This includes preparing title opinions and providing maps, sample documents, and technical assistance to assure a proper ownership interest for publicly funded projects. Site control helps protect State and local government investment in buildings and facilities. To assist local governments in obtaining site control, land management staff has recently developed course work for Statewide and Anchorage area classes that will be presented in 2007.

- Community Profile Mapping.** By assisting groups that are contracting for the preparation of community mapping, the Division ensures that community maps are prepared to a standard that is compatible with other users, that existing digital mapping is used whenever possible, and that the project is coordinated with other agency mapping efforts that may be taking place. The maps are an important planning tool to expedite infrastructure development and reduce property loss due to site control problems and natural hazards. In exchange for DCA assistance, mapping partners permit the maps to be added to a community-mapping library and shared with the public in paper and digital form. DCA's current mapping partnerships are developing new aerial photo based community maps in 31 rural communities.
- Land Management.** Section 14(c) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) provides that certain land in ANCSA communities be made available to residents, businesses, non-profits, communities, and airport operators. DCA provides community mapping and land management assistance to municipalities, unincorporated communities, and Native village corporations so they may carry out the process of identifying and conveying 14(c) land claims. This year DCA's assistance was instrumental in the settlement of land claims and the submission of maps of boundaries for the communities of N. Ilchik and Shaktoolik. The Surveying of land claims was completed in Tanacross, Hoonah, Naknek, Twin Hills and Angoon. The settlement of the ANCSA 14(c) land claims is an essential step in clearing land title in the community and providing a base of land for private and public land development. In unincorporated communities DCA carries out the community planning and negotiation of the 14(c)(3) community land on behalf of a future municipal corporation, in accordance with AS 44.33.755. Leases, deeds, and easements of Municipal Trust Land were issued this year for housing, sanitation facilities, clinics, consolidated bulk fuel storage, roads, and other community facilities.

**Communities with 14(c) Settlements, Statewide\***



\* Adjusted for vacant villages and completed communities that have not submitted Maps of Boundaries.

**Land Planning**

The Section is involved with communities on a day to day basis involving land planning and site control and land disposal. Staff is involved in planning commission training, planning for utilities management and developing proposals for community plan development through partnering agencies.

**Floodplain Management**

The mission of the Division's Floodplain Management Program is to reduce public and private sector losses and damage from flooding and erosion by providing coordination, funding, and technical assistance to cities and boroughs statewide, particularly National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating communities.



**National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

The Division serves as the State coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The program provides an opportunity for 86 percent of the population to purchase flood insurance coverage for individuals, businesses, and renters in 32 cities and boroughs, and regulate land use in flood prone areas.

**Floodplain Management Programs**

**Floodplain Management/National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

In 2006, Division staff provided technical assistance following three major disasters and flood events from riverine and coastal storms. Staff assistance included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Provided training on the new elevation certificate required to be used effective January 2007. The four workshops, held across the State, focused on Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.
- Community Assistance visits were performed in the cities of Seward, Togiak, Dillingham, Nenana, Delta Junction, and Valdez, to assist with compliance, training, and implementation of their Flood Damage Prevention ordinances. The City of Aniak had additional follow-up completed from a previous community assistance visit.

- Coordinated a Coastal Flooding and Erosion Workshop in Dillingham to provide Bristol Bay area policy makers training in Floodplain Management and Mitigation Techniques to include planned retreat from eroding shorelines.
- Assisted Homer in implementing No Adverse Impact (NAI) policy of their Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances. This is a higher regulatory standard and is encouraged in best management practices of enhanced floodplain management. Assisted communities in the education to fully understand assistance programs available to mitigate future flood damages, such as buy-out, elevation, and relocation.



- Continue to organize community relocation and erosion/flood control meetings for the most-threatened communities of Shishmaref, Kivalina, and Newtok.
- Partnering with the Army Corps of Engineers on the development of a \$2 million baseline erosion assessment. The assessment currently is on hold until Federal funding is restored.

**Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program** is managed by the Floodplain Management Staff.

- Staff acquired grant funding to elevate or buyout a home that has experienced repetitive flooding in Seward that was subsequently damaged again by the October 2006 flood.
- Staff oversaw completion of the Flood and All-Hazards Mitigation Plan for the City of Aniak. The City of McGrath and the Seward Bear Creek Flood Service Area plans are currently under development.

**Map Modernization.** With increasing requests for technical assistance and additional deliverables required of the Floodplain Management staff and anticipated retirement of the Senior Planner III in December 2006, the Floodplain Management staff will be challenged with required tasking, to integrate new staff, and develop contracts to manage the Multi-Hazard Map Modernization program.

- Division staff completed the first Map Modernization project for the City of Aniak. The Municipality of Anchorage maps are under review.
- Alaska's Map Modernization Plan updated and prioritized FEMA funding allocation for communities. Staff is responsible for the scoping, development, and coordination of the flood map production. Staff is currently coordinating and managing eleven small communities under the State's Cooperating Technical Partnership agreement with FEMA.
- Staff coordinated initial pre-scoping meetings with the Municipality of Anchorage and the Fairbanks, Kenai Peninsula, Matanuska-Susitna Boroughs, as well as the cities of Sitka, Valdez, Cordova, and Seward for FY 06 - 09 flood map update efforts.
- Staff is coordinating ongoing discussions on levee certification requirements in Fairbanks and Seward. Should the levees not be certified as providing flood protection the resulting effects could be considerable.



**Legislative Grants: Shishmaref — \$2 Million for Erosion Control**

Division staff continues to coordinate and manage the \$2 million legislative grant for Erosion Control. Emphasis includes coordinated effort to partner with the Army Corps of Engineers, and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to utilize the funding in a cooperative manner for the greatest amount of erosion protection for the community. DCA staff continues to advise the community on the best utilization of the remaining grant funds.

## **Research & Analysis**

The Division is a leader in providing information resources to the public. The Division's mission is to collect and publish accurate and timely information on local communities, local government, and economic development in Alaska, and to make this information readily accessible to the public. The Research and Analysis (R&A) section of DCA is responsible for the online resources and research services provided to the public, state and federal agencies and Alaskan communities.

The R&A section supports the Division by assisting in the development and implementation of research projects, publications, and web-based applications. The section responds to inquiries from the public and other State and federal agencies, collaborates with the U.S. Census, and regularly provides information and analyses to the Commissioner's and Governor's offices regarding communities' demographics and ongoing issues. In 2006, the R&A section made a concerted effort to further relations with other departments and organizations such as the Alaska Department of Labor, Alaska Energy Authority and the Denali Commission in order to foster a collaborative environment and increase data sharing activities and information outreach.

### **2006 Key Research Products**

- Current Community Conditions: Fuel Prices Across Alaska, Fall-Winter 2006 Update
- Community Fuel Report Supplemental, September 2006
- Current Community Conditions: Fuel Prices Across Alaska, Fall-Winter 2005
- Elfin Cove, Alaska: Community Survey Report, August 2006
- Alaska Economic Performance Report, 2005
- Mini-Grant Program: Community Impact and Program Evaluation Report

### **Online Information Resources**

Internet users can access a wealth of information about Alaska's communities, local government, and economic development by visiting the Division's web site at:

<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca>

## **Alaska Community Database/Community Profiles**

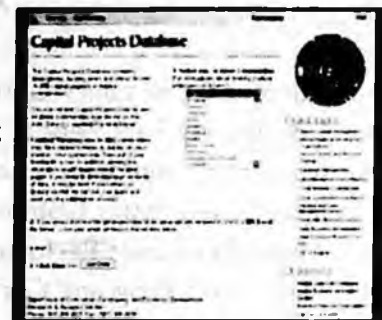
The Alaska Community Database is an interactive database on the Division's web site that provides a wide range of community-based information and data for planning, policy-making, and technical assistance decisions. Some of the users who access this online database include State and federal agencies, private non-profit organizations, legislators and their staff, and the general public. Users can obtain community information summaries or in-depth community profiles for each Alaska community. Users also have the option of creating customized queries that can be viewed online or downloaded into a Microsoft Excel file, which will then be automatically transmitted via e-mail to their personalized e-mail accounts.



[http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF\\_COMDB.htm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_COMDB.htm)

## **Capital Project Database**

The Capital Projects Database provides information on capital projects administered by over 20 State and federal agencies. The public can access this web-based system to obtain project descriptions, funding levels, and project status for over 15,000 capital projects in Alaska communities.



[http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF\\_RAPIDS.htm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_RAPIDS.htm)

## **Community Funding Database**

The Community Funding Database tracks detailed information needed for all of the grants administered by the Division. View-only grant information from the Grants Tracking System is available to the public at:



[http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF\\_Grants.htm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Grants.htm)

## Community Photo Library

The Division's Community Photo Library is an online photo album organized by community. Photos of each community are submitted by the public or are taken by Division staff and posted on the Division's web site for public viewing and use.

[http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/photos/comm\\_list.cfm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/photos/comm_list.cfm)

## Community Profile Maps

The Division provides mapping services that assist department staff and communities in accomplishing the goals of increasing economic development and strengthening local governments in Alaska. Maps are produced to display land use, land suitability, land ownership, and boundaries set out in ANCSA 14(c) land settlements.



<ftp://ftp.dcbd.dced.state.ak.us/profiles/profile-maps.htm>

## Economic Development Resource Guide (EDRG)

The Economic Development Resource Guide (EDRG) is designed to bring together, in one place, an inventory of programs and services that can provide economic development assistance to Alaska communities, individuals, and businesses. The EDRG includes over 100 financial and technical assistance resources provided by federal and State agencies, national and State nonprofit organizations, and private for-profit organizations. This resource is available as an online database that provides users with the opportunity to perform targeted searches to retrieve resources that meet their specific eligibility and needs. The EDRG is also available in CD-ROM format and is free to the public.



<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/edrg/EDRG.htm>



**Local Government Online (LOGON)**

Local Government Online (LOGON) is a web-based information resource system created by the Division to assist members of the public, elected and appointed officials, public administrators, community leaders, and others interested in local government operations, public services, and community development in Alaska.



LOGON provides information on local government functions, such as: administration, elections, financial management, planning and land use, taxation and assessment, and grants and revenue sharing programs. It also provides links to other State and federal resources that are available to the public. For additional information on this resource, please refer to the "Local Government Development" section of this report or visit:

<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/LOGON/home.cfm>

**Success Story: Municipal Officials Directory (MOD)**

The Municipal Officials Directory (MOD) Online System provides current information on Community Officials and Contacts. The online system is updated throughout the year. In addition, the system is designed so that Communities can manage and update their own information any time it changes via a log-in protocol.



<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/MunicipalPublic/MOD.htm>

**Plans Library**

The Plans Library is an online information resource created by the Division to assist communities that are interested in developing their own community plans by providing a directory of existing plans. The Plans Library is organized by community, listing all plans that are readily available on the DCA web site.



[http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF\\_Plans.cfm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_Plans.cfm)

### **RUBA Quarterly Assessment Reporting System**

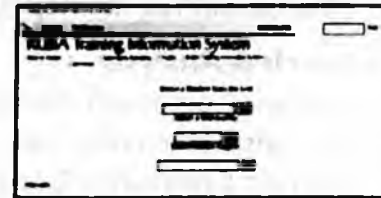
The Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) program provides rural communities with technical assistance and training on the business and financial administration of their utilities. RUBA conducts assessments for communities that have sanitation projects or have signed RUBA Agreement requesting management assistance. The assessments help to benchmark a community's performance and documents ongoing efforts by RUBA staff in each community. The assessments are designed to be methodical and consistent by measuring a number of essential and sustainable indicators for performance areas such as operations, personnel, finances, and organization. The RUBA Quarterly Reports are available to the public as a printed publication and are also available online at:



[http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/ruba/report/Ruba\\_Report.cfm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/ruba/report/Ruba_Report.cfm)

### **RUBA Training Information System**

The Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) program provides rural communities with technical assistance and training on the business and financial administration of their utilities. To assist communities and RUBA staff in tracking participation in these training opportunities, the Division created the RUBA Training Information System.



The RUBA Training Information System is an online, searchable database that contains a student profile for each participant in the training program, including the training classes attended by that participant. This information resource is available on the web at:

<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/train/rubatrain.cfm>

## **Publications**

The Division publishes a variety of resource materials on local government, economic development, community planning, grants, and other topics. These materials are available on the Division's web site at (<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca>). In addition to the numerous publications produced and maintained yearly, the Division's website also makes available other related topics and older publications. Significant publications for 2006 include:

### **General Division**

- Division of Community Advocacy Annual Report, 2006

### **Local Government**

- Alaska Taxable 2006
- City Budget Manual - FY 2006
- City Financial Statement - FY 2006
- Title 29 of Alaska Statutes (Municipal Government) - 2006

### **Grants**

- Labor Standards Guide
- Mini-Grant Application [see Research & Analysis Mini Grant Report]
- National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska 2006 Application
- Mini-Grant Program Report

### **Research & Analysis**

- Current Community Conditions: Fuel Prices Across Alaska, Fall-Winter 2005
- Current Community Conditions: Fuel Prices Across Alaska, Fall-Winter 2006 Update
- Current Community Conditions: Fuel Prices Across Alaska Supplemental, September 2006
- Economic Development Resource Guide (EDRG)
- Alaska Economic Performance Report 2005
- 2006 Municipal Officials Directory
- Mini-Grant Program: Community Impact and Program Evaluation Report
- Elfin Cove, Alaska: Community Survey Report, August 2006
- FY 07: Head Count Census Manual
- FY 07: Housing Unit Method Manual

### **Local Boundary Commission Staff**

- 2006 Annual Report to the Legislature
- Preliminary Report on the Deltana Borough Proposal
- Supplemental Report on the Skagway Borough Remand
- Preliminary and Final Reports on the Ketchikan Consolidation Proposal

### **Land Management**

- Getting Started on 14(c)(3)

For questions about this report or to requests additional copies, please contact the Research and Analysis Section:

**Information:**

Indra Arriaga, Research and Analysis Supervisor

Phone: 907-269-4521 Fax: 907-269-4539

E-Mail: [Indra\\_Arriaga@commerce.state.ak.us](mailto:Indra_Arriaga@commerce.state.ak.us)

**Additional Copies:**

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E-Mail: [Jennie\\_Starkey@commerce.state.ak.us](mailto:Jennie_Starkey@commerce.state.ak.us)

*The Division of Community Advocacy complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Upon request, this report will be made available in large print or other accessible formats. Requests for such should be directed to the Division at 907-269-4560.*

**2/22/07**

**CONFIRM:  
EMIL NOTTI,  
COMMIS-  
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DCCED**

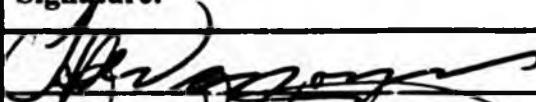
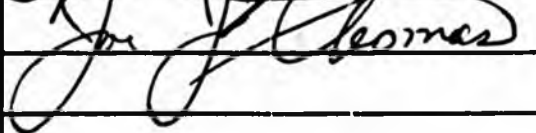
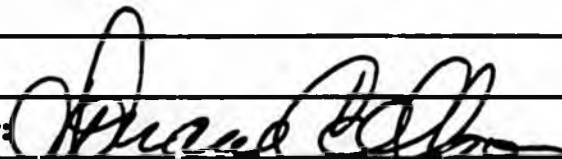
**SENATE  
CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Date: February 22, 2007

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Community and Regional Affairs Committee reviewed the following and recommends the appointment be forwarded to a joint session for consideration:

**Commissioner  
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Emil Notti**

This does not reflect an intent by any of the members to vote for or against the confirmation of the individual during any further sessions.

Signature:	Printed Last Name
	WAGONER
	THOMAS
Chair: 	OLSON

Please return to the Senate Secretary's Office (Room 213).



STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMERCE**  
COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Commissioner

*Sarah Palin, Governor*  
*Emil Notti, Commissioner*

Emil Notti  
Commissioner  
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

**BIOGRAPHY/RESUME**

Emil Notti is an engineer, prominent Alaska Native leader and Alaska public servant.

He graduated from Northrop University with a dual degree in aeronautical and electrical engineering. His extensive background includes first president of the Alaska Federation of Natives during which he was an instrumental player in establishing the state's Native corporations; past president of Doyon Limited; former Commissioner of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs under Governor Sheffield; 30-year board member with the National Bank of Alaska; and Veteran of the United States Navy.

Born in Koyukuk, Notti holds an Honorary Doctorate degree from the Alaska Methodist University.

## **RESUME**

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**Emil Notti**  
2066 Churchill Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

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### **EDUCATION**

1951; Mt. Edgecumbe High School, Diploma  
1953; Navy Electronics School, Diploma  
1961; Northrop University, BSEE

### **MILITARY**

U.S. Navy: 1952-1956, Honorable Discharge

### **EXPERIENCE**

Autonetics: Jr. Electronic Engineer  
Transco Products: Electronic Engineer  
FAA: Electronic Engineer  
Cook Inlet Native Association: President  
Alaska Federation of Natives: First President  
Alaska Native Foundation: President  
Doyon Ltd: President  
State of Alaska: Commissioner, Dept of Community & Regional Affairs  
Acting Chief of Staff, Governors Office  
Director, Legislative Affairs, Governors Office  
Self Employed: Personal contract-seven years  
Ahtna: VP of Administration

### **HONORS, ACTIVITIES**

Alaska Methodist University; Honorary Doctor  
Alaskan of the Year; Finalist 1969  
Private Pilot



Collection Name Alaska Native Organizations: Photographs ASL-PCA-33