



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Environmental
Conservation

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Post Office Box 111800
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303
Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800
Main: 907.465.5066
Fax: 907.465.5070

14.105

2014 JUL 10 P 2:39

DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
DOCKET OPERATIONS

June 30, 2014

Rear Admiral Daniel B. Abel
Commander, 17th Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard
c/o Docket Management Facility (M-30)
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building Ground Floor
Room W12-140
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Re: Recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (USCG-2014-0414)

Dear Admiral Abel:

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) supports the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC). Cook Inlet RCAC continues to successfully execute its mandates as set forth under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Cook Inlet RCAC has spearheaded many initiatives to improve Cook Inlet's navigational safety and oil spill prevention and response capabilities, as well as advance our scientific understanding of the region's environment to better enable us to protect wildlife and natural resources from the harmful effects of spills. They have made significant contributions in the areas of environmental monitoring, oil spill prevention, response and preparedness. This is the result of a concerted effort to foster and develop partnerships with industry, state, federal and local governments and the citizens of Cook Inlet.

We have been an active partner with Cook Inlet RCAC to improve oil spill prevention and response programs, having worked together to advance the Cook Inlet Navigational Risk Assessment and incorporate geographic response strategies within state procedures. We value and rely on their review and expertise regarding oil discharge prevention and contingency plans, as well as their participation in oil spill response exercises and drills. They have proven themselves to be effective in strengthening our ability to prevent and respond to oil spills in Cook Inlet, such as their efforts to secure a dedicated docking assist and rescue tug for the region.

With the increased exploration and development activity now taking place in Cook Inlet, the role of the Cook Inlet Citizens Advisory Council is more relevant than ever, and we support their recertification without reservation.

Sincerely,

Larry Hattig
Commissioner