



*Nuka Bay is a remote inlet in the northern Gulf of Alaska, filled with crystal glaciers, abundant wildlife, and grand scenic views. Our work is inspired by such places.*

**Research & Planning Group, LLC.**



July 9, 2014

Rear Admiral Daniel B. Abel  
Commander, 17<sup>th</sup> 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: USCG-2014-0414; Cook Inlet RCAC Recertification

Dear Admiral Abel:

This letter is written in support for the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Council). First, it is important to disclose that Nuka Research and Planning Group LLC is a contractor for the Council. In fact, if you consider our predecessor organizations, we have been working for the Council since the early 1990's. We also have an office in Seldovia, a community on the shoreline of Cook Inlet and we feel strongly about keeping the waters of Cook Inlet clean while allowing for oil production and transportation in a manner that is compatible with the other uses of the waterway.

Our primary duty for the council is to review oil spill contingency plans. In that role we regularly interact with the Council's board, committees, and staff. The members of the board and committees are all volunteers that have freely committed their time to learn the workings of the oil production and transportation industries in Cook Inlet. Some of the laws and regulations may be complex for the layperson, but they take the time and effort to understand the requirements and make thoughtful recommendations that represent their communities' and user groups' interests. More often than not, they are unanimous in their recommendations.

We have found that the Council is broadly representative of the people, communities, and users of Cook Inlet. We feel that their programs have been successful in promoting the mission of the organization to promote environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet. We urge that you recertify them as meeting the intent of Section 5002 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Sincerely,

Tim L. Robertson  
General Manager

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