



RESOLUTION 24-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CONCERNING PREPARATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED IZEMBEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LAND EXCHANGE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Aleutians East Borough (Borough) has been involved in the King Cove Road Project for numerous years and is an advocate for the road between Cold Bay and King Cove to be completed; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) are in the process of preparing the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS); and

WHEREAS, the Service will be the lead federal agency responsible for development of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange SEIS; and

WHEREAS, the Service acknowledges that the Aleutians East Borough may have jurisdiction by law and/or expertise applicable to the SEIS effort; therefore, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be entered into between the two parties; and

WHEREAS, the MOU will describe responsibilities and procedures agreed to by the Borough as a Cooperating Agency and the Service. The collaborative agency relationship established through this MOU shall be governed by all applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, including the Council on Environmental Quality National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (in particular, 40 CFR 1501.8 and 1508.1(e)), and U.S. Department of the Interior NEPA regulations (43 CFR Part 46); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the MOU is to designate the Borough as a Cooperating Agency in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange SEIS process; to provide a framework for cooperation and coordination between the Service and the Borough that will ensure successful completion of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange SEIS in a timely, efficient, and thorough manner; to recognize that the Service is the lead agency with responsibility for the completion of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange SEIS and to describe the respective responsibilities, jurisdictional authority, and expertise of each of the Parties in the planning process; and

WHEREAS, the objectives, responsibilities and other aspects of the MOU will be vetted further by Borough Administration, the Borough attorney, and the Service.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly authorizes the Mayor to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Aleutians East Borough and the U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Concerning Preparation of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange Project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Aleutians East Borough on this 14th day of December 2023.



Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor

ATTEST:


Beverly Rosete, Clerk