

**CITY OF SELDOVIA
RESOLUTION 20-16**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA, ALASKA
SUPPORTING SAFEGUARDING ALASKA'S OIL SPILL PREVENTION AND
RESPONSE STANDARDS**

WHEREAS, after the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, Congress found that complacency on the part of industry and regulators played a role in the spill, the public trust was broken, and one way to combat this complacency and rebuild trust was to involve the public, those with the most to lose in the event of a large spill, in decisions that affect the safe transportation of oil; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 that included, among other things, the creation of citizen advisory councils for Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound; and

WHEREAS, after the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Alaska citizens and the Alaska Legislature worked together to protect the state from major oil spills by enacting comprehensive laws and regulations dealing with prevention, response, contingency planning, financial responsibility, oversight, monitoring, and other subjects related to the safe handling and transportation of oil and other hazardous substances; and

WHEREAS, these laws and regulations were based on real world experiences and the painful lessons of the Exxon Valdez oil spill and were crafted in coordination with State government and oil industry partners, requiring extensive compromise in the determined Response Planning Standards¹; and

WHEREAS, oil spill prevention and response contingency planning regulations were adopted by the State of Alaska in 1992, and the regulations have been revised on nine occasions to clarify the requirements, streamline the review process, and make the process of drafting contingency plans less onerous and the review of those plans more predictable and expeditious; and

WHEREAS, as a result of post-Exxon Valdez oil spill laws and regulations, Alaska has world-class oil spill prevention and response requirements to protect its people and its environment, as well as commercial and sport fishing, aquaculture, recreation, tourism, subsistence, and cultural interests; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2019, the State of Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner issued a public scoping notice seeking input on existing regulations and statutes because he has "heard from many Alaskans that contingency plans are unnecessarily

¹ To find out more about the history and legislative intent of Alaska's strong Response Planning Standards, read the Council's August 2018 report [Alaska's Oil Spill Response Planning Standard - History and Legislative Intent](#).

burdensome while lacking corresponding environmental benefits,” and that his Department has identified regulations that can be eliminated or significantly reformed; and

WHEREAS, despite repeated requests, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has yet to identify the companies, organizations, or Alaskans that have said the existing system is too burdensome, or identify the regulations or statutes they believe can be eliminated or significantly reformed; and

WHEREAS, it is unreasonable for the Department of Environmental Conservation to claim now, after 30 profitable years of industry compliance with the laws and regulations, that they are too burdensome, and this claim disregards the hard work of hundreds of Alaskans who worked tirelessly after the Exxon Valdez oil spill to create oil spill prevention and response standards, to ensure that the State of Alaska would never again suffer an environmental disaster like the Exxon Valdez oil spill; and

WHEREAS, reducing the burden on industry by rolling back or eliminating proven oil spill prevention and response requirements transfers the risk and burden of another oil spill to the communities, citizens, and environment; and

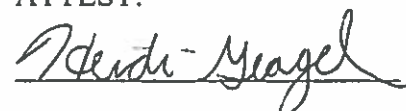
WHEREAS, Alaska's Congressional Delegation has steadfastly supported over the past thirty years prudent and sensible actions to help lessen the risks, trauma, and injury to Alaska from another major oil spill; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Seldovia supports the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council and the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, and has local representation on each board who consistently report to the council.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Seldovia strongly opposes legislative or regulatory changes that erode oil spill prevention and response standards, increase the risk of a catastrophic spill, or demonstrate a return of the complacency on the part of oil the industry and regulators that Congress determined to be a primary cause of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of the City of Seldovia on this 25th day of November, 2019

ATTEST:



Heidi Geagel, City Clerk

APPROVED:



Dean Lent, Mayor

