

17.4.4
(as adopted)

RESOLUTION

of the

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP

RECEIVED
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EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL
TRUSTEE COUNCIL
ADMIN (PAG) RECORD

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council Public Advisory Group (PAG) has been presented with information concerning the proposed research infrastructure improvements proposed for development in Seward and affiliated with the Institute of Marine Science as reflected in the Project Description and Supplemental Materials (September 26, 1994).

Based on the information presented at its October 13, 1994 meeting and the prior briefings regarding the project, the PAG expresses its general support for the proposed facility with the recognition that the proposed research infrastructure would make an important contribution to the restoration mission of the Trustee Council. While recognizing that there remain a number of issues that must be addressed to ensure that the proposed project can be successfully implemented, the PAG is supportive of development of the proposed facility in Seward.

Issues of particular concern include the following:

- the management structure of the proposed facility and the need to clearly identify the role of the University of Alaska as it relates to the future use and management of the facility;
- that the membership of the governing board of the facility be constituted in a manner that includes the financial and technical expertise needed to successfully implement the project as well as to appropriately represent interests from throughout the spill area;
- the role of the University of Alaska in the project with particular concern regarding the need to ensure that the University does not incur significant new operational cost liabilities at a time of declining funding resources;
- a need to ensure that future Trustee Council project funding is appropriately balanced between on-going, field-based ecosystem research efforts and the new laboratory-based research efforts that the proposed facility would support;

- future Trustee Council projects using the proposed facility should not be given funding priority over other proposed projects based on the location of project activities;
- the need to reduce or eliminate to the extent possible the capital and operational cost risks associated with the project to ensure successful implementation and operation of the facility;
- the City of Seward ensure that adequate, affordable housing resources are available to the researchers and other individuals who would use the facility; and
- the need to name the project in a manner that accurately reflects the facility's relationship with the University of Alaska, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

In adopting this resolution, the PAG expresses its support for this project and asks that these issues and concerns be considered and addressed as the Trustee Council moves forward with the project.

October 13, 1994