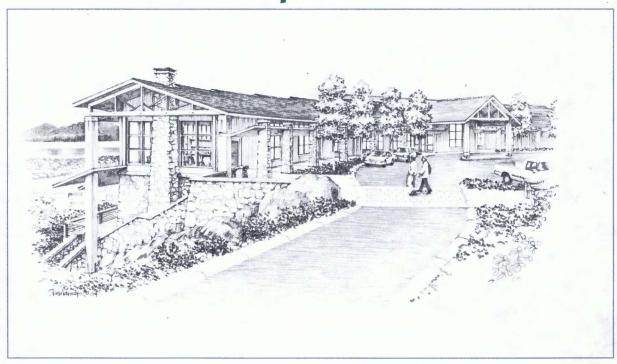
The Cordova Center



Center of the Community Center of the Sound



City of Cordova

Cathy Sherman Cordova Center Project

Phone: 907.424.6665

Information Services City of Cordova PO Box 1210 Cordova, AK 99574

The Marie Allendary

Fax: 907.424.6666 Email: infoservices@cityofcordova.net

AVI, CAULLIE 1

Become a Partner in Cordova's Future

- Make a donation to the Historical Society's Cordova Center Fund. Donors will be recognized in a variety of ways.
- Get involved in fundraisers. Organize a benefit event, volunteer to help or participate. Currently you can buy a Salmon Label T-shirt.
- Become an advocate.
 Educate your neighbors, co-workers, and friends about the benefits this project will have for our community.
- Write a letter of support expressing the benefits of the Cordova Center project and how it will improve the quality of life in our community.
- Become informed. If you have questions please contact us.

The Cordova Center



Enhancing Community Vitality

The Cordova Center Project P.O. Box 391 Cordova AK 99574

Phone: 907.424.6665 Fax: 907.424.6666

Email: infoservices@cityofcordova.net

A building block in Cordova's economic & cultural future.

Enhance Community Vitality through...

Cultural/educational assets

- Theatre/auditorium
- Expanded museum
- Improved library services
- Multi-use science discovery/ educational workshop room
- · Oil spill response training
- Scientific research services
- Art/informative displays

Municipal assets

- · Civic meeting spaces
- · Efficient city offices
- Secure network
- Emergency situation center
- · Main Street link to waterfront
- Accessibility for disabled

Economic assets

- Small convention center
- · Increased tourist facilities
- Services for business travelers
- Energy/cost efficient design
- Amenities to attract residents

Expected Outcomes

This broad based collaborative effort takes pro-active steps to improve Cordova's attraction as a place to live or visit.

The Center creates a capacity to host conventions, performances and meetings for local, regional and other organizations. Since Cordova is competitive with other destinations in transportation costs, the Center will become a location for small conventions for government, non-profit, and other groups.

These promising new opportunities are year round rather than seasonal, expanding the visitor industry from its current limitations and diversifying the type of visitors drawn to the community and the region.

Convention attendees will have an economic impact on Cordova, with spending filtering through most sectors of our economy.

By providing amenities that make a town a desirable place to live, the Center will attract new residents including families with children, retired people and business entrepreneurs.

Enhancing social capital contributes to economic development, directly and indirectly improving the business climate for merchants and conferring a variety of economic benefits.

Funding Plan

A public/private funding strategy has been developed for this project. Primary funding will come from federal and state appropriations, private foundations and corporations. Local contributions are essential to show support for the project and stimulate funding from these sources. We invite you to participate in this exciting project to make a positive impact on Cordova's future.

The facility is designed to be as cost effective as possible to maintain and operate, reducing operating costs.

Market Assessment

"With an aggressive marketing effort and a professional facility, Cordova could achieve similar convention activity as Sitka and Valdez, perhaps capturing up to five percent of the market."

"...economic impacts generated from local spending by meeting delegates could total approximately \$200,000 a year...if Cordova hosted about 30 groups averaging 25 delegates each."

 Cordova Center Meeting/Small Convention Market Assessment – McDowell Group-2002

Meetings and Conventions in Remote Alaskan Communities

Community	Average # of Groups	Average # of Delegates	Center Status
Kodiak	15	40	No meeting center
Sitka	28	104	Meeting center
Valdez	10	225	Meeting center

Source: Cordova Chamber of Commerce, Kodiak Island Convention & Visitors Bureau, Silka Convention & Visitor Bureau, Valdez Convention & Visitors Bureau.



<u>City of C</u>ordova



December 2, 2004

Gregg Renkes Attorney General State of Alaska

Kurt Fredriksson Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Kevin Duffy Commissioner Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Attn: Gail Phillips, Executive Director Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 441 West Fifth Avenue, Suite 500 Anchorage, AK 99501 James W. Balsiger Administrator, Alaska Region National Marine Fisheries Service

Drue Pearce
Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaskan
Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior

Joe Mead Forest Supervisor, U.S. Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture

Subject: Proposal by the City of Cordova Regarding the Cordova Center

Dear Members of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill ("EVOS") Trustee Council:

On behalf of the City of Cordova, Alaska, I request that you favorably consider this proposal by our city for the use of some funding from the EVOS Settlement and Consent Decree for EVOS-related features of the Cordova Center in Cordova, Alaska.

Although you may have reviewed earlier drafts of our proposal, as you will see, we have amended our request to more clearly ensure the project's nexus to restoration of resources injured by the EVOS and the related reduced or lost services or human uses (commercial fishing, recreation and tourism, subsistence). We believe that this community economic restoration project falls within the goals and objectives for the use of funding available to the EVOS Trustee Council for "restoring . . . enhancing . . . the equivalent of natural resources injured . . . and the reduced or lost services provided by such resources"

The City has refined this project to ensure that the Cordova Center project correlates more clearly with the goals and objectives of the Restoration Plan prepared under the Civil Settlement and Consent Decree, Memorandum of Agreement, and the statutory authority provided in S. 711 enacted as part of P.L. 106-113. In the Committee Report accompanying S. 711 in the 106th

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council December 1, 2004 Page 2 of 4

Congress, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman, Senator Frank Murkowski stated:

"Speaking of the human element, I also hope this bill will lead to the Trustee Council placing a greater emphasis on economic development projects for the impacted communities as provided for in the legislation. It is for this reason that language [Section 1(e)(2)(C)] specifically authorizes 'community and economic restoration projects and facilities.' [i]t is my intent that this provision include economic development projects such as the Cordova Center which is proposed by the people of the economic and emotional ground zero of the spill." (emphasis added).

More recently, Governor Frank Murkowski stated in his letter dated July 6, 2004 (Enclosure #2) that: "I am glad to see the community come together behind a project like the Cordova Center. This facility can serve as an economic, cultural, and quality-of-life stimulus for your community, which has struggled through so much in recent years . . . This . . . may be the perfect time to secure funding from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Trustee Council . . . I feel the trustees should begin re-focusing their efforts . . . to community and economic restoration projects and facilities . . . "

Over the past several years, through the assistance of Senator Ted Stevens and the other members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the Cordova Center has received start up funding assistance. The Delegation has also encouraged and supported the potential use of some EVOS funding to complement the federal and private funding for the project.

The spill's injuries to Prince William Sound also injured Cordova's commercial fishing industry, tourism, and subsistence — injured resources/services identified in the Council's Restoration Plan, in addition to other key aspects of its economy, social fabric, and its future. A part of the Cordova Center mission is committed to addressing and restoring those injured resources/services. Additionally, the Center's mission will include public education and outreach to disseminate lessons learned from the spill. It will convey historically what occurred and, importantly, to encourage through oil spill educational displays, conferences, research carried out under the auspices of the Congressionally-mandated and authorized Oil Spill Recovery Institute located in Cordova, public education, research and development, spill prevention and oil spill response technology that have been put in place and are evolving to deal with a potential spill in the future.

Restoring, diversifying, and strengthening our local economy that was seriously injured by the spill has been a preeminent objective of our community since the 1989 oil spill. The community has determined, after considerable thought and analysis that the most effective way for it to overcome those injuries is through the establishment and operation of the Cordova Center. It will provide a feasible and lasting means of addressing injuries from the spill and simultaneously creating a stimulus to the local economy.

This multi-purpose facility will serve as a forum and catalyst for marine research in the Sound, oil spill research and development, oil spill response training, and education. It will serve as a venue for an array of conferences, retreats, meetings, and conventions and will provide a much-

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council December 1, 2004 Page 3 of 4

needed stimulus for the economy of the entire region. It will also serve as a lynchpin to the future for the community that was severely impacted by the spill in other fields including commerce, education, technology, health, culture (Alaska Native and non-Native), and the arts and sciences.

Although this project is somewhat different from projects in the regular work plan of the Trustee Council, we know that for our community, there is no project that has any greater potential for addressing and remedying the injuries and after-effects of the 1989 oil spill than the Cordova Center. Cordova fully supports the efforts of the Council and the scientific and academic communities in implementing the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) program. At the same time, though, with the *very viability* of our community so seriously affected by the spill continuing to be in jeopardy in part from the 1989 Good Friday spill, we have to believe that part of the restoration work that is warranted is that dealing with people whose community is vitally dependent on the injured natural resources and services of the Sound.

We urge and request the Trustee Council to utilize a small portion of its available funding to join with our community in effectively ameliorating some of the injuries from the 1989 oil spill. And, while we believe that there is ample authority for the Council to participate in this project at some level as the Governor himself has advocated, if such use needs further clearance, we urge that such clearance or approval, as necessary and appropriate, be sought from the Court or Congress.

We encourage you to review the enclosures which set forth in more detail the vision behind the Center and its myriad functions and capabilities so as to have a positive effect on injured resources and services in our community from the EVOS.

We look forward to discussing the Cordova Center Project with you once you have had the opportunity to review the enclosed information. We believe that this is the best project to help this community, the injured resources, and services on which the community depends to be restored to a significant extent. Whatever level of funding assistance the Council can agree to will be utilized to leverage additional funding resources . . . both public and private. So it will be, in our view, a highly productive use of some of the Council's funding resources. The Cordova Center offers an opportunity for Cordova to become a restored and, once again, strong and vibrant community of Prince William Sound.

We will deeply appreciate your favorable consideration of our request for assistance.

Sincerely,

Sim Jource

Tim Joyce Mayor Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council December 1, 2004 Page 4 of 4

Enclosures:

- (1) Cordova Center Project Proposal
- (2) Letter from Governor Murkowski to Mayor Tim Joyce, July 2004.
- (3) Letter from Native Village of Eyak to Cordova Center Committee, April 15, 2004.
- (4) Letter from US Forest Service District Ranger to Cordova Center Committee, January 23, 2004
- (5) Letter from Prince William Sound Science Center to Cordova Center Committee, October 28, 2003

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI GOVERNOR

GOVERHORIGOV.STATE.AR.US



STATE OF ALASKA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR JUNEAU July 6, 2004 P.O. Box 110001 Juneau, Alaska 19811-0001 (907) 465-3530 FAX (907) 465-3532 www.gov.state.ak.us

The Honorable Tim Joyce, Mayor City of Cordova P.O. Box 1210 Cordova, AK 99574

Dear Mayor Joyce:

I was pleased to finally meet you in Juneau earlier this year. Your willingness to work for your community and address some of the economic problems it is now facing is commendable. I was glad to offer the aid of my office and my special assistant, Alan Austerman, in the effort that led to successfully securing a lease with a new processor for the upcoming season in the old North Pacific processing plant. Hopefully, the fishermen as well as the folks who are employed in the industry in Cordova and Prince William Sound will enjoy a fruitful fishing season.

I would also like to commend you on the work your community has completed to date on the Cordova Center. I know this multi-purpose economic development and community facility has been a priority of the city for many years and continues to occupy a prominent role in the economic diversification plan for Cordova. The 1989 oil spill put Cordova at "the economic and emotional ground zero of the spill." I am glad to see the community come together behind a project like the Cordova Center. This facility can serve as an economic, cultural, and quality-of-life stimulus for your community, which has struggled through so much in recent years.

This also may be the perfect time to secure funding from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Trustee Council. As I said in my meeting with you, I feel the trustees should begin re-focusing their efforts from primarily restoration and habitat acquisition to community and economic restoration projects and facilities in the communities of the EVOS affected region. The Cordova Center could be the first of the 'brick and mortar' projects I've referred to in the past, which can be partially constructed by these funds. I understand you have had a series of positive meetings with the trustees, and I wish you great luck in that effort.

I also support your efforts to secure funds from other sources including federal, private foundations, and the state. I realize that the Cordova Center, in conjunction with the new fast vehicle ferry, the M/V Chenega, will play a major role in the economic rejuvenation, diversification, and development of a sustainable economy in Cordova.

The Honorable Tim Joyce Page 2 July 6, 2004

Please let me know if my administration can be of further assistance as you develop this community project

Sincerely yours,

Frank H. Murkowski

Governor

509 1st Street P.O. Box 1388 Cordova, Alaska 99574-1388 Ph (907) 424-7738 * Fax (907) 424-7739



10,000 years in our Traditional Homeland, Prince William Sound, the Copper River Delta, & the Gulf of Alaska

April 15, 2004

Cordova Center Committee City of Cordova Box 1210 Cordova, Alaska 99574

Cordova Center Committee

The Native Village of Eyak would like to express its support of the Cordova Center Project. Of particular interest is the conference center and meeting facility. When Cordova has the capacity, the Native Village of Eyak would like to plan a regional conference.

We support the need of facilities for the Cordova Museum and Library. These services have endured and been kept a high standard in spite of the poor condition of their present facilities.

The Cordova Center as planned would accomplish much to lift the standard of life for Cordovans and provide a sparkling centerpiece for tourism.

The Traditional Council of the Native Village of Eyak

Robert & Herrich

President Robert Henrichs



å

Forest Service Region 10 Chugach National Forest Cordova Ranger District 612 Serond Street P.O. Box 280 Cordova, Alaska 99574

File Code: 1560

Date: January 23, 2004

Cordova Center Committee PO Box 391 Cordova, AK 99574

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express the strong support of the Forest Service for the Cordova Center. We have been active in securing the initial federal funding for planning, design and construction, and members of my staff have participated on the planning committee for the Center. We can clearly see the benefits that such a facility will bring to the community, and look forward to using it for Forest Service sponsored events.

The community of Cordova will greatly benefit from the construction of the Cordova Center. This project will become the heart of the community on Main Street. This facility will be a key destination for visitors with the inclusion of a museum and the stylishness in its design. The people of Cordova will gravitate to this facility because of the inclusion of the city library and City Hall, and the natural connection between the harbor and Main Street.

The Cordova Center will be able to provide facilities for educational services such as the science-based Discovery Room program for elementary school children. This is a joint Forest Service/Prince William Sound Science Center program that is currently housed in very inadequate space elsewhere in town.

The local grade school will only be one block from the Cordova Center offering easy access for library services as well. High school and elementary school students will have an auditorium and a stage to conduct performances instead of the current elementary school lunch room or the high school gym. The local community theater group will also be able to use this auditorium.

The Cordova Center will help to revitalize and diversify the economy in Cordova. The inclusion of ADA accessible meeting rooms and auditorium will allow for small conventions, meetings and receptions to take place in a community that up until its construction has not had such facilities. Many organizations and agencies, including the Forest Service, have expressed an interest in holding meetings in Cordova if we had the facilities to accommodate such events. The Cordova Center will provide those facilities. Hosting events during the winter months in Cordova that 100 to 200 people attend would fill the hotel rooms and the restaurants. Visitor business in the wintertime is a necessity for many vendors to stay profitable. The Cordova Center could help provide that business.

The new building will replace two aging sheet metal buildings. These old buildings are expensive to operate because of poor construction and age. The new Cordova Center will provide an environmentally controlled space for museum displays, traveling exhibits and storage,



which would allow the museum to pursue accreditation. The community is willing to accept the responsibility of operating this new energy efficient facility especially since the old structures are planned to be removed from the city property roles.

The Cordova Center will be a source of pride for this community and provide all the benefits mentioned above. We support the construction of the Cordova Center and we hope to see the federal investment pay off with the completion of the Center.

Sincerely,

REBECCA S. NOURSE

Rebers S. Nours

District Ranger



October 28, 2003

Cordova Center Committee P.O. Box 391 Cordova, AK 99574

Dear Cordova Center Committee:

I am representing the Prince William Sound Science Center's education department in support of the development of the Cordova Center. The Cordova Center is a dream for Cordovans and the benefits of this proposed building are endless. My professional interest lies in the Cordova Center's education room being available to house the Discovery Room and other community education projects.

The Discovery Room science education program serves all the elementary students in Cordova from kindergarten through sixth grade. It is a partnership program run by the US Forest Service/Cordova Ranger District and the Prince William Sound Science Center. Each month every student (nearly 300 total) visits the Discovery Room to explore a new science topic. They proceed through a series of three rooms in small groups, each room with a different instructor from either the Forest Service or the Science Center and a different type of activity that relates to a common theme for the month. Currently these rooms are provided through an in-kind donation by the Prince William Sound Community College. Two rooms in the college are available for yearround use and storage and one more room is available on an as-need basis during the school year.

The Science Center is also pleased to offer a Community Education program series that offers weekly presentations on a variety of topics from October through May. The programs usually involve an indoor presentation complete with hands on activities and artifacts as well as an outdoor field trip component. Most recently, 22 participants gathered in the front atrium of the Science Center to learn about wolves and coyotes. This year Science Center educators are making an effort to relate Community Program topics with Discovery Room topics in order to provide enhanced learning opportunities for the elementary students in yet another setting.

Housing the Discovery Room in the Cordova Center will provide an invaluable opportunity for the above education programs to become more closely linked with the local community as well as visitors to Cordova. Not only will the proposed design provide an increased space for education programs and material storage, but it will be more accessible to all members of the community. The centralized location will allow passer-bys a glance at the projects and activities taking place in the Discovery Room. The larger educational space will also provide a better area for Community Program gatherings. Furthermore, when the topics of a community presentation and the Discovery Room are related, materials used by the elementary students or projects they create could directly benefit the community as a whole by being incorporated into the presentation or put on display.

Finally, the Cordova Center will provide a venue for the Science Center educators to create semi-permanent displays on our local region that can be visited by both community members and visitors to Cordova. It will enable resources collected by researchers and educators at the Science Center to be shared and viewed by a wider audience and help educate visitors about this wonderful place we call home.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my interest and support in the Cordova Center Project. Please contact me if I can provide any further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

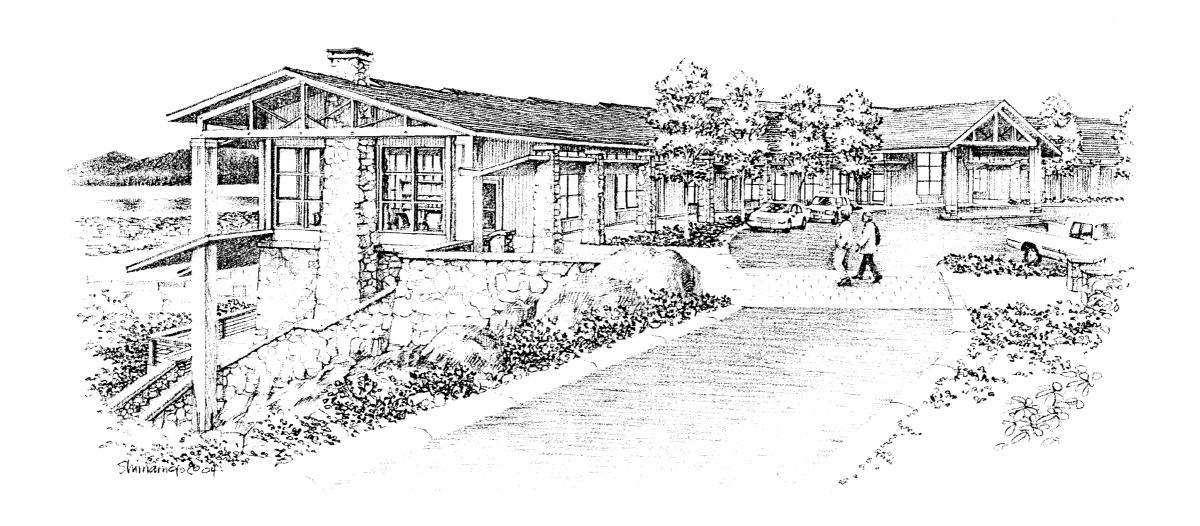
Kate Alexander

Education Specialist

Prince William Sound Science Center

Phone: 907-424-5800 ext. 231 Email: kate@pwssc.gen.ak.us

CORDOVA CENTER





CITY OF CORDOVA NOVEMBER, 2004



CORDOVA CENTER

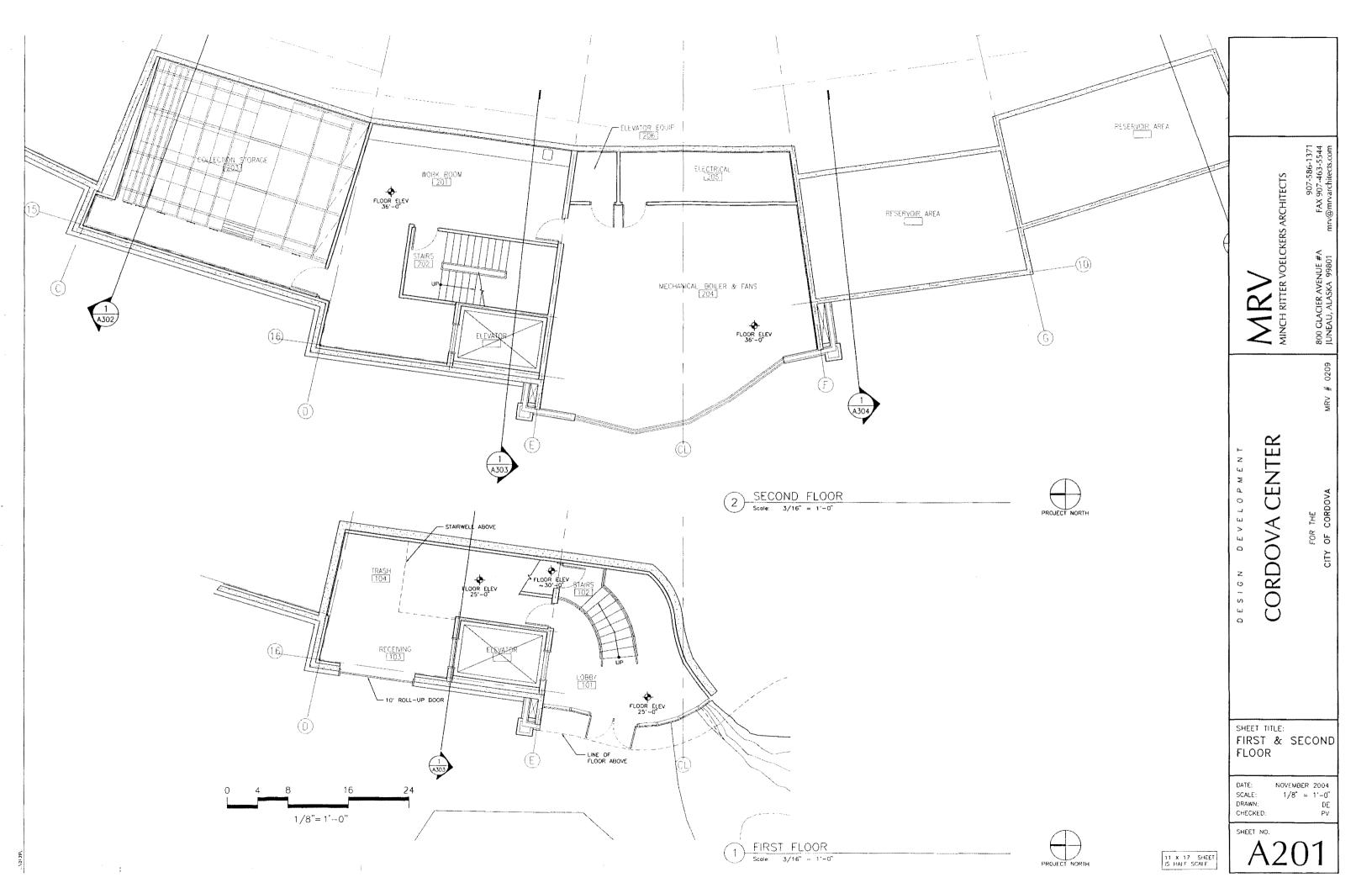
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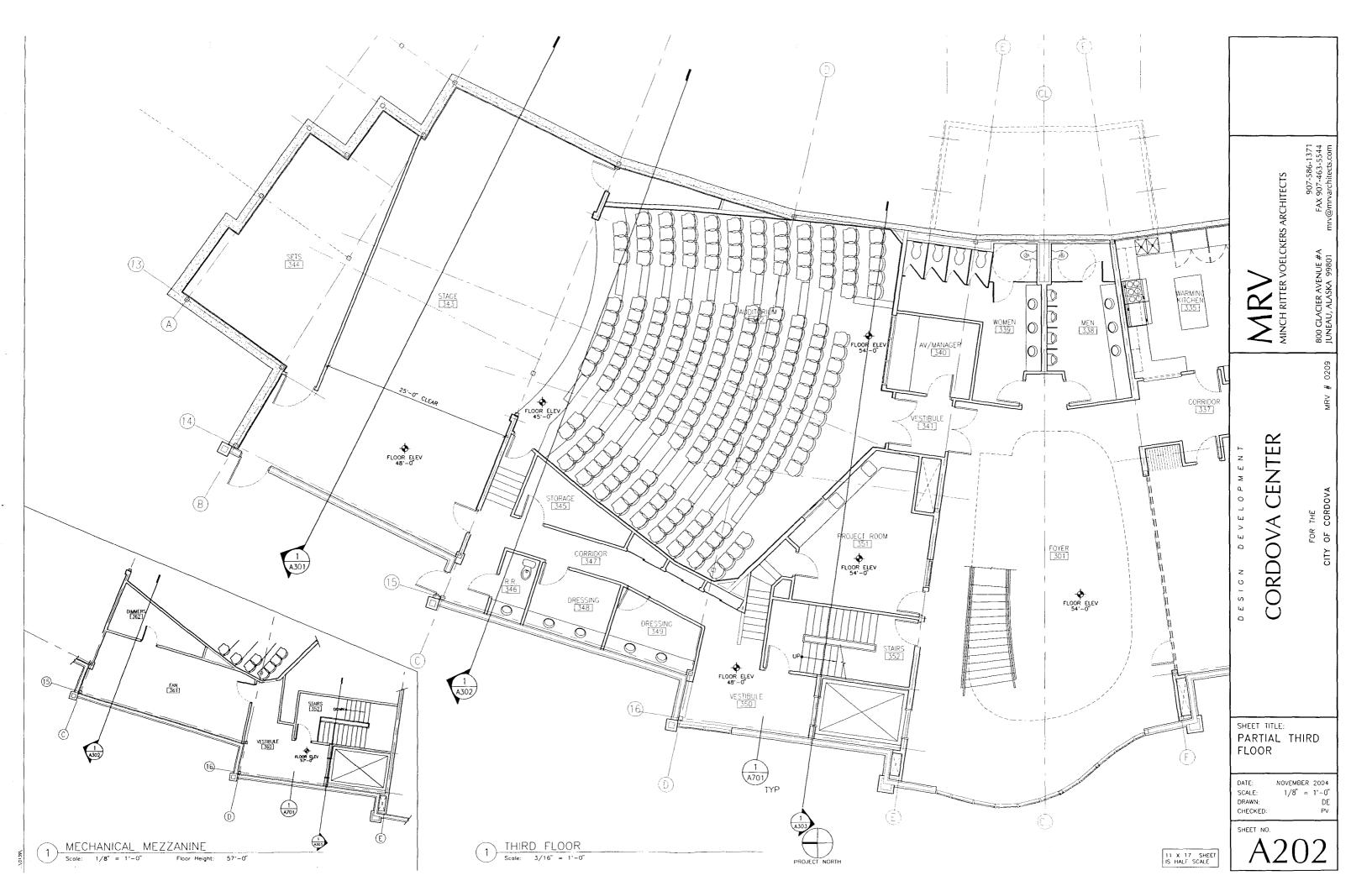
FOR THE CITY OF CORDOVA

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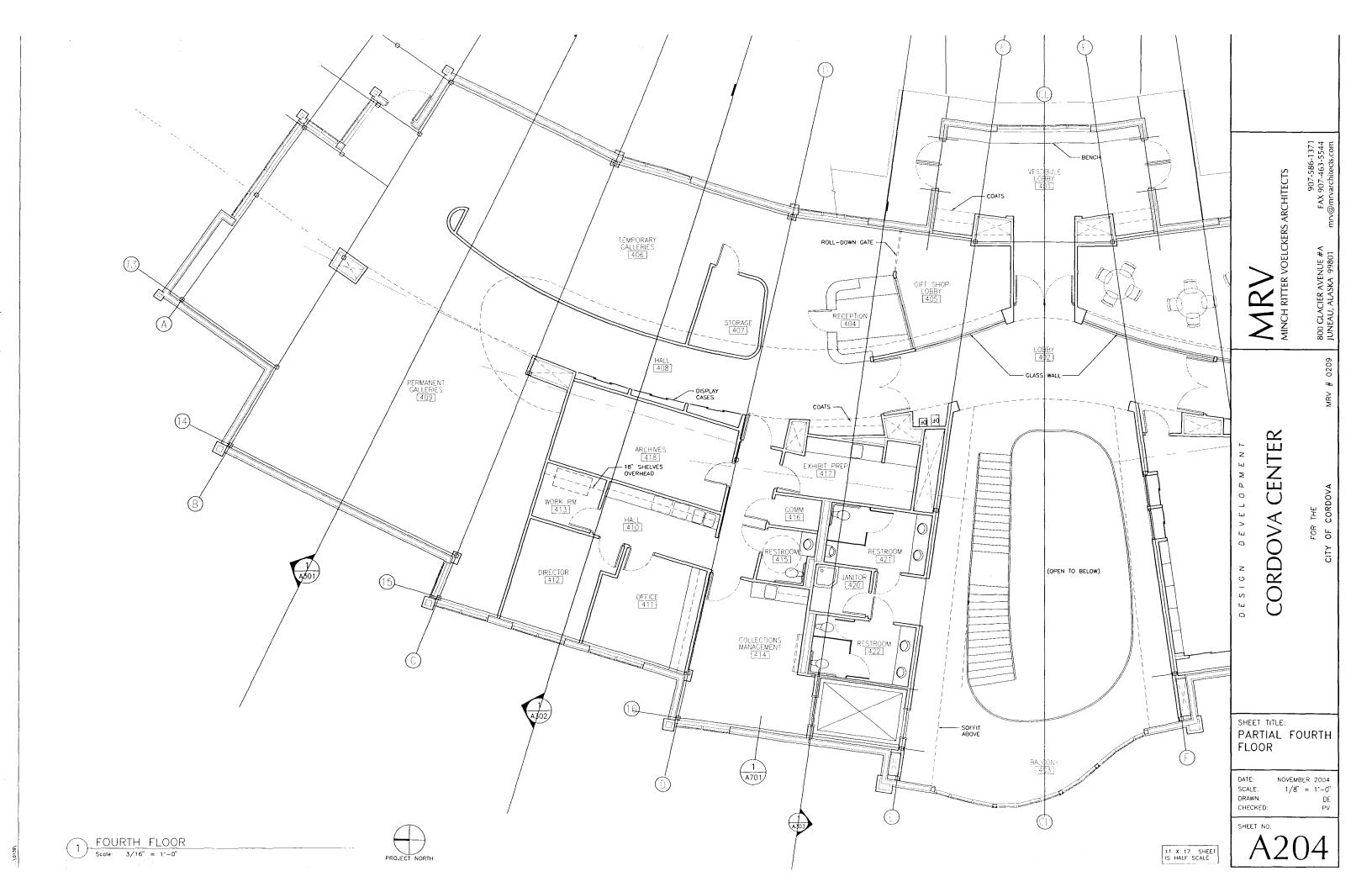
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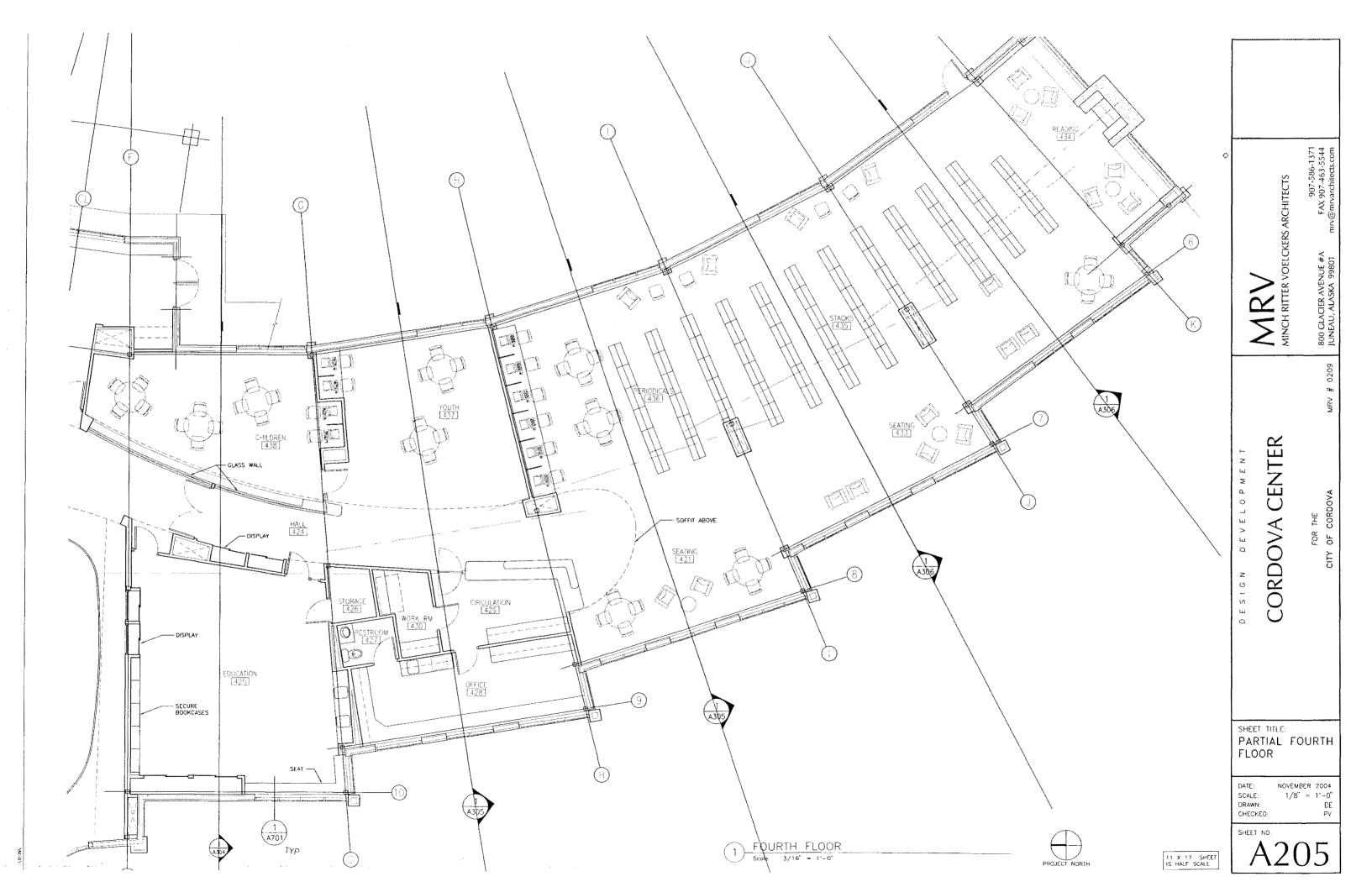
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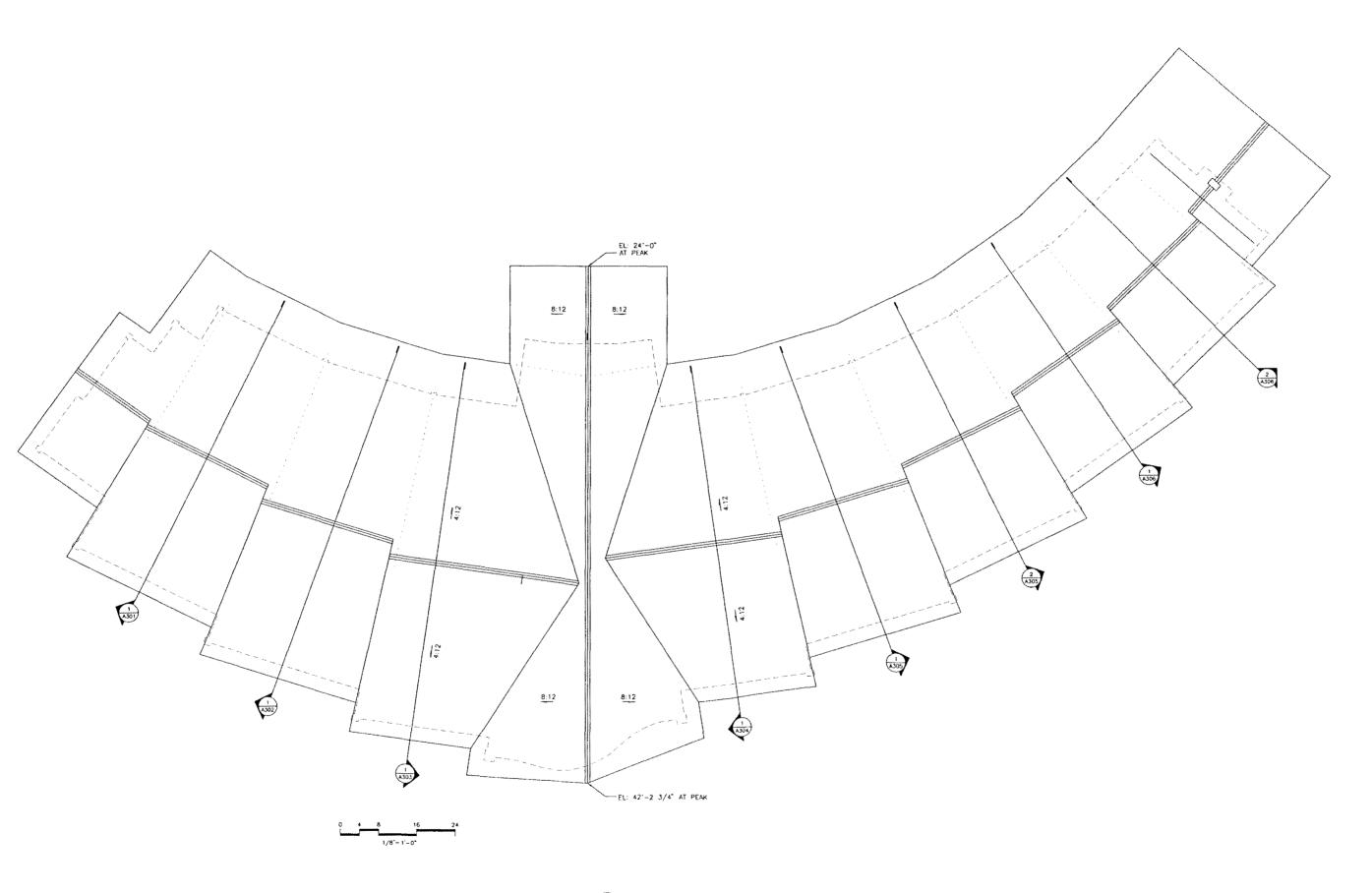
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800 GLACIER AVENUE #A JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

CORDOVA CENTER

DEVELOPMENT

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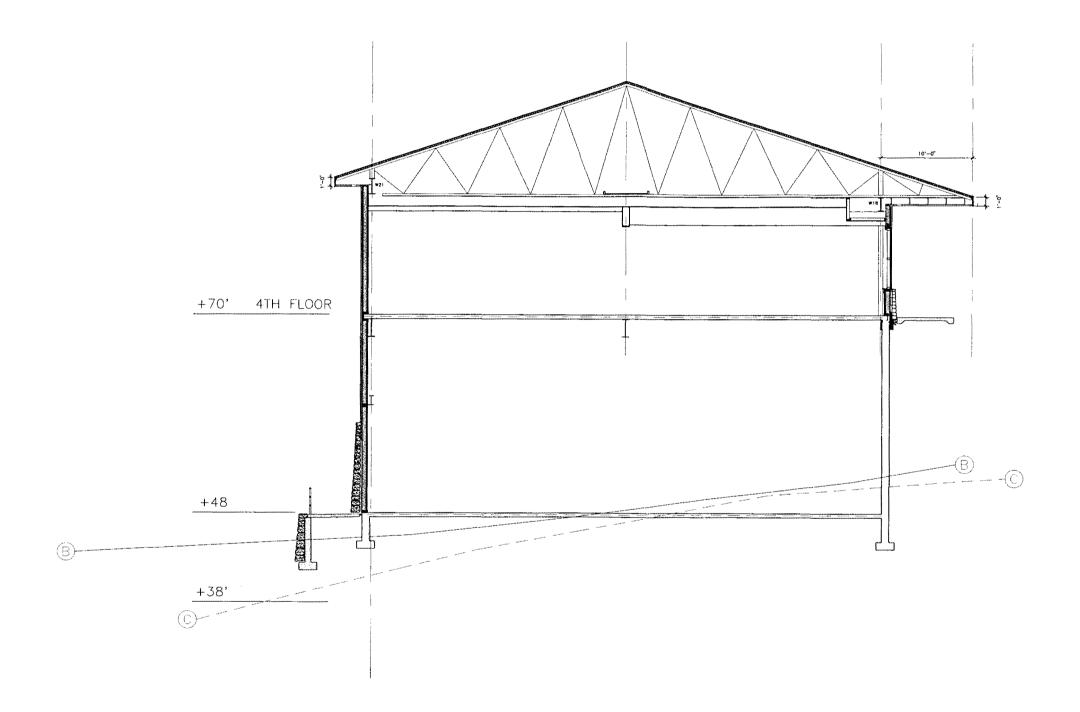
FOR THE CITY OF CORDOVA

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MRV MINCH RITTER VOELCKERS ARCHITECTS

CORDOVA CENTER

FOR THE CITY OF CORDOVA

DESIGN

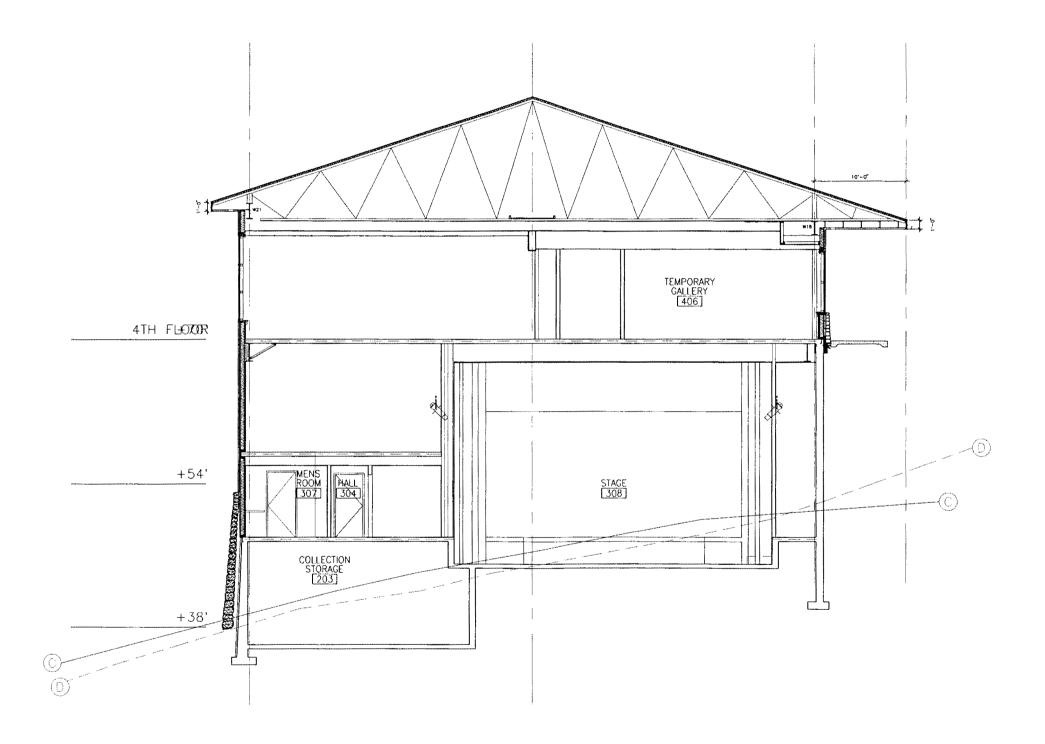
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SECTION AT GRID C AND D

MRV
MINCH RITTER VOELCKERS ARCHITECTS

FOR THE CITY OF CORDOVA

CORDOVA CENTER

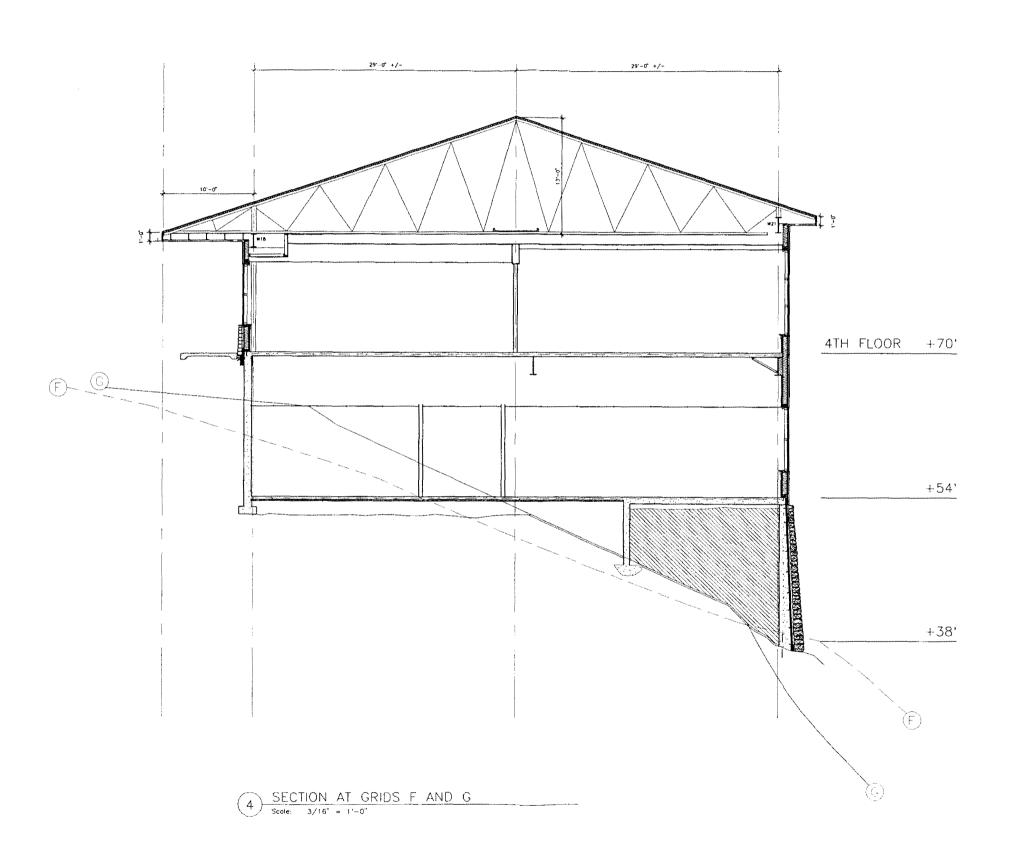
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CORDOVA CENTER

DEVELOPMENT

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MRV
MINCH RITTER VOELCKERS ARCHITECTS

800 GLACIER AVENUE #A JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

CORDOVA CENTER

FOR THE CITY OF CORDOVA

SHEET TITLE: WEST ELEVATION

DATE: SCALE: DRAWN: NOVEMBER 2004 CHECKED:

SHEET NO.



800 GLACIER AVENUE #A JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

FOR THE CITY OF CORDOVA

CORDOVA CENTER

DEVELOPMENT

DESIGN

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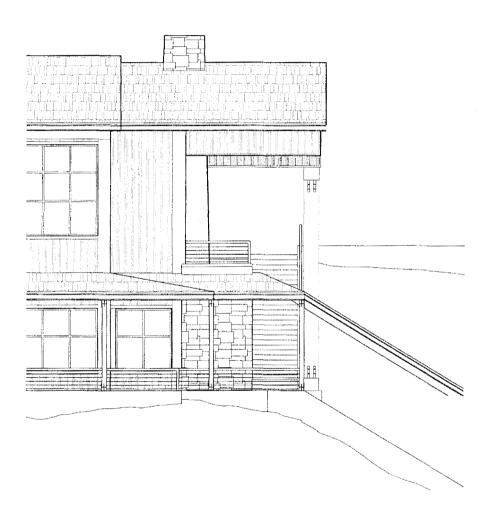
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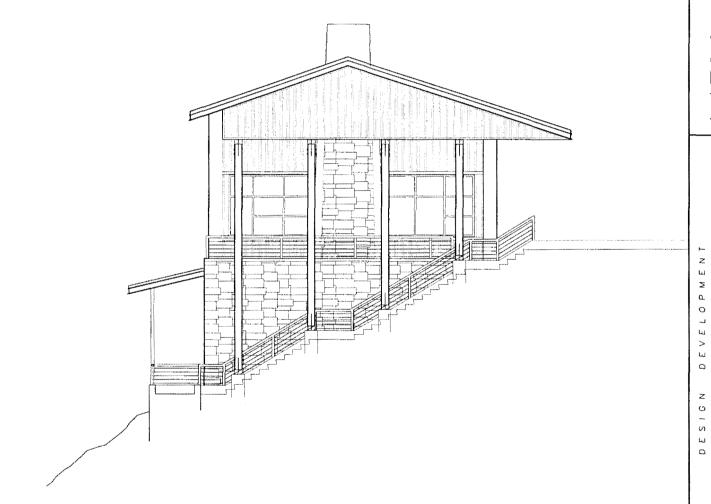
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EAST ELEVATION
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LIBRARY END WEST ELEVATION
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LIBRARY END SOUTH ELEVATION
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MRV MINCH RITTER VOELCKERS ARCHITECTS

CORDOVA CENTER

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DATE: SCALE: DRAWN: CHECKED: NOVEMBER 2004

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CORDOVA CENTER

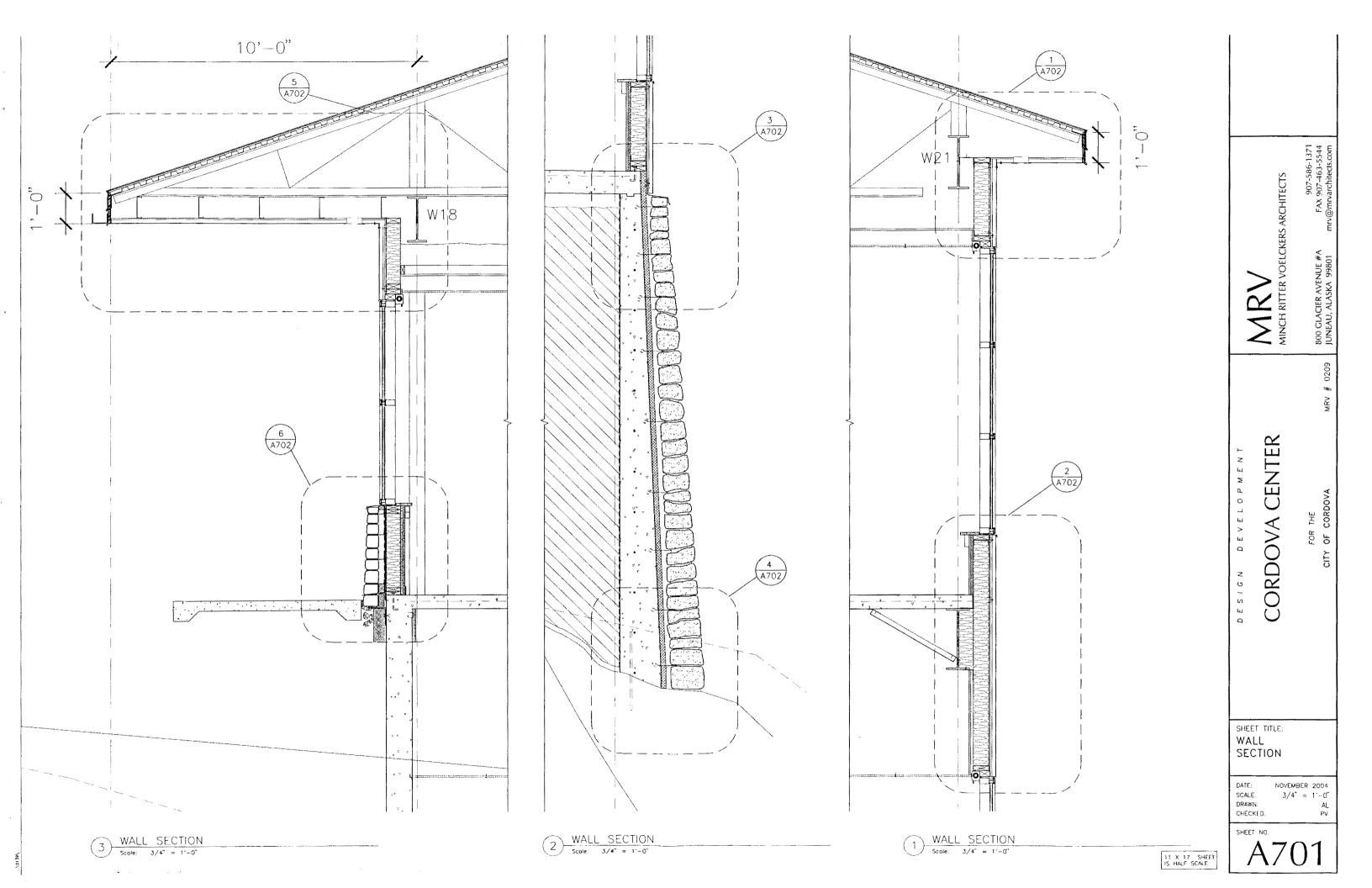
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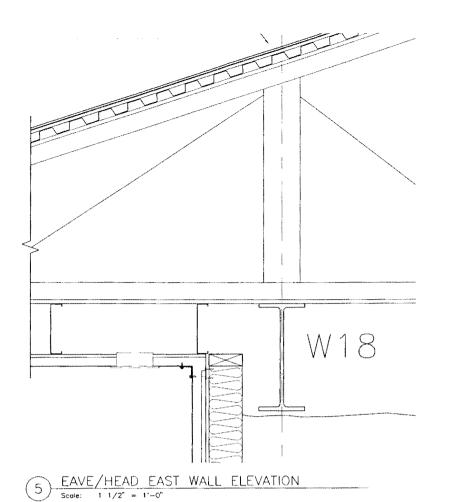
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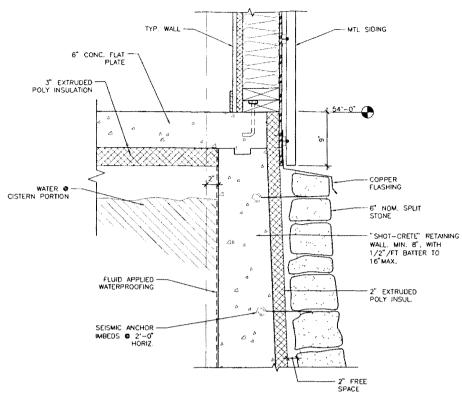
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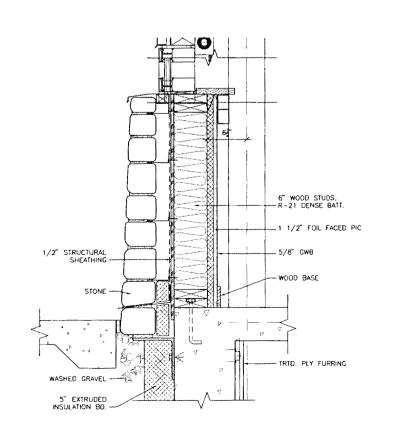
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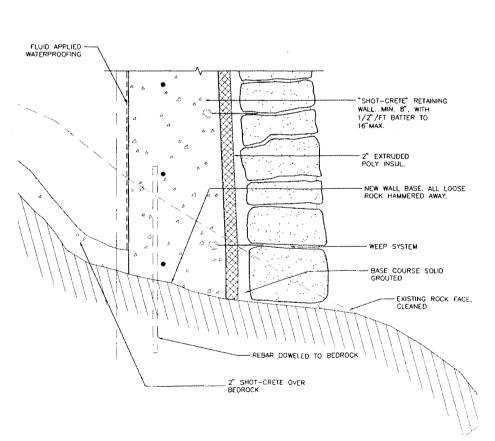




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- 1 1/2" METAL SIDING

- 1 1/2" METAL SIDING

1/2" STRUCTURAL SHEATHING

W21

_ 1 1/2" STEEL DECK PERPENDICULAR FURRING MRV
MINCH RITTER VOELCKERS ARCHITECTS 800 GLACIER AVENUE #A JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801 **CORDOVA CENTER** DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CITY OF CORDOVA DESIGN SHEET TITLE: SECTION DETAILS NOVEMBER 2004 SCALE: $1 \ 1/2^{\circ} = 1'-0^{\circ}$

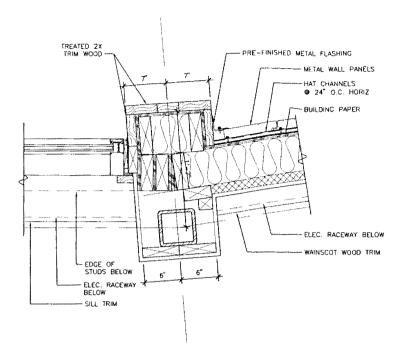
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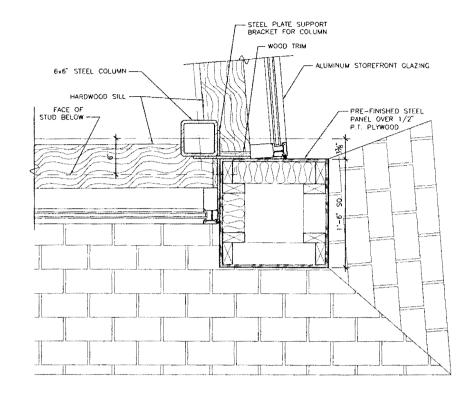
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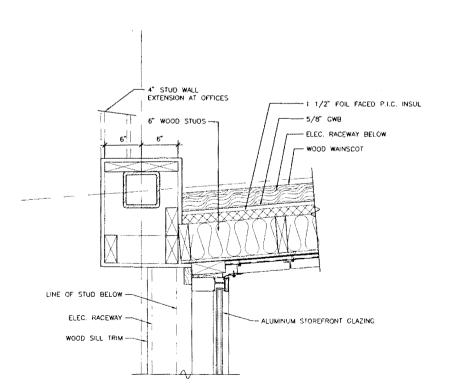


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WEST COLUMN Scale: $1 \frac{1}{2} = 1'-0''$



MRV
MINCH RITTER VOELCKERS ARCHITECTS

CORDOVA CENTER

DEVELOPMENT DESIGN

SHEET TITLE: DETAILS

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TYP. WALL JAMB PILASTER WEST ELEV.
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Human Services the Cordova Center will Provide:

Museum: Documenting the Past and Looking to the Future

- Create exhibit on history of the oil spill
- Expand exhibits on history of resource development in the Copper River Region
- Develop exhibit on advancements in technology for oil spill response, containment and cleanup
- Disseminate information on restoration

Conference Center: A Venue for Sharing Information

- Host EVOS-related workshops and community science meetings
- Sponsor research conferences and symposiums
- Provide space for government agency meetings
- Facilitate communication between scientific community and stakeholder user groups

Science Discovery Room: Educating Environmental Stewards

- · Facilitate Prince William Sound Science Center programs with a well-equipped Science Discovery Room
- Offer programs related to health and sustainability of the marine ecosystem
- Exhibit science public education displays
- Train youth through hands-on stewardship and monitoring activities

Library: Providing Access to EVOS-Related Information

- Make a deliberate and consistent effort to inform the public about the status of restoration
- Serve as a source of EVOS and GEM publications and related research reports for scientific communities, resource managers, policy makers, and members of the public
- Expand library collection of materials relating to scientific research needs, commercial fishing, marine ecosystems, oil spill history, oil spill response, habitat protection and fisheries management
- Support researchers' needs through online sources and interlibrary loans
- Present educational programs for all ages regarding research results and plans
- Share resources with Prince William Sound Science Center, Native Village of Eyak, and Prince William Sound Community College

Visitor Center: Developing Cordova's Recreation and Tourism Human Services

- Lead region in restoration of recreation and tourism by demonstrating that aesthetic and intrinsic values are no longer diminished by the oil spill
- Provide local seafood marketing kiosk
- House Visitor Center to promote opportunities for tourism in the Prince William Sound Region as areas are restored to pre-spill conditions

Oil Spill Response Center: Proactive Oil Spill Prevention and Trained Response

- Provide location for oil spill response training for community members in oil spill prevention techniques
- · Build partnerships between resource dependent community members and state and federal resource agencies
- House an Emergency Situation Center



The Funding Picture

Estimated Funding Needs	\$ 14.7 million
Funds awarded to date:	
Economic Development Administration	\$ 200,000
Federal Financial Assistance Grant USFS	\$ 300,000
Appropriations Bill FY03 S.2708 -Dept of Interior	\$1,000,000
Appropriations Bill FY04 - Veterans Administration	\$1,000,000
State of Alaska	\$ 25,000
Municipality	\$ 167,000
Total	\$2,692,000

The remainder of the funds for this project will be raised from a public/private fundraising partnership made up of local contributions and grants from foundations, corporations and government agencies. EVOS Trustee Council funding is a critical component and will allow us to leverage funds from other sources.

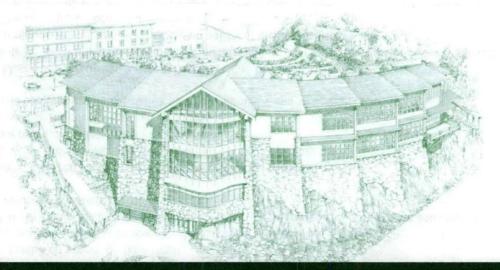
Cordova invites your participation in this proactive model project for a community impacted by the oil spill.

City of Cordova Box 1210 Cordova, AK 99574
Timothy Joyce, Mayor 907-424-6248
Cathy Sherman, Director of Information Services 907-424-6665
infoservices@cityofcordova.net

For further information about this innovative project please contact:

City of Cordova
Cordova Historical Society
Prince William Sound Science Center
Friends of the Cordova Public Library
United States Forest Service
Eyak Corporation

A Partial List of Cordova Center Partners:



EVOS Trustee Council and the Cordova Center ...

A Positive Partnership

UPDATED VERSION 12.10.04

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE RATIONALE FOR AND PURPOSE OF THE CORDOVA CENTER PROJECT

Goals for the Cordova Center Project that Support the Mission of the EVOS Trustee Council: The EVOS Trustee Council website states that "A better understanding of the ecosystem, along with significant improvements in the tools fish and wildlife managers use to evaluate populations means better decisions for the health of those populations and the people who depend on them."

It follows then, that sharing such information, including the Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem Monitoring and Research Program (GEM), related research, exhibits, and resource materials, is critical to the future of the Gulf of Alaska ecosystem and the human activities that depend on it. This underscores a strong need for a facility whose mission includes helping to provide the venue and resources for education of citizens, students, scientists, resource managers and stakeholders about the Gulf ecosystem and how best to manage its natural resources.

This critical role can be filled by the Cordova Center, providing a centrally located facility equipped to serve as the public outreach center for the EVOS Trustee Council and the lessons learned from the experience of the 1989 oil spill; a venue to host meetings, symposia, workshops and classes, provide a library supporting scientific research and offering public online access to GEM program reports and other EVOS-related information, and a museum with exhibits both on oil spill history and the advances in technology and industry that were stimulated by the spill. There is no other similar facility offering easily understandable educational displays of the results of Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem Monitoring and Research Program (GEM) research findings, of restoration efforts and their results of the many tourist destinations in the spill region for premier outdoor recreation experiences, or of culture representative of the ecosystems of the Sound.

There is a need for venues where coastal communities in the region can share results of studies of Gulf ecosystems, EVOS programs and collective knowledge gained through GEM to apply toward efforts to sustain the ecosystems and human use of its resources allowing the EVOS Trustee Council to fulfill its goal to: "Inform: Provide integrated and synthesized information to the public, resource managers, and industry and policy makers in order for them to respond to changes in natural resources."

These EVOS Trustee Council outreach and related needs correspond with needs for the City of Cordova. Cordova has no centrally located community center providing the facilities and amenities necessary to meet all the population's civic needs. While there are public and private facilities that are used for receptions, meetings and conferences

in the community, none provides adequate space, equipment and services to meet Cordova's needs. The existing facilities in Cordova for science education programs, meeting rooms, museum, library, auditorium/theater and emergency response are inefficient and do not meet ADA standards. The existing municipal building functions as emergency dispatch and communications center in case of an oil spill, Tsunami and other emergencies. The facility is within the Tsunami zone requiring equipment and personnel to be relocated to higher ground for actual events. The current visitor center is not adequate; yet diversifying Cordova's injured tourism and fishing-based economy depends increasingly on the expanding our tourism and outdoor recreation-based industries.

The following provides an example of how the Cordova Center will meet needs for EVOS Trustee Council, the community of Cordova and the impacted region. In 1989, the Prince William Sound Science Center was established in Cordova to study and monitor the ecosystem of the Sound. In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the Science Center offers a Discovery Program that provides a variety of science education programs for youth with region-wide outreach to Tatitlek, Chenega, Valdez and surrounding Prince William Sound communities. A monthly theme is explored by youth who participate in hands-on activities related to the theme. The Discovery Program is housed in Cordova's community college (formerly the Cordova hospital) with limited space for displays, exhibits, demonstrations and the library collection, a valuable resource for the community. The shared space requires staff to dismantle exhibits, discouraging demonstrations that would effectively augment the programs. The new Cordova Center will include a large education room that will provide all the spaces needed for a flourishing Science Discovery program, offering storage and secure informational displays visible from the Center's common areas prominently located in the heart of the City as well as the education room.

<u>Linkage to EVOS Program Goals and Priorities:</u> As is stated on its website, to fully achieve its mission, the Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem Monitoring and Research Program must provide information that enables resource-dependent people, such as subsistence users, recreationalists, commercial fishers and the residents of impacted communities to better understand and therefore cope with changes in marine resources. As information accumulates, the ability for GEM to provide problem-solving information and tools can and must increase.

The Cordova Center Project is an important part of Cordova's efforts to model the original mission of the Trustee Council's Restoration Program, by "taking into account the importance of the quality of life and the need for viable opportunities to establish and sustain a reasonable standard of living."

The EVOS Trustee Council goals to "Provide information to communities regarding data and scientific research performed by the Trustee Council science program" and to

"Improve **communication** of findings and results of restoration efforts to spill area residents, village councils, and the appropriate regional organizations" will be directly addressed by the proposed Cordova Center project.

The Cordova Center will provide a setting to support the GEM components of synthesis, data management and information transfer. "Synthesis is intended to produce communication tools such as publications, video conferences, oral presentations and other media to inform scientists, stakeholders and other members of the public about the developing understanding of the factors responsible for change in the marine environment." The Cordova Center will be the perfect facility to support this, with its meeting rooms, auditorium, library, and technology. The Cordova Center will also function as a repository for data generated by GEM projects that will make this information "readily available in a timely fashion to the scientific communities, resource managers, resource dependent people and their communities, policy makers, and other members of the public" as well as "to EVOS staff and contractors, GEM committees and working groups (if any), state and federal resource agencies, and concerned members of the public." (GEM Program Document, Chapter 3). Our City will take on this responsibility as part of the Center's overall mission.

The new facility will offer EVOS Trustee Council a means of disseminating information in a form_easily accessible by the public, including displays, exhibits and art. In addition to the general public and visitors to the state, the commercial fishing community, policy makers, resource managers and other scientists can obtain and share information through services at the Center, fulfilling the Trustee Council's goal of disseminating information on restoration to the broadest audience possible.

As an integrated community facility, the Cordova Center is designed to address all of the following GEM objectives: it will provide access to GEM data through library services; citizen training and support in oil spill response through the emergency response center; citizen training and support of environmental monitoring activities through the science discovery program; provide findings to government and present findings locally; manage a data/local knowledge archive; receive and disseminate GEM information; provide a forum to identify community concerns and to review GEM information; provide educational programs; increase regional community involvement in GEM Program activities; publicize GEM community involvement opportunities provide a forum to identify important community and region-wide issues and concerns that could be addressed by GEM monitoring and research.

The Cordova Center project will also address the EVOS Trustee Council objectives for human services that depend on natural resources by supporting and marketing outdoor recreation and tourism in the Sound.

PROJECT DESIGN

<u>Project Description:</u> The City of Cordova is seeking funding to construct the Cordova Center, a 31,150 square foot, fully ADA accessible multi-use facility. The Center will combine a number of functions for the City of Cordova including Conference Center, Library, Science Discovery Room, Museum, Oil Spill Response Center and Visitors' Center. Throughout the building there will be educational displays of the results of GEM research findings, of restoration efforts and their results and of art representative of the ecosystems of the Delta and the Sound. These displays will ensure that any visitor to the Center in any capacity will have exposure to educational materials about the natural resources of the region and the progress of restoration efforts related to the EVOS.

As well as providing a solution to the problems noted above, the Cordova Center offers many exciting opportunities. The Cordova Center is strategically positioned to be a centerpiece of EVOS Trustee Council information sharing in the region. The new facility will create opportunities in scientific research services and the regional visitor industry.

Objectives:

Conference Center: A Venue for Sharing of GEM and other EVOS Research

- ➤ Host EVOS-related workshops, marine research conferences and symposiums;
- Provide space for government agency and resource manager meetings;
- ➤ Facilitate communication between scientific community and stakeholder user groups in Prince William Sound; and
- ➤ Make available space for Eyak tribal members to share traditional ecological knowledge and to hold tribal meetings.

Library: Providing Access to EVOS-Related Information

- > Inform the public about the status of restoration efforts in the spill region;
- ➤ Act as a repository and dissemination source of EVOS and GEM publications and related research reports for scientific communities, resource managers, policy makers, and members of the public;
- ➤ Expand library collection of materials relating to scientific research needs, commercial fishing, oil spill history, oil spill response, fisheries management related to the spill, its impact and its restoration and recovery;
- ➤ Support oil spill and related marine researchers' needs through online sources and interlibrary loans; such as providing computer access to the ARLISS library for reference literature on oil spill research;
- ➤ Present educational programs for all ages regarding research results; provide online links and access to EVOS Trustee Council related educational materials; and
- ➤ Share resources for research needs of Prince William Sound Science Center, Native Village of Eyak, and Prince William Sound Community College.

Science Discovery Room: Educating Environmental Stewards

- ➤ Facilitate community involvement with Science Discovery Room;
- Conduct programs related to health and sustainability of marine resources;
- Exhibit science public education displays;
- > Educate youth through hands-on stewardship and monitoring activities; and
- Facilitate student involvement in EVOS and other research projects.

Museum: Documenting the Past and Looking to the Future

- ➤ Create an exhibit on history of the oil spill and advancements in technology for oil spill response, containment, cleanup, and restoration;
- Disseminate information on restoration activities; and
- Expand exhibits on history of resource development in the Copper River Region.

Oil Spill Response Center: Oil Spill Prevention and Response Training

- Provide space for oil spill response training (Members of Cordova fishing fleet were and are first responders to a spill in Prince William Sound);
- > Educate community members in oil spill prevention and clean up techniques;
- ➤ Build partnerships between resources-dependent community members and state and federal resource agencies; and
- > House an Oil Spill Response Emergency and Communications Center

Visitors' Center: Restoration of and Developing Cordova's Outdoor Recreation, Tourism and Commercial Fishing Industries

- ➤ House Visitor Center to promote opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism in the Prince William Sound region;
- > Serve as stimulus for region in restoration of injured services of recreation and tourism; and
- ➤ Provide for seafood marketing and availability information in a kiosk at the Cordova Center helping to expand markets for Alaska fishing resources and to restore commercial fishing injured by the spill.

Procedure: The Cordova Center project has been under way since 2001, starting with community meetings to ascertain general needs and high-priority features. A strong consensus was achieved for the vision of a multi-purpose community center incorporating the library, museum, science discovery center, auditorium space, and offices in a single facility with a marine resource theme.

A strategic plan has been developed for the capital campaign. A working fundraising plan is being formulated, with a tactical development plan for carrying out each strategy. The current estimate for total construction of the project is \$14.7 million based on a cost estimate developed by HMS Engineering, experts in cost estimating in the state of Alaska. As conceptual plans are reviewed by engineers, projected costs may

change. To date \$2.69 million have been secured for the Center. Federal funds have been dedicated to the project from the Economic Development Administration, USDA Rural Economic Development Administration and appropriations from HUD.

As well as this request to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, additional funding requests are being made to the Alaska Congressional delegation and to the state for budget appropriations.

A public fundraising campaign has been launched and will be on-going throughout the duration of the project. These local contributions show support for the project and will stimulate funding from non-local sources. Grant requests will be submitted to foundations, and corporations with a local presence and businesses. Lead donors will be approached and the public capital campaign will continue. Further federal and state funding requests will be made to augment other funding sources. The broad based support from local, regional, state and federal sources should result in a successful capital campaign.

The City of Cordova will own and operate the Cordova Center. The city will provide funding for operation and maintenance costs for the new facility from a variety of sources including income from use of the center, auditorium and leased space.

<u>Geographical Area:</u> The City of Cordova, incorporated in 1909, is located at the southeastern end of Prince William Sound in the Gulf of Alaska. The community was built on Orca Inlet, at the base of Eyak Mountain. It lies 52 air miles southeast of Valdez and 150 miles southeast of Anchorage. Cordova is a rural community accessible by air or water. Alaska Airlines provides federally subsidized daily jet service to the state airport. Access to the community is also available by smaller planes. The Alaska Marine Highway provides ferry service. The addition of the new fast ferry, MV Chenega, which will come online in 2005, makes the community even more accessible.

A home rule municipality with a Council-Manager form of government and a volunteer elected mayor, Cordova has a year-round population of 2,454 residents (DCED 2001). With 22% of the population Native American, the culture of the Alutiiqs, Athabascans and Eyaks plays an important role in the community. Most Eyak tribal members reside within the community of Cordova.

Gateway to the Copper River Delta, a 60-mile arc of extraordinary wetland ecosystem, Cordova is built upon a rich and diverse foundation of bounties from both the sea and the land. Snowcapped peaks, glaciers, forested mountains and the sea all add to Cordova's scenic beauty and remote location. Nearly half of all households are involved in the commercial fishing industry, exemplifying Cordova's reliance on the abundance of the sea for their economy.

For 15 years, the community has worked to re-group from the devastating effects to the economy in this region from the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Cordova continues to experience economic difficulties as fluctuations occur in the fishing industry.

In 1989, the Prince William Sound Science Center was established to study and monitor the ecosystems of the Sound and adjoining Copper River Delta.

<u>Coordination and Collaboration:</u> Cordova Center planners have met with EVOS Trustee Council members to initiate a dialog about how the Center can best serve EVOS Trustee Council outreach needs. The City has initiated a strong partnership between members of related institutions including the Prince William Sound Science Center, United States Forest Service, Native tribe of Eyak, Community College, public schools, federal agencies, nonprofit Cordova Historical Society, service and civic groups and the community as a whole to collaborate on the planning and implementation of the Cordova Center project. A letter to the Native Village of Eyak elicited a positive response of tribal interest in using the facility for meetings, and the Center will facilitate activities, which foster the sharing of traditional ecological knowledge.

Through an inclusive public planning process, the community designed the Cordova Center to implement a shared vision to create physical infrastructure offering educational, cultural, civic and economic opportunities and improving quality of life. The project is structured to continually reinforce this collaboration as the interrelated services provided at the new facility complement and build upon each other. Serving as an EVOS Trustee Council outreach and public information center, the Cordova Center will be a valuable local and regional asset.

The intensive community planning process determined this facility to be the most effective way to deliver a variety of vital services in an efficient and sustainable manner. The Cordova Center project exemplifies municipal leadership in a cooperative effort. Continual public planning to identify new ways in which the facility can creatively be utilized to serve EVOS Trustee Council, the region and the state will enable the Cordova Center to maintain its role of disseminating information on restoration to the broadest audience possible. This is an investment that will have long-term and farreaching outcomes for EVOS Trustee Council while providing an array of benefits to the community of Cordova and the Prince William Sound region.

SCHEDULE

<u>Project Milestones</u>: Focused planning for the project began in January 2002. Earliest projected project completion date is 2006.

The City of Cordova is currently negotiating to purchase the preferred property for the Cordova Center.

The firm of Minch Ritter Voelckers, Inc. was retained as project architects in February 2002. More detailed programming analysis of spaces was initiated, along with parallel studies on the possibilities for other building functions, including small convention use during the following months. Community forums on site selection, materials and features were organized to build broad support for the project and to provide information to the design team as ideas were formulated. Design goals include energy efficiency, low operating expenses and pleasant interior environment. Conceptual and schematic designs are complete.

Detailed analysis and integration of engineering systems is scheduled for May 2004 – April 2005, and development of *Construction Documents* is scheduled for May 2005 – October 2005.

Measurable Project Goals:

FY'05, 1st quarter (October 1, 2004-December 31, 2004)

- Project funding sought from Trustee Council
- > Input from Trustee Council on outreach and information dissemination needs
- Design Development ongoing
- Ongoing fundraising
- Grant applications to foundations, corporations and government sources
- Requests for state and federal appropriations

FY'05, 2nd quarter (January 1, 2005-March 31, 2005)

- Design Development documents completed
- Ongoing fundraising
- Grant applications to foundations, corporations and government sources
- > Funding requests for state and federal appropriations

FY'05, 3rd quarter (April 1, 2005-June 30, 2005)

- Ongoing fundraising for Phase I
- Construction documents ongoing
- ➤ Begin fundraising for Phase II landscaping, furnishings, etc.

FY'05, 4th quarter (July 1, 2005-September 30, 2005)

- > Construction documents completed
- > Prepare RFP's and Bid documents
- Ongoing fundraising for Phase II landscaping, furnishings, etc.

FY'06, 1st quarter (October 1, 2005-December 31, 2005)

- Construction Bids
- Ongoing fundraising for Phase II landscaping, furnishings, etc.

FY'06, 2nd quarter (January 1, 2006-March 31, 2006)

- Construction begins
- Ongoing fundraising for Phase II landscaping, furnishings, etc.
- Annual GEM Workshop

FY'06, 3rd quarter (April 1, 2006-June 30, 2006)

Construction continues

RESPONSIVENESS TO KEY TRUSTEE COUNCIL STRATEGIES

<u>Community Involvement:</u> Since January 2002, six public meetings have been held to gather ideas and share information about the Cordova Center project. All community members are invited to contribute their input to the planning process. The Eyak Native Village has responded with suggestions of tribal uses for the Center. The City's Director of Information Services keeps all stakeholders informed of public meetings and project progress through emails, newsletters, box holder mailings and posters in public locations. This continual information sharing will remain a function of the Cordova Center once it is constructed.

<u>Cordova Center Partners:</u> The City of Cordova offers the many varied public services that municipal governments are responsible for in small rural communities including museum, library, water, sewer, road maintenance, public health and safety.

Established in 1967 as a centennial museum by the Cordova Historical Society, the **Cordova Museum** is operated under the auspices of the City of Cordova while the Cordova Historical Society owns the collection. The museum offers exhibitions, programs, publications and other activities that engage, enlighten, educate and entertain both community residents and visitors of all ages.

The **Cordova Public Library** provides services to patrons throughout the community of Cordova and surrounding areas from Icy Bay to hatcheries in remote areas of Prince William Sound. The library also serves as the elementary school library for 200 pre-kindergarten to sixth grade children.

The U.S. Forest Service in partnership with the Prince William Sound Science Center provides the **Science Discovery Program**, offering a variety of education programs and demonstrations for youth. These programs provide an important connection to the marine environment for people of all ages and are directly related to EVOS Trustee Council concerns.

Summary: The Cordova Center will be an active partner to help the EVOS Trustee Council achieve a number of its goals in the Prince William Sound region. The needs to support research disseminate EVOS-related information, and to reach out to people

around the world and inform them of the research findings and progress to date will be met through the variety of interdisciplinary programs and services provided in this new multi-use facility. Together, the partners will be able to increase access to information, educational opportunities, and the overall understanding of the effects of oil spills and the best practices of response. The GEM program is resulting in an increase in knowledge about the Gulf ecosystem that can be applied to other large marine ecosystems, and advances in management tools for natural resource managers that can be shared worldwide. The Cordova Center will provide the means for transmitting this information to all those who find it interesting, valuable, or crucial to their work.

<u>Budget Narrative:</u> The proposed Cordova Center offers economies of operation by locating several functions within a single new facility. The building is being designed to <u>stress energy efficiency and low operating expenses</u>. Several features have been incorporated to minimize mechanical system expenses. The entire center will be ADA accessible, and will use sustainable design precepts.

Of the \$14,676,000 needed estimated project cost, approximately \$2.69 million has been secured. Funding is complete for design and construction drawings (\$0.7 million). The municipality has pledged funding for land (\$0.17 million). Federal funding is committed for construction (\$2 million).

Of the Cordova Center's numerous aspects, approximately 47% of the space for the facility will be used for EVOS related functions. The areas identified are equivalent to \$6,897,720 of the assumed total project cost.

Square footages of Cordova Center spaces to be used to meet EVOS Trustee Council objectives:

EVOS Space Use Designation
Conference Center: A venue for sharing of GEM produced and other
EVOS region research
Library: Providing access to EVOS related information and research support
Science Discovery Room: Educating environmental stewards
Museum: Documenting the past and looking to the future
Oil Spill Response Center: Oil Spill Prevention and Response Training and emergency communication center
Visitors' Center: Restoration and development of regional outdoor recreation, tourism and commercial fishing industries

Funds awarded to date:

Source	Amount
Economic Development Administration	\$ 200,000
Federal Financial Assistance Grant USFS	\$ 300,000
Appropriations Bill FY'03, S.2708	\$1,000,000
Appropriations Bill FY'04	\$1,000,000
Municipality	\$ 167,000
State of Alaska	\$ 25,000
Total	\$2,692,000

PROJECT EXPENSES		PROJECT REVENUES	
Land	\$ 167,000	Municipal to date	\$ 167,000
Architect & Engineering fees	\$ 700,000	State & Federal to date	\$2,525,000
Administration/Inspection	\$ 320,000	Total Funding Secured	\$2,692,000
Construction	\$10,000,000	Municipal Projected	\$ 500,000
Exhibit Design/Installation	\$ 700,000	State & Federal Projected	\$2,584,000
Equipment/Furnishings/Art	\$ 642,000	Foundations/Corporations	\$2,500,000
		Projected	
Landscaping	\$ 56,000	Local Fundraising	\$ 200,000
		Projected	
Contingency & Inflation	\$2,091,000	Total Funding Projected	\$5,784,000
Proofing			
Total Funding Needs	\$14,676,000	Total Secured & Projected	\$8,476,000
\$14,676,000 - \$8,476,000	equals	Total Funding Gap	\$6,200,000

The remainder of the funds for this project will be raised from a public/private fundraising partnership made up of local contributions, government appropriations and grants from foundations, corporations and government agencies.

EVOS Trustee Council funding is a critical component to project success. As well as providing valuable financial support, it will allow Cordova to leverage funds from other sources to make the Project a reality.