

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ryan Tunseth, Assembly President
Members, KPB Assembly

FROM: Willy Dunne, Assembly Member (W.D.) for W.D.

DATE: January 22, 2026

RE: Resolution 2026-008, Supporting the Recertification of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (Dunne)

The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC) was established after the Exxon Valdez oil spill and it has worked diligently for the last 35 years fulfilling its mission to promote environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska Valdez Marine Terminal and associated tankers. PWSRCAC works with industry and regulators to ensure response readiness, evaluate risks, and propose solutions.

PWSRCAC conducts independent scientific work addressing environmental issues related to the Alyeska Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT) and associated tankers, such as maintain two weather buoys in Port Valdez. These buoys improve understanding of weather conditions in Port Valdez that could affect marine vessel safety and movement of spilled oil, as well as help with decisions regarding the timing of protecting environmentally sensitive sites in the area. The Council works with the Alaska Ocean Observing System and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's PORTS® (Physical Oceanographic Real Time System) to share the data collected by these buoys.

PWSRCAC also continues its Long Term Environmental Monitoring Program (LTEMP), initiated in 1993 to monitor hydrocarbons pollution and impacts in the Exxon Valdez oil spill region. In 2024, a pilot study identified 23 metals found in sediments near two monitoring sites in Port Valdez. Further monitoring and analysis were recommended. Additionally, the Council supports citizen-based monitoring efforts for marine invasive species that may be introduced in ballast water or on the hulls of tankers arriving at the Valdez Marine Terminal. In September 2024, the Council released a report describing a survey for marine invasive species conducted in 2023, throughout Prince William Sound. Three species of concern were detected in this study. Two of the three have not been detected in Prince William Sound in previous studies. This brings the total number of invasive benthic marine invertebrate species in the sound to seven.

These and many other examples illustrate the valuable efforts of PWSRCAC towards its mission and ensuring the long-term environmental sustainability of the Prince William Sound.

Your consideration is appreciated.