



LaRoche + Associates

November 18, 2005

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Office of Project Management and Permitting
Alaska Coastal Management Program
302 Gold Street, Suite 202
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Bates:

RE: Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area Final Draft Coastal Management Plan
Amendment

On behalf of the Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA), I am pleased to submit the Final Draft Plan Amendment of the AWCRSA Coastal Management Plan for review and approval by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. The plan has been prepared in compliance with AS 46.40, et. al., 11 AAC 112 and 11 AAC 114. The AWCRSA program director and board, and the district's citizens have put forth substantial effort to revise their coastal management plan in accordance with House Bill 191 (Chapter 24, SLA 2003). A great deal of thoughtful effort went into its production.

Please find enclosed four (4) of CD-ROMs containing the complete plan and required attachments as indicated in OPMP's list of grant deliverables. The Final Draft Plan Amendment incorporates required changes, as well as many of the recommended changes identified in OPMP's comments on the Public Review Draft. Refer to the enclosed summary response for an explanation of the AWCRSAs specific approach to addressing the many varied comments received during the public review. I understand that there may now be new requirements for the plan submittal, but the Board prefers that I submit the plan so that we may have an official response regarding completeness that is specific to the AWCRSA plan. In that way we hope to have a finite "punch-list" from which to work.

We look forward to receiving your request for additional information on or before December 21, 2005 and your draft recommendation for the Commissioners decision regarding this amendment in March 2006. The delay in issuing final grant agreements this fall resulted in an unfortunate hiatus in the process. As you are aware, the AWCRSA began this amendment in 1999 and is anxious to bring the process to closure. Please call me at 360-385-2559 if you have any questions regarding this submittal.

Sincerely yours,

Gabrielle LaRoche, Principal
LaRoche+ Associates

Enclosure(s)

cc: Jackie Brock, OPMP
Sally Cox, DCCED