

# Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

SOUTHCOAST REGION Design & Engineering Services Preconstruction

> P.O. Box 112506 Juneau, Alaska 99801-2506 Main: (907) 465-1799 Fax: (907) 465-2030 TTY-TDD: (800) 770-8973 dot.state.ak.us

September 24, 2024

Chenega Ferry Terminal Improvements Federal Project # 0003290 State Project # SFHWY00461

Cordova Ferry Terminal Improvements Federal Project # 0851073 State Project # SFHWY00465

Tatitlek Ferry Terminal Improvements Federal Project # 0003289 State Project # SFHWY00460

### **Request for Comments**

Dear Agency Representative:

The Maritime Administration (MARAD), in coordination with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and the Prince William Sound Economic Development District (PWSEDD), is proposing to improve three ferry terminals in Prince William Sound in order to accommodate Alaska Class Ferry (ACF) vessels: Chenega Ferry Terminal Improvements, Cordova Ferry Terminal Improvements, and Tatitlek Ferry Terminal Improvements (the projects). The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a description of the projects and request comments regarding potential impacts to resources under your agency's jurisdiction.

The projects are in the following locations:

### Chenega Ferry Terminal

Township (T) 1 S, Range (R) 8 W, Section (S) 25, Seward Meridian and in the United States Geological Survey Quadrangle Seward A-3 SW, AK. Enclosed are key, regional, and vicinity maps (Attachment A, Sheet 1) and site plans (Attachment A, Sheets 2-7).

Cordova Ferry Terminal

Township (T) 15 S, Range (R) 3 E, Section (S) 3, Copper River Meridian and in the United States Geological

"Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 13, 2023 and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF

Survey Quadrangle Cordova C-5 SW, AK. Enclosed are key, regional, and vicinity maps (Attachment 2, Sheet 1) and site plans (Attachment 2, Sheets 2-8).

Tatitlek Ferry Terminal

Township (T) 12 S, Range (R) 8 E, Section (S) 5, Copper River Meridian and in the United States Geological Survey Quadrangle Cordova D-8 SE, AK. Enclosed are key, regional, and vicinity maps (Attachment 3, Sheet 1) and site plans (Sheets 2-7).

### Purpose & Need

This projects would make improvements to the Chenega, Cordova, and Tatitlek ferry terminals to accommodate the new Alaska Class Ferry (ACF) berthing and home port needs to support continued reliable Alaska Marine Highway ferry service into the future.

The existing Chenega and Tatitlek ferry terminal facilities are fixed platform docks that will only accommodate vessels with attached vehicle ramps (M/V Aurora), which are aging out of service. The ACF will require a vehicle transfer system to be installed at the facility in order to operate at this port.

The existing Cordova ferry terminal facility includes a side berth and stern berth for AMHS ferry vessels. The terminal requires modification to the mooring dolphins to better accommodate the newly built ACF vessel's (M/V Hubbard) mooring line system.

### **Project Description**

Chenega Ferry Terminal

The proposed projects consist of the following:

- Modify existing fendering system on existing dock face.
- Installation of a vehicular approach, transfer bridge, ramp, and apron.
- Installation of a bridge support float.
- Installation of float restraint structures.
- Installation of mooring structures.
- Lighting and power upgrades.

Cordova Ferry Terminal:

The proposed project consists of the following:

- Removal of floating fender dolphins.
- Installation of mooring structures and catwalks.
- Lighting and power upgrades.
- Regrading portion of uplands parking/staging area.
- Dredging.
- Modifications to the pedestrian walkways and elevated steel platforms.
- Modifications to the sewage holding tank.
- Electrical power updates (as applicable).
- Modifications to the uplands grading to prevent stormwater runoff.
- Replacement of the potable water line to the stern berth.

### Tatitlek Ferry Terminal

The proposed projects consist of the following:

- Modify existing fendering system on existing dock face.
- Removal of existing tidal ramps and associated dolphin and catwalk.
- Installation of a vehicular transfer bridge, ramp, and apron to replace existing tidal ramps.
- Installation of lift towers to support the float.
- Installation of mooring structures.
- Lighting and power upgrades.

The project is anticipated to occur as early as spring 2027. There may be schedule changes to the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) ferry service during construction.

### **Identified Resources**

DOT&PF has identified a number of resources within each project area, including marine mammals protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and endangered species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). DOT&PF will submit requests for an Incidental Harassment Authorizations (IHAs) as well as a request for initiation under Section 7 of the ESA. DOT&PF will also conference on Sunflower Sea Stars, a candidate species under the ESA.

There are two known **eagle nests** located within 0.5 mile of the management buffers of proposed projects features of the Cordova and Tatitlek ferry terminals based on publicly available data on bald eagle nest locations:

<b>Project Site</b>	Nest ID	Survey Year	Latitude (NAD83)	Longitude (NAD83)	Nest Substrate
Cordova	02.09635.006	1990	60.565027	-145.74244	Hemlock
Tatitlek	02.09648.084	2005	60.863063	-146.66389	Unknown

One nest is located near the shoreline of Orca Inlet northeast of the existing Cordova Ferry Terminal. While this nest is located within 0.5 mile of the project area, the loudest sources of noise would take place on the southwest side of the ferry terminal and likely outside of the management buffer. The nest near the Tatitlek Ferry Terminal is located to the northeast near the center of a densely forested area. Trees between the nest and the proposed activities could act as an effective landscape buffer to attenuate construction noise. The database does not show any eagle nests within 0.5 miles of the Chenega project area. DOT&PF would determine whether an eagle permit would be necessary for the projects.

The project sites are located near the following **anadromous fish streams**:

Stream Name	Anadromous Waters Catalog Number	Location Relative to Project Area	Species Present*
O'Brien Creek	226-40-1665	~3,300' from Chenega Ferry Terminal	CHp, Ps
Anderson Creek	226-40-16670	~1,500' from Chenega Ferry Terminal	COr, Ps, Sp
Ocean Dock Creek	221-10-10040	~2,300' from Cordova Ferry Terminal	Pp
Nunu Creek	221-40-11020	~6,000' from Tatitlek Ferry Terminal	Ps

<sup>\*</sup> CO = coho; P = pink salmon; CH = chum; S = Sockeye; p = present; r = rearing; s = spawning

The projects are located within marine waters designated **Essential Fish Habitat** (EFH) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and an EFH Assessment will be completed.

Installation of marine structures would result in work within **waters of the US**. The project would require authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for each ferry terminal location.

These ferry terminal improvements would be constructed within existing DOT&PF rights-of-way. Best Management Practices would be used during construction to avoid and minimize construction-related impacts.

### **Agency Comment Request**

We request your comments about the proposed action, particularly in regard to resources under your jurisdiction. DOT&PF must also determine to what extent this project would impact **cultural or historic properties**. If you have information that would assist in these determinations, please provide it. To comply with certain interagency agreements, we also request the views of applicable agencies on potential effects to **bald eagles** and **threatened and endangered species**.

The PWS Ferry Terminal EA's public scoping period will be **September 25 through October 25, 2024**. DOT&PF will host an online agency scoping meeting from 10:00 - 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 10, 2024, and the Project Team will send a Teams meeting invitation to you shortly. One-on-one meetings with DOT&PF are also available upon request.

Please submit your formal written comments to <u>comments@PWSferryterminals.com</u> by COB on **October 25, 2024**.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for comments. If you need any further information, please contact me by phone at 465-4524 or via e-mail.

Christy Gentemann

Sincerely,

Christy Gentemann

Regional Environmental Manager (Design)

**Enclosures:** 

Attachment A – Chenega Ferry Terminal Figures

Attachment B – Cordova Ferry Terminal Figures

Attachment C – Tatitlek Ferry Terminal Figures

### Distribution List:

Matt LaCroix, Alaska Region 10, EPA

Shane McCoy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Douglass Cooper, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ron Benkert, ADF&G Habitat Division

Joni Sweetman, DNR, Division of Mining, Land & Water

Hans Rinke, DNR, Kenai Region Office, Alaska State Parks

John Kurland, Habitat Conservation Division, National Marine Fisheries Service

Protected Resources Division, National Marine Fisheries Service

Willow Weimer, Division of Water, DEC, Anchorage

Adeyemi Alimi, Division of Air Quality, DEC

Rueben Glaves, U.S. Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

Dusty Escamilla, U.S. Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

Carol Seitz Warmuth, U.S. Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

Aimee Devaris, U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Region, Regional Director

Lt. Abigail Ferrara, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Western Alaska – US Arctic: Marine Safety Unit Valdez

Garrett Brooks, Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, State Hazard Mitigation Officer

Ted Wright, Native Village of Eyak, Tribal Administrator

John Whissel, Native Village of Eyak, Environmental Programs Director

Ivy Patton, Native Village of Eyak, Brownfield and Spill Response Coordinator

Thomas Mack, Eyak Corporation, CEO

Brennan Cain, Eyak Corporation, Vice President and General Counsel

Larry Evanoff, Chenega IRA Council, CEO

Chuck Totemoff, Chenega Corporation, CEO

Adam Turner, Chenega Corporation, Operations Coordinator

Doug Lipinski, Chenega Corporation

Megan Green, Chenega Village, Tribal Administrator

Roy Totemoff, Tatitlek Corporation, CEO

Angela Totemoff, Tatitlek Corporation

Patrick Callahan, Tatitlek Corporation, Deputy Legal Counsel

Nanci Robart, Tatitlek IRA Council, Council Chair

Jackie Wilde, Acting City Manager, City of Whittier

David Allison, Mayor, City of Cordova

#### Cc:

Ben Storey, DOT&PF Southcoast Regional Environmental Manager (PD&E)

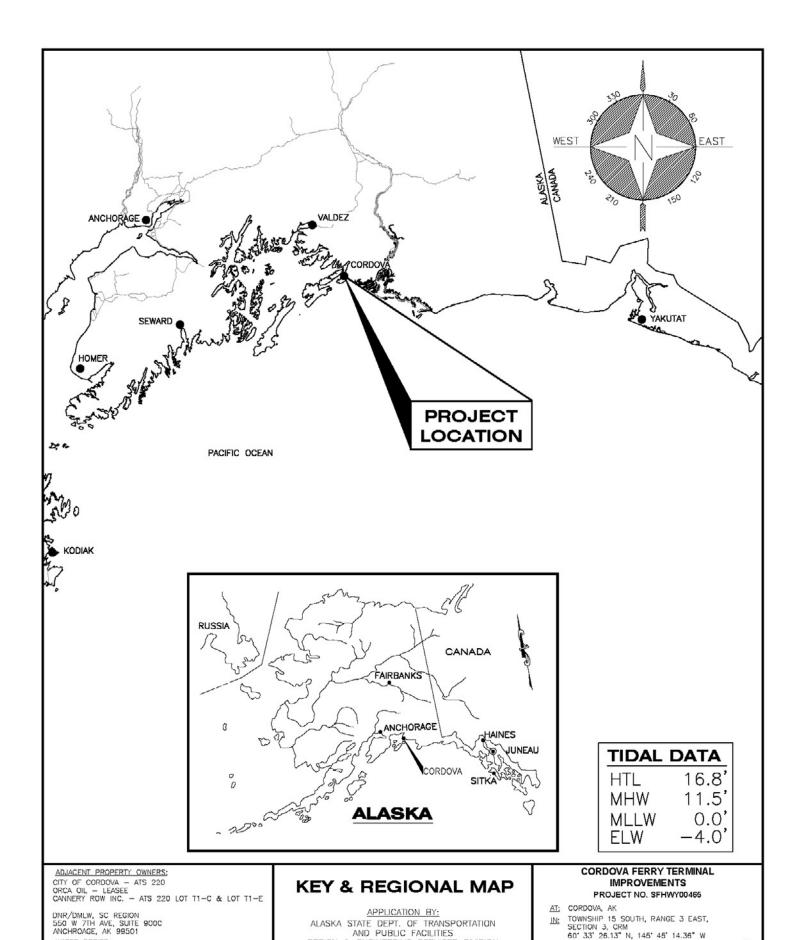
Nate Geary, P.E., DOT&PF Project Manager

Kristin Carpenter, PWSEDD Executive Director

Erin Kendle, MARAD, Environmental Protection Specialist

Bryan Herdliska, MARAD, Senior Grants Management Specialist

# **Attachment A – Cordova Ferry Terminal Improvements**

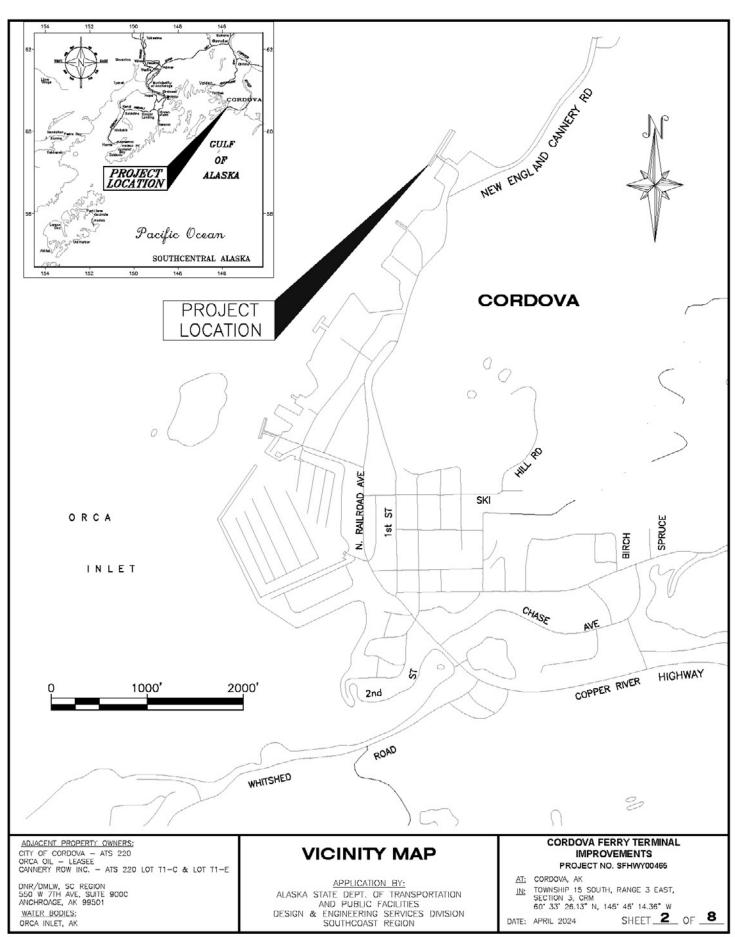


DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION

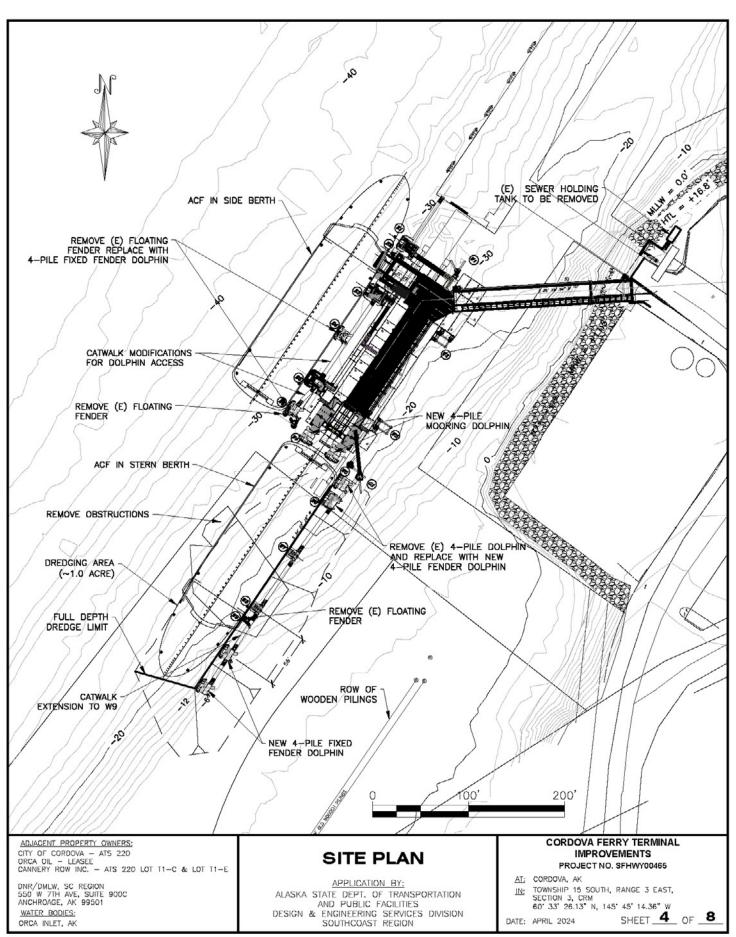
SOUTHCOAST REGION

SHEET\_1

WATER BODIES:

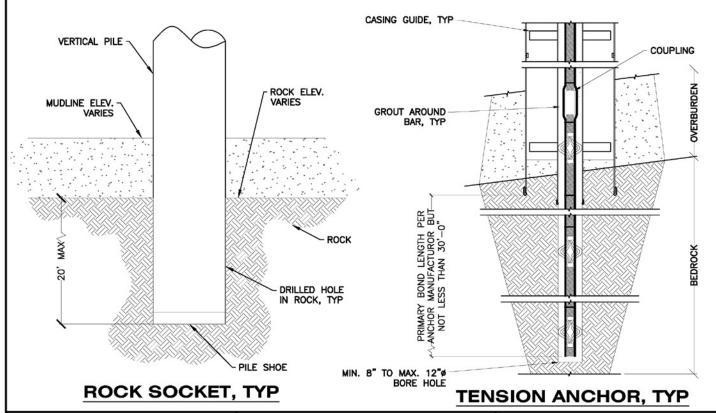


WATER BODIES: ORGA INLET, AK



PILE INFORMATION				
STRUCTURES	PILE DIAMETER	QΤΥ	# ROCK SOCKETS	# TENSION ANCHORS
MOORING DOLPHINS (5 EA.)	30"	10 VERT. 10 BATTER		-
TEMPORARY PILES	24"	20	-	-
TOTAL		40		

PILE DEMOLITION			
STRUCTURE REMOVAL	PILE DIAMETER	QTY	
FLOATING FENDER DOLPHIN (3 EA.)	30" VERT. 18" BATTER	9	
4-PILE DOLPHIN (1 EA.)	4		
TOTAL	13		



ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:
CITY OF CORDOVA - ATS 220
ORCA OIL - LEASEE
CANNERY ROW INC. - ATS 220 LOT T1-C & LOT T1-E

DNR/DMLW, SC REGION 550 W 7TH AVE, SUITE 900C ANCHROAGE, AK 99501 WATER BODIES: ORCA INLET, AK

# PILE DETAILS

APPLICATION BY:

ALASKA STATE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

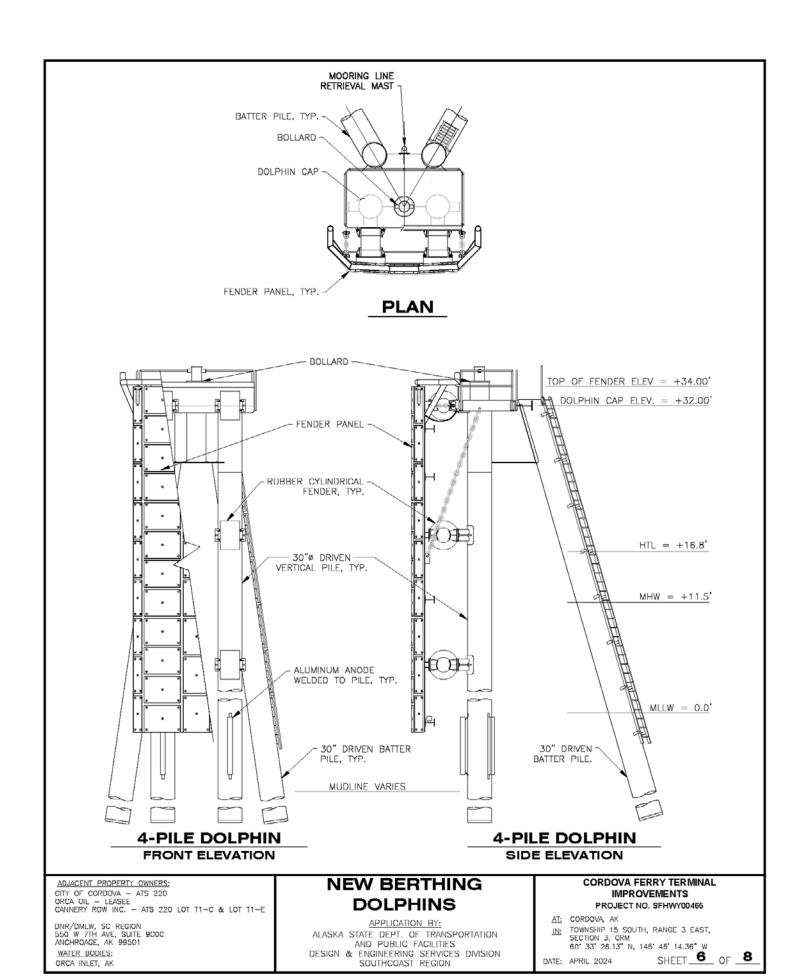
DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION
SOUTHCOAST REGION

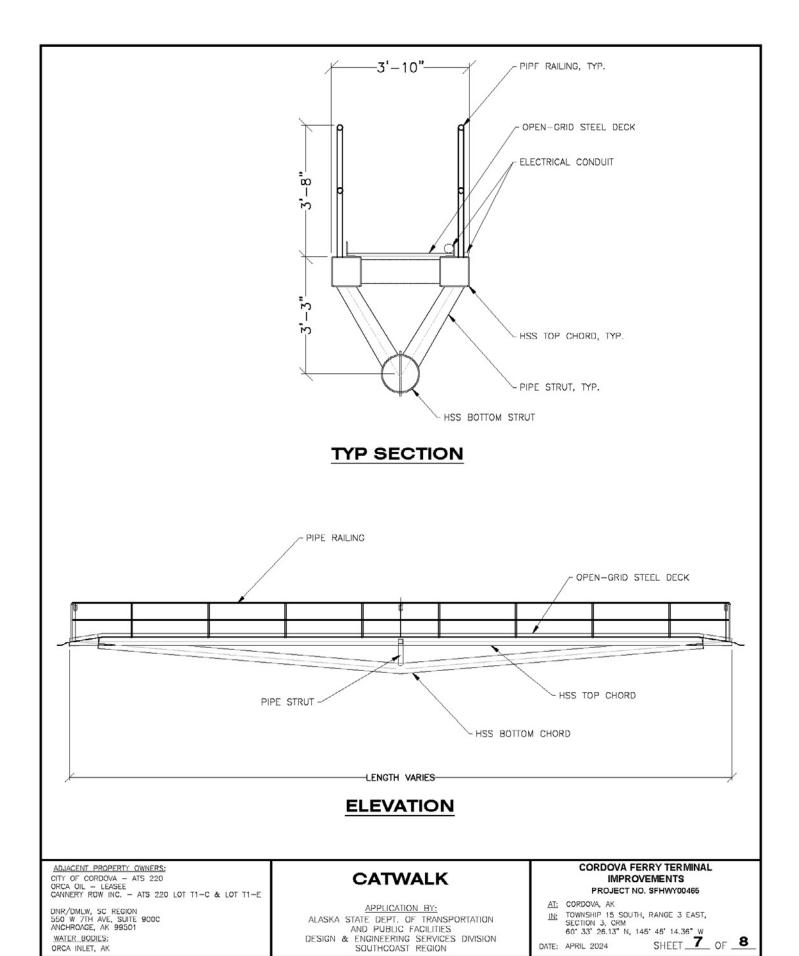
#### CORDOVA FERRY TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. SFHWY00465

AT: CORDOVA, AK

IN: TOWNSHIP 15 SOUTH, RANGE 3 EAST, SECTION 3, CRM 60' 33' 26.13" N, 145' 45' 14.36" W

DATE: APRIL 2024 SHEET 5 OF 8

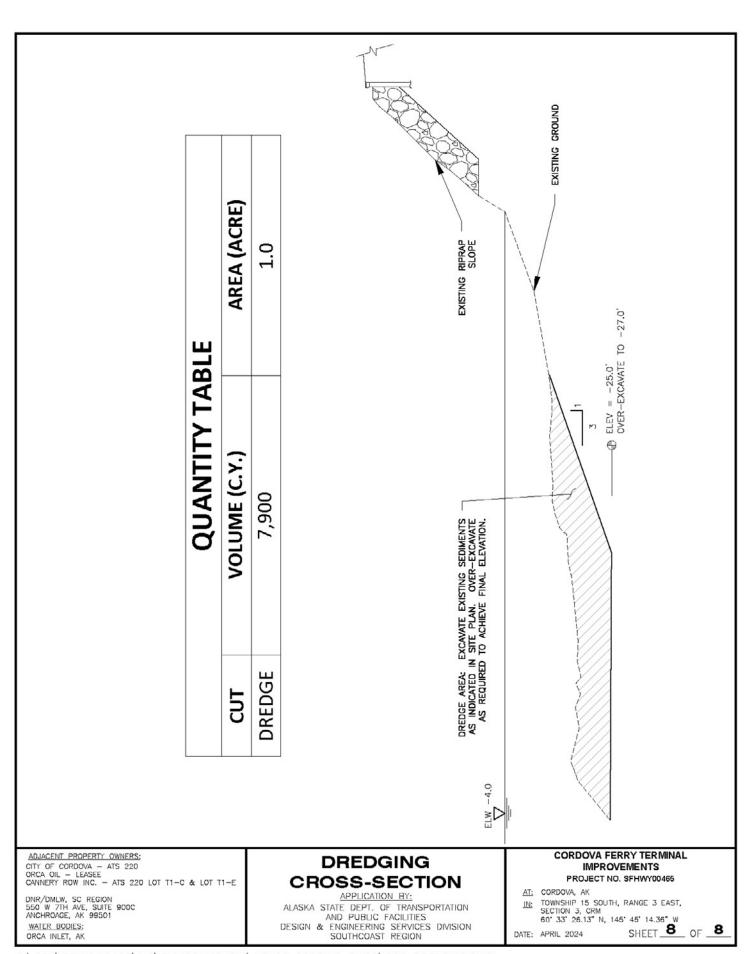




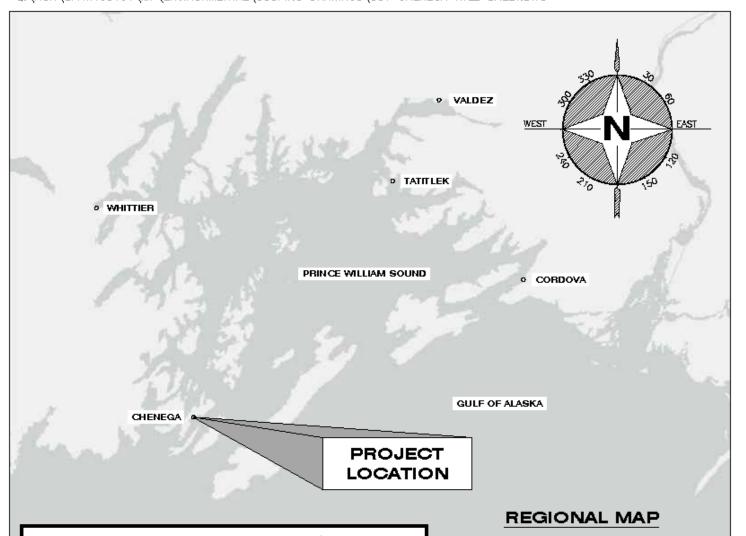
SHEET 7 OF 8

DATE: APRIL 2024

WATER BODIES:



# Attachment B – Chenega Ferry Terminal Improvement Figures



# IAINES MINEAU NANGELL **KEY MAP**

## TIDAL DATA

HTL	16.2 EST.	
MHW	10.3	
MSL	6.3	
MLLW	0.0	
ELW	-4.0 EST.	

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

CHENEGA IRA COUNCIL P.O. BOX 8079 CHENEGA BAY, AK 99574

NORTH PACIFIC RIM HOUSING AUTHORITY B300 KING STREET ANCHORAGE, AK 99518

DNR/DMLW SC REGION 550 W. 7TH AVE., SUITE 900C ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

WATER BODIES: CRAB BAY, SAWMILL BAY, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

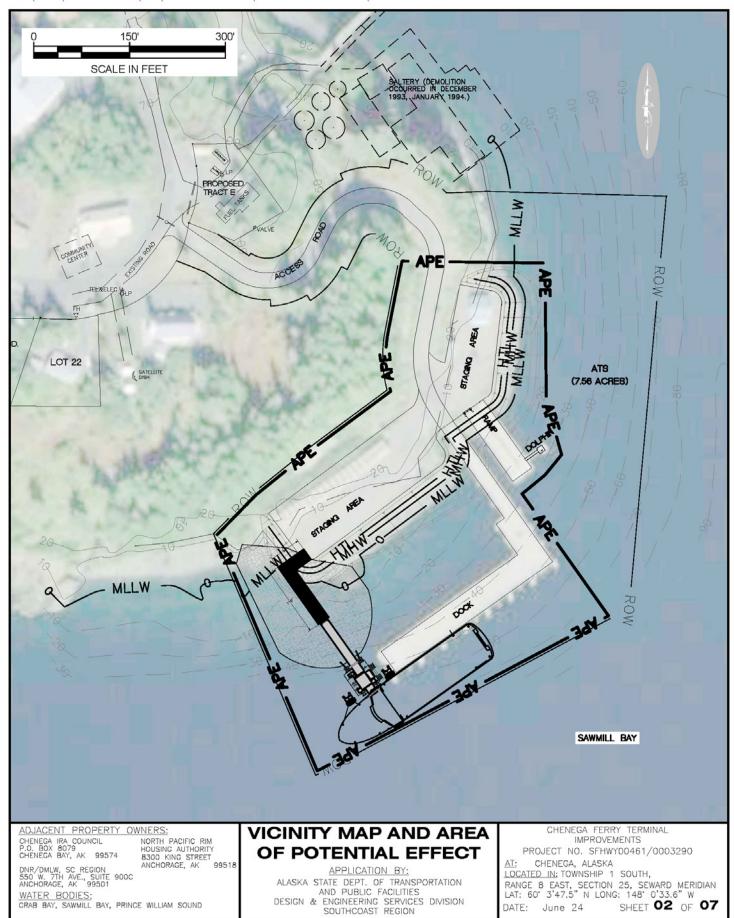
### **KEY & REGIONAL MAPS**

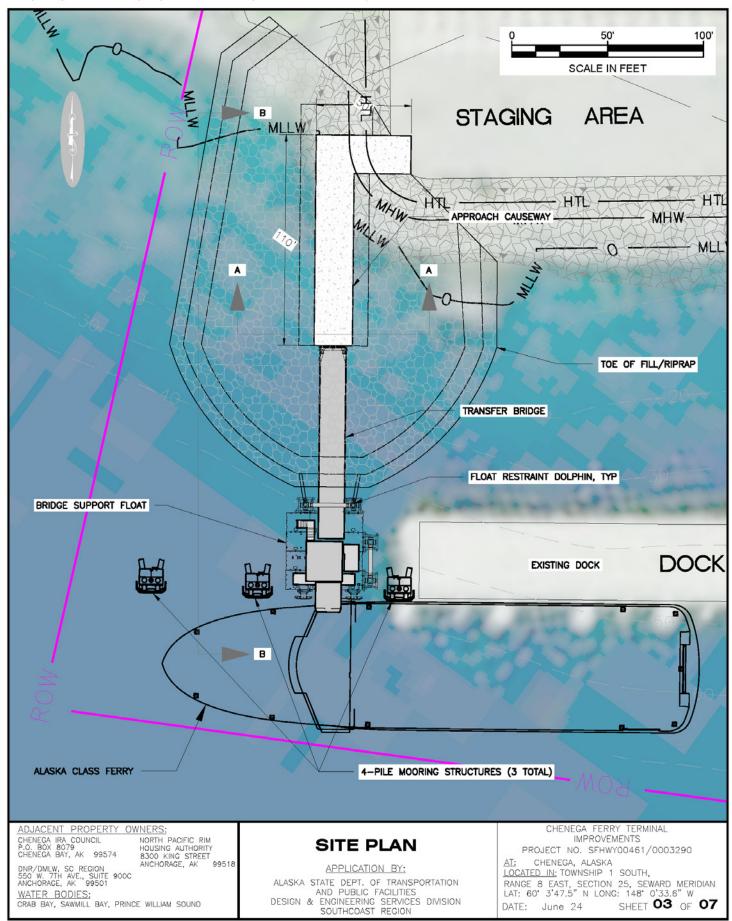
APPLICATION BY:

ALASKA STATE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES
DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION
SOUTHEAST REGION

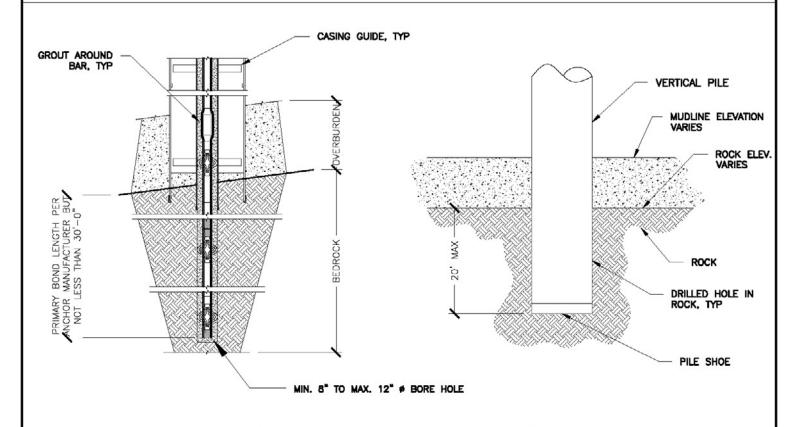
CHENEGA FERRY TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. SFHWYD0461/D003290

AT: CHENEGA, ALASKA LOCATED IN: TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 8 EAST, SECTION 25, SEWARD MERIDIAN LAT: 60° 3'47.5" N LONG: 148° 0'33.6" W DATE: June 24 SHEET O1 OF O7 DATE: June 24





PILE INFORMATION				
STRUCTURES	PILE DIAMETER	QTY	# ROCK SOCKETS	# TENSION ANCHORS
BRIDGE ABUTMENT	24"	2 VERT. 2 BATTER	2	4
FLOAT RESTRAINT FRAME (2 EA.)	24" 18"	4 VERT. 2 BATTER	4	6
MOORING DOLPHINS (3 EA.)	30"	6 VERT. 6 BATTER	6	12
TEMPORARY PILES	24"	30	-	-
TOTAL		38		



ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS: CHENEGA IRA COUNCIL NORTH PACIFIC RIM

CHENEGA IRA COUNCIL P.O. BOX 8079 CHENEGA BAY, AK 99574 NORTH PACIFIC RIM HOUSING AUTHORITY 8300 KING STREET ANCHORAGE, AK 99518

DNR/DMLW, SC REGION 550 W. 7TH AVE., SUITE 900C ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

WATER BODIES: CRAB BAY, SAWMILL BAY, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

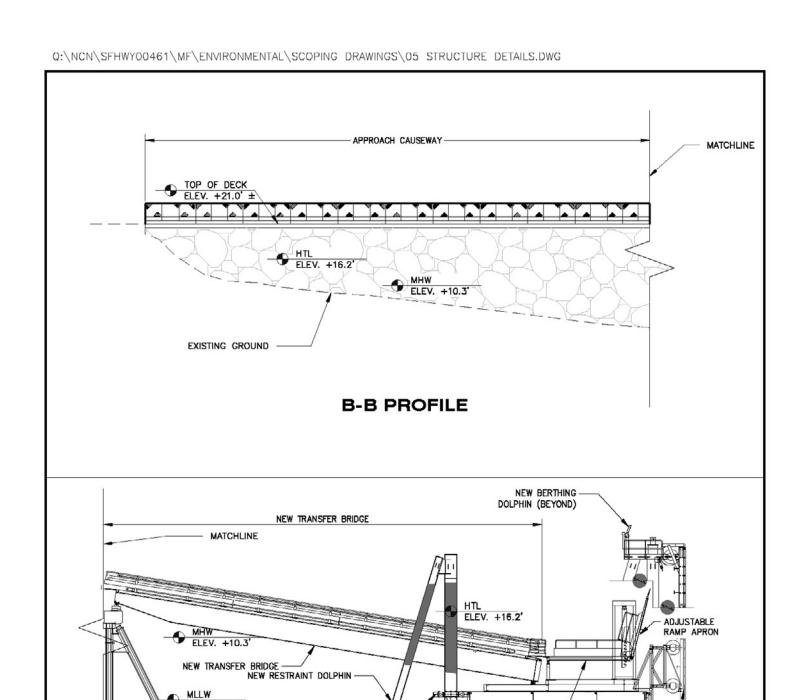
# **PILE DETAILS**

APPLICATION BY:

ALASKA STATE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION SOUTHCOAST REGION CHENEGA FERRY TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT NO. SFHWY00461/0003290

AT: CHENEGA, ALASKA
LOCATED IN: TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH,
RANGE 8 EAST, SECTION 25, SEWARD MERIDIAN
LAT: 60' 3'47.5" N LONG: 148' 0'33.6" W

DATE: June 24 SHEET **04** OF **07** 



**B-B PROFILE** 

NEW ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT INTERMEDIATE RAMP

NEW BRIDGE SUPPORT FLOAT STEEL FLEXI-FLOAT

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

APPROX:

GROUNDLINE

CHENEGA IRA COUNCIL P.O. BOX 8079 CHENEGA BAY, AK 99574

NORTH PACIFIC RIM HOUSING AUTHORITY 8300 KING STREET ANCHORAGE, AK 99518

ELEV. +0.0'

NEW FLOAT PILE HOOP, TYP. -

DNR/DMLW. SC REGION 550 W. 7TH AVE., SUITE 900C ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

WATER BODIES: CRAB BAY, SAWMILL BAY, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

### STRUCTURE DETAILS

APPLICATION BY:

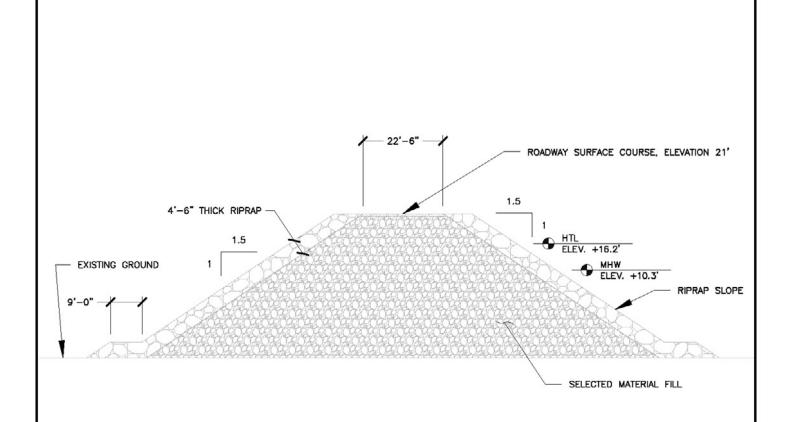
ALASKA STATE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION SOUTHCOAST REGION

CHENEGA FERRY TERMINAL **IMPROVEMENTS** PROJECT NO. SFHWY00461/0003290 AT: CHENEGA, ALASKA LOCATED IN: TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH,

NEW FENDER PANEL WITH RUBBER ENERGY ABSORBERS

RANGE 8 EAST, SECTION 25, SEWARD MERIDIAN LAT: 60' 3'47.5" N LONG: 148' 0'33.6" W SHEET 05 OF 07 DATE: June 24



QUANTITY TABLE				
FILL	SELECT MATERIAL VOLUME (CY)	RIPRAP VOLUME (CY)		
BELOW HTL	19,052	6,575		
BELOW MHW	17,121	5,763		

APPROACH CAUSEWAY A-A SECTION

QUANTITY TABLE				
FILL	RIPRAP VOLUME (CY)			
SELECTED MATERIAL	20,075	0.90		
RIPRAP	7,208	0.26		

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

CHENEGA IRA COUNCIL P.O. BOX 8079 CHENEGA BAY, AK 99574

NORTH PACIFIC RIM HOUSING AUTHORITY 8300 KING STREET ANCHORAGE, AK 99518

DNR/DMLW. SC REGION 550 W. 7TH AVE., SUITE 900C ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

WATER BODIES: CRAB BAY, SAWMILL BAY, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

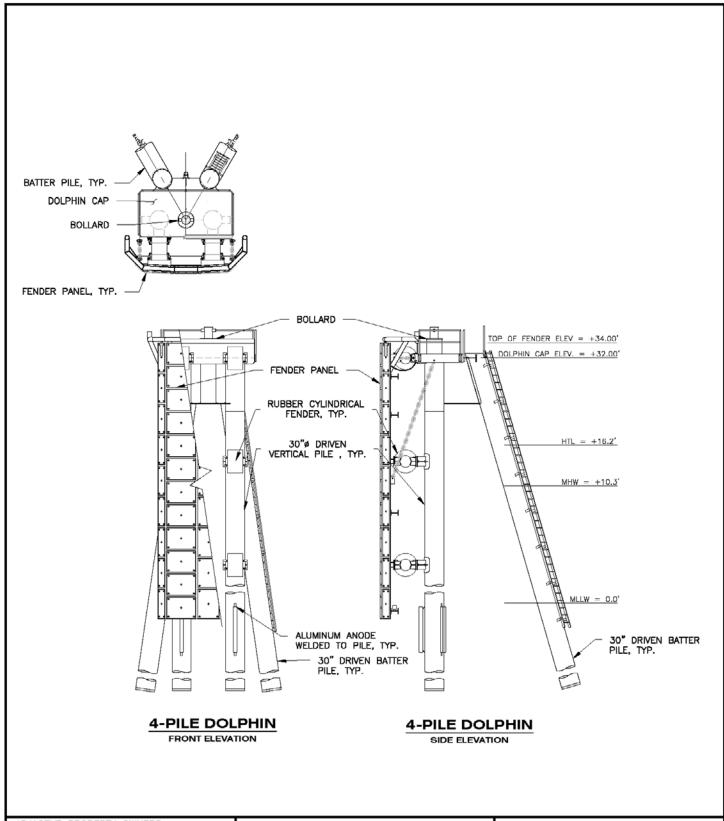
### APPROACH CAUSEWAY

APPLICATION BY:

ALASKA STATE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES
DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION
SOUTHCOAST REGION

CHENEGA FERRY TERMINAL **IMPROVEMENTS** PROJECT NO. SFHWY00461/0003290 AT: CHENEGA, ALASKA LOCATED IN: TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 8 EAST, SECTION 25, SEWARD MERIDIAN LAT: 60' 3'47.5" N LONG: 148' 0'33.6" W SHEET 06 OF 07

DATE: June 24



ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

CHENEGA IRA COUNCIL P.O. BOX 8079 CHENEGA BAY, AK 99574

NORTH PACIFIC RIM HOUSING AUTHORITY 8300 KING STREET ANCHORAGE, AK 99518

DNR/DMLW. SC REGION 550 W. 7TH AVE., SUITE 900C ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

WATER BODIES: CRAB BAY, SAWMILL BAY, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

### BERTHING DOLPHINS

APPLICATION BY:

ALASKA STATE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

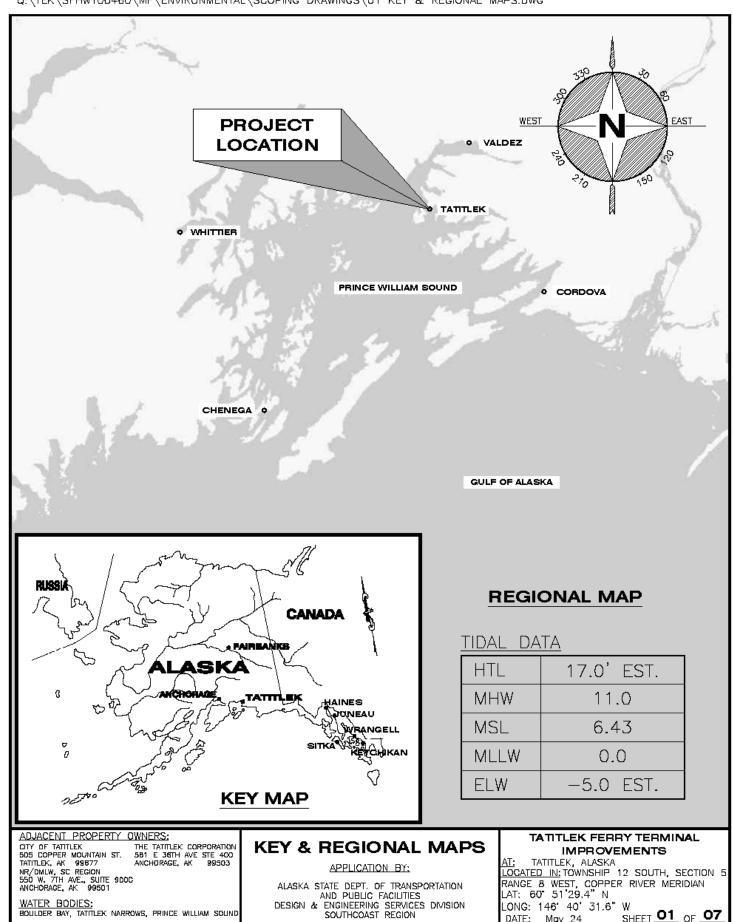
DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION SOUTHCOAST REGION

LOCATION DESCRIPTION AT: CHENEGA, ALASKA

LOCATED IN: TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH, RANGE 8 EAST, SECTION 25, SEWARD MERIDIAN LAT: 60' 3'47.5" N LONG: 148' 0'33.6" W

DATE: June 24

# **Attachment C – Tatitlek Ferry Terminal Figures**



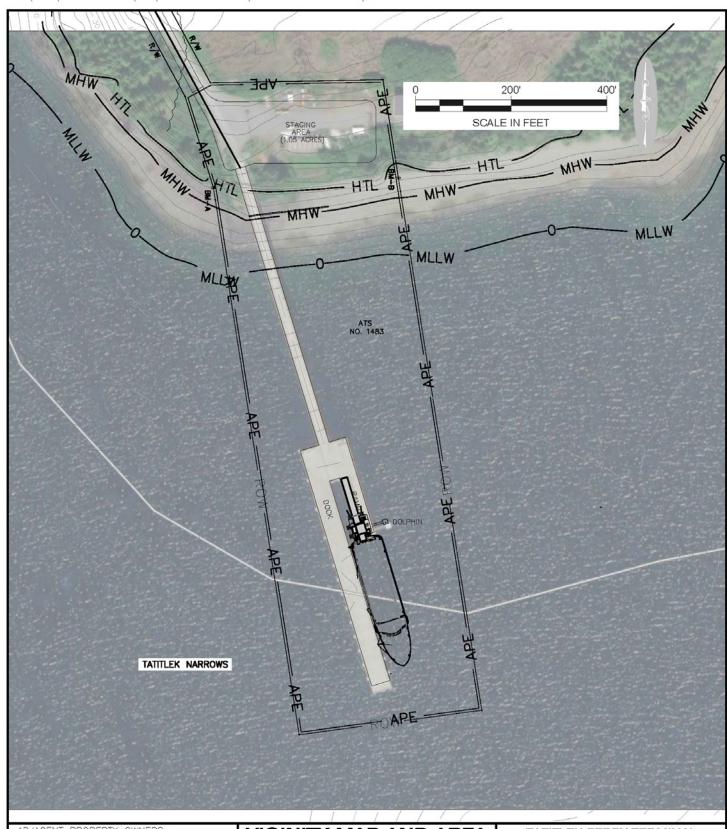
LONG: 146' 40' 31.6" W

May 24

DATE:

"SHEET **01** OF **07** 

WATER BODIES: BOULDER BAY, TATITLEK NARROWS, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND



ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

CITY OF TATITLEK 505 COPPER MOUNTAIN ST. TATITLEK, AK 99677 NR/DMLW, SC REGION 550 W. 7TH AVE., SUITE 900C ANCHORAGE, AK 99501 THE TATITLEK CORPORATION 561 E 36TH AVE STE 400 ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

WATER BODIES: BOULDER BAY, TATITLEK NARROWS, PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

# VICINITY MAP AND AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

APPLICATION BY: ALASKA STATE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES
DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION
SOUTHCOAST REGION

### TATITLEK FERRY TERMINAL **IMPROVEMENTS**

AT: TATITLEK, ALASKA OCATED IN:TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, SECTION 5 RANGE 8 WEST, COPPER RIVER MERIDIAN LAT: 60' 51'29.4" N LONG: 146' 40' 31.6" W

DATE:

SHEET **02** OF **07** May 24

