

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**

**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)**

**Grant Recipient: King Cove**

**Project Title:**

**Project Type: Other**

# King Cove - Izembek Land Exchange EIS, Public Interest Finding & Road Permitting Project

**State Funding Requested: \$500,000**

**House District: 37 / S**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

**PURPOSE:** Fund an essential part of the Izembek Land Exchange EIS in order to receive a timely Public Interest Finding (PIF) from the Secretary of the Interior. This is necessary prior to completing the land exchange so the construction of a road connecting King Cove and Cold Bay Airport can occur.

**Funding Plan:**

<b>Total Cost of Project: \$2,250,000</b>						
	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Federal Funds	\$800,000	10 & 11			\$700,000	11
Local Funds	\$250,000					
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,050,000</b>				<b>\$700,000</b>	

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Omnibus Public Lands Management Act was signed into law by President Obama in early 2009. The Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange Act is a key part of this legislation. This project has a high, national profile and it is time to bring it to fruition.

This Act directs the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) to proceed with an EIS to evaluate and document that this proposed land exchange is in the best, public interest of the federal government. It is essential that DOI commence and complete the EIS process within the timelines established in the Act.

DOI has estimated the cost of the EIS at \$2.0 million. DOI currently has \$400,000 in FFY10 funding to start the EIS process. This amount of funding is anticipated to pay for the first, 6 months of the EIS process and should allow for completion of the scoping process and development of the EIS alternatives.

However, without any additional funding by the end of summer (2010), it is likely the process will need to be suspended. This will have a major impact in completing the EIS and PIF by April 2012, per DOI's current schedule. Such a delay would add another year or more to the process.

This is where State funding can keep the process moving forward without any delays. The City believes this is essential in order to have the PIF by April 2012.

*For use by Co-chair Staff Only:*

\$300,000  
Approved

The City of King Cove continues to be the major impetus in moving this process forward. In doing so, the City will spend a minimum of \$250,000 in 2010 to support this effort with special studies/research, maintain a cadre of EIS experts to advise the City, and maintain DC legal/lobbying representation. Due to the controversial nature of this EIS, the City is adamant that these tasks are required in order to keep the EIS and PIF processes moving forward on a timely basis.

Finally, DOI recently stated they expect to receive another \$400,000 in (FFY11). However, this additional federal government funding will not likely occur until early 2011. Consequently, this request remains as the City's highest priority for FY11 State funding support.

**Project Timeline:**

EIS started in January 2010 with a published schedule to have it completed by February 2012 and the Public Interest Finding completed by April 30, 2012. In order to meet this schedule, \$1.0 million is needed for 2010, \$800,000 for 2011, and \$200,000 for 2012.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

City of King Cove in conjunction with the Aleutians East Borough and State of Alaska

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Bonnie Folz  
Address: 3380 C Street, Suite 205  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Phone Number: (907)274-7573  
Email: bfolzdir@gci.net

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No