

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council****Federal Tax ID: 92-0135368****Project Title:****Project Type: Information Systems and Technology**

# Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council - Cook Inlet Ice Forecasting Network

**State Funding Requested: \$70,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: Kenai Areawide (28-30)****Brief Project Description:**

This project expansion seeks to add and or upgrade cameras to the existing video camera network throughout Cook Inlet. The network aids in the observation of ice conditions to produce an accurate ice advisory and marine conditions for safer marine transportation through Cook Inlet.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$375,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$302,049)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	(\$70,000)
Project Deficit:	\$2,951

*Funding Details:**Ice Forecasting Project**Cook Inlet RCAC*

Year	Amount	Funding source
2006/2007	31,449.00	Tri Borough
2007/2008	45,500.00	Cook Inlet RCAC
2009	13,000.00	Cook Inlet RCAC
2010	4,500.00	Cook Inlet RCAC
2011	60,000.00	State of Alaska Grant
2012	22,600.00	Cook Inlet RCAC
2012	70,000.00	State of Alaska Grant
2013	25,000.00	Cook Inlet RCAC
2014	30,000.00	Cook Inlet RCAC

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Cook Inlet Ice Forecasting Project currently consists of eight individual high resolution video cameras at seven different strategic locations throughout upper and central Cook Inlet that has been installed and successfully operated by Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC). These cameras provide critical real time imagery of the Cook Inlet ice conditions analysis which has proved invaluable to a myriad of stakeholders. Due to the success and benefit of the data provided from the current locations; our goal now is to expand the network by installing additional cameras.

**\$70,000  
Approved**

The Cook Inlet Ice Forecasting project has now grown into a valuable resource exclusive to the Cook Inlet region. Some potential new locations would include the mouth of the Kenai River and Fire Island. This expanded network of cameras will provide unprecedented ice monitoring capability. Should some of these proposed sights prove to be unavailable or outside of the budget; we propose to upgrade some of the original cameras with a newer more versatile camera model that provides better imaging capabilities.

The camera network is and will continue to be available to State and Federal agencies and emergency responders, enabling immediate access to on-scene live video images in the event of an emergency in the vicinity of any camera. This network of cameras has become an integral part of the effort to monitor and forecast ice as it is formed in the Knik and Turnagain Arms' and moves through Cook Inlet. The images collected are used to aid safe tanker and freight vessel movement to ports located in Nikiski and Anchorage. Accurate and reliable ice forecast and analysis is also important to Offshore Supply Vessel movement as they service the 16 permanent and two mobile drilling platforms that reside in Cook Inlet.

Cook Inlet is arguably one of the most dynamic bodies of water in the world; challenging the marine industry each winter. Vessels' parting lines at the dock and breakaways, even a vessel sinking can be attributed to ice conditions. These events serve as a reminder that we must continue to improve spill prevention safeguards in Cook Inlet. The Cook Inlet Navigational Safety Committee comprised of members from State and Federal agencies and Cook Inlet marine industry operators provided evidence of how the Ice Forecasting project has flourished; at the 2013-2014 Committee meeting industry members acknowledged the increased accuracy of the ice advisory and ice analysis since the camera network has been incorporated into ice monitoring in Cook Inlet.

Along with use as an ice observation tool the cameras are playing a role in oil spill response; available to provide live video from the Inlet to the command center for the State and Federal agencies to observe and evaluate response efforts as they occur.

Additionally, the camera network in Cook Inlet will play an integral part in a study to monitor and characterize sea ice conditions in Cook Inlet. By using the camera network in conjunction with other sensors to derive characteristic statistics of sea ice floe sizes at different locations to help determine what role mudflats play in the development of ice and the conditions that exist to produce sea ice.

**Project Timeline:**

Camera location site scouting has already begun in calendar year 2014. Equipment procurement will commence upon site identification and installation approval. Installation will commence as contractor scheduling and weather conditions allow. Proposed duration for this phase of the project will be from January 2014 through December 2014.

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

Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

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