

**Prince William Sound Science Center & Technology
Institute Facilities Replacement**

**FY2020 Request: \$17,500,000
Reference No: 62711**

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Natural Resources

Project Type: Construction
Recipient: Prince William Sound Science Center
House District: Kodiak/Cordova/Seldovia (HD 32)

Location: Cordova

Impact House District: Kodiak/Cordova/Seldovia (HD 32)

Contact: April Wilkerson

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2024 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2506

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

At their October 17, 2018 meeting, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council approved a resolution 18-04, which allocated a total of \$18 million of settlement funds for facilities replacement for the Prince William Sound Science Center & Technology Institute (PWSSC). \$17.5 million will be coordinated by the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development as a grant to fund construction of the PWSSC; the remaining \$500,000 will fund National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, project management, and grant administration and will be administered by the Department of Fish and Game.

Funding:	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>Total</u>
1018 EVOSS	\$17,500,000						\$17,500,000
Total:	\$17,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$17,500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Work on the project is anticipated to begin in spring of 2019, when the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities will begin work on a culvert replacement project at an adjacent property. The PWSSC will coordinate installation of sewer assets with the culvert replacement and road repaving project, which will result in significant cost savings.

Project Description/Justification:

The Prince William Sound (PWS) remains economically and ecologically the hardest-hit region in the wake of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill (EVOS). Lingering oil remains on many beaches, and numerous species have yet to recover from the spill that occurred 29 years ago. Decades of research by the Prince William Sound Science and Technology Institute (PWSSC) and others have revealed that true recovery may still be decades away. The Science Center is a place-based, non-profit community benefit organization, the only one of its type on Prince William Sound.

The City of Cordova is planning a harbor expansion; the city-owned dock and building that the

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PWSSC currently occupies are scheduled for removal. The current lease will not be renewed after December 2021. There are no available facilities in Cordova suited to allow the PWSSC to carry out its research programs.

A new facility is critical in allowing the institution to continue to generate recovery benefits through long-term research and to retain and attract staff. The facility will benefit ecosystem research as well as economic and educational opportunities in the heavily spill-affected region for the next 50-100 years. Consolidated and expanded facilities are key to PWSSC continuing to serve as a significant contributor to the resilience and recovery of the region.

To help ensure the PWSSC's future sustainability, the City of Cordova has agreed to sell five waterfront acres at Shelter Cove for the new facility. In order to achieve major efficiencies, authorization must be appropriated and available for access in FY2019. The Alaska Department of Transportation (AKDOT) intends to implement a major culvert replacement project at the lagoons adjacent to the property the PWSSC is acquiring, along with removal and re-paving of asphalt on New England Cannery (Orca) Road in summer 2019. If authorization is appropriated, allowing access to the EVOSTC allocated funds, the PWSSC can coordinate installation of sewer assets with the road repaving and culvert replacement project, saving an estimated \$700,000 in costs.