

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

FY2023 Request: \$0
Reference No: 62711

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Natural Resources

Project Type: Construction
Recipient: Prince William Sound Science Center

Location: Cordova

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

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

Contact: Micaela Fowler

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2021 - 06/30/2026 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2506

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

At their January 18, 2022 meeting the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council allocated an additional \$5.95 million of settlement funds for facilities replacement for the Prince William Sound Science Center & Technology Institute (PWSSC). This funding supplements \$17.5 million that was appropriated in FY2020 to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development as a grant to fund construction of the PWSSC.

| Funding: | FY2022 | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 | Total |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1018 EVOSS | \$5,950,000 | | | | | | \$5,950,000 |
| Total: | \$5,950,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$5,950,000 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <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"/> Ongoing |
| 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 | 0 |
| Totals: | 0 | 0 |

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec1 Ch3 SLA2019 P2 L31 SB19 \$17,500,000

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 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

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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.