

State of Alaska
Coastal Impact Assistance Program

FINAL PLAN 2008

APPENDIX E

Summary of Public Comments Received on Draft
Coastal Impact Assistance Program Plan

COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT PLAN**

DNR/ Division of Coastal and Ocean Management

February 14, 2008

Commenter	Nature of Comments
Aleutians West CRSA Karol Kolehmainen, Program Director	The state should pass a portion of the state's funds to the coastal districts. Move Tier 2 project # 13 (Support for Community Projects that Conserve, Protect or Restore Coastal Areas or Wetlands) into Tier 1.
City and Borough of Sitka Marlene Campbell Government Relations Director	The allocation of the state funds was not done with any public input. The state's projects are more likely to benefit potential developers of the resources and /or environment, rather than provide direct on-the-ground improvement projects with a direct impact on protecting our lands and waters. All the funding is for project studies. There is no emphasis on actual restoration or protection of the environment. Redirecting funds from state studies with very limited benefit to the environment to a competitive grant program that all coastal districts could participate in would encourage local governments to identify and mitigate conservation concerns. The state should compete with coastal districts for the funding. This would be much more equitable. At the very least, the state should have to go through a valid public process to justify and determine which state projects are funded. Include the Swan Lake Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project, Phase II, in the state's CIAP plan, at least as a Tier 2 project. Budget request is \$250,000. Phase I of the Swan Lake project was completed in 2005 with CIAP funds. The project was very successful, and exhibited a high degree of interagency coordination and combined funding sources.
Copper River Watershed Project Kristin Smith, Executive Director	The funds should be used to offset the effects of coastal development rather than for research that further promotes coastal development. More of the funding should be made available, through competitive solicitation, to groups all over the state. More broadly advertise the draft plan and comment period among coastal communities.
Kenai Peninsula Borough John Williams, Mayor	The state should share a portion of its funds with local districts. The state should match the \$189,000 in funds the KPB is using for restoration of the Crooked Creek State Recreation Area. Many of the studies proposes have the appearance of supplementing the staffing needs of agencies or studying matters that should be the responsibility of entities that wish to develop the resource that is the subject of the study.
Kenai Watershed Forum Robert Ruffner, Executive Director	There was no public involvement in development of the state projects. The state should reopen the call for projects to ALL coastal districts and then in a fair and open process evaluate the merits of those put forth by the state resource agencies against the on-the-ground needs of ALL coastal districts. The state resource agencies put forth expensive multiyear studies that will show no measurable benefit to the public trust resources at the expense of real state infrastructure mitigation needs (on the ground projects).
Northwest Arctic Borough Siikauraq Martha Whiting, Mayor	Hope that future amendments to state CIAP plan will offer opportunities for all coastal districts to participate in a competitive grant program to receive a portion of the state's allocation of CIAP funds.
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council: Rob Cadmus, Water Quality and Mining Organizer	Support for Stikine River Mining Activity Risk Assessment Project.
Trout Unlimited: Mark Kaelke	Support for Stikine River Mining Activity Risk Assessment Project.
Village Safe Water (DEC) Greg Magee, P.E., Program Manager	Village Safe Water supports the funding of the following Tier 1 projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mertarvik Waterfront management and All Hazards Plan • Newtok Environmental Site Inventory and Assessment