

**WRRDA 7001 Submissions Package**  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Proposal Name: Atka Small Boat Harbor Feasibility Study

Submission Date: 09/15/2016

Proposal ID Number: 567010d2-fcb3-4bad-9575-f639b041c166

Purpose of Proposal: The City of Atka, Alaska, pursuant to Section 7001 of WRDA 2014, requests that the Army Corps of Engineers conduct a feasibility study on a new small boat harbor on Atka, and include this request in the Corps' Annual Report to Congress.

We are requesting that this study be done because currently Atka lacks any usable boat harbor. Yet, it is located in the Aleutian Islands and in the hub of the most productive fisheries in the U.S. Residents of Atka are dependent on this fishery for their subsistence and commercial livelihood but are unable to bring their fishing boats into a protected boat harbor. The area is abundant with halibut, sablefish, pollock, Pacific cod, Atka mackerel, and crab. Fishermen risk their lives to catch these fish and bring them to a local seafood processing facility on Atka Island from which the product is transported to other parts of Alaska and the lower 48 states.

Because there is no harbor, local residents are limited to small vessels that have to be beached during the winter months. As a result, the full economic opportunity of fishing in the Bering Sea is lost to the Atka community and residents. Due to the location of Atka in the western Aleutian Islands weather is oftentimes severe. Additionally with its proximity to Asia and the opening of the Arctic to increased shipping, including cruise ships, a boat harbor for fishing vessels and other vessels needing a harbor of refuge is critically needed.

Atka is one of the most isolated communities in the United States, but despite its remote location, it is now located in a very critical region of the U.S. for security and other purposes –close to Russia and the Pacific Rim of nations. Atka needs a new boat harbor the same way a city in the U.S. needs a highway –it is paramount to its continued existence. This boat harbor will serve local, regional and national interests.

*1. Administrative Details*

**Proposal Name: Atka Small Boat Harbor Feasibiity Study**

**by Agency: City of Atka**

**Locations: AK**

**Date Submitted: 09/15/2016**

**Confirmation Number: 567010d2-fcb3-4bad-9575-f639b041c166**

*Supporting Documents*

<b>File Name</b>	<b>Date Uploaded</b>
CCF-000028.pdf	09/16/2016

*2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.*

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Community Development Association and City of Atka.(Primary)	Financial and other support are expected from: Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Community Development Association, City of Atka, State of Alaska, and others.

*3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.*

Feasibility Study

***4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.***

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We are requesting that this study be done because currently Atka lacks any usable boat harbor. Yet, it is located in the Aleutian Islands and in the hub of the most productive fisheries in the U.S. Residents of Atka are dependent on this fishery for their subsistence and commercial livelihood but are unable to bring their fishing boats into a protected boat harbor. The area is abundant with halibut, sablefish, pollock, Pacific cod, Atka mackerel, and crab. Fishermen risk their lives to catch these fish and bring them to a local seafood processing facility on Atka Island from which the product is transported to other parts of Alaska and the lower 48 states.

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*5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.*

	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Non-Federal</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Study</b>	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$1,500,000
<b>Construction</b>	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$10,000,000

**Explanation (if necessary)**

Atka understands that there is a 50-50 match requirement. We have identified the following potential sources of matching funds: the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Community Development Association (APICDA), the State of Alaska, and the City of Atka.

We estimate the cost of the study to be \$ 1,500,000 and the proponents of the study have agreed to provide matching funds to the federal share of the cost of the study.

The total cost of the constructed project is estimated at \$10,000,000.

***6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.***

The benefits of the project exceed \$500,000,000 in terms of enhancing the economy of Atka, the Region, and the Nation in terms of the value of fishery products landed, protection of human life and property, enhancement of subsistence capabilities, and protection of the environment from vessels sinking or going aground in and around critical wildlife resources

We anticipate that the study, and harbor once built, will: • protect human life and property of fishermen and others; • will improve transportation of fish and fish products and protect lives in the region; • will benefit the national economy by bringing more U.S. sustainable seafood to market; • will benefit the environment by protecting the harbor and island; and • will enhance the national security interests of the U.S. by creating a harbor in a key area of the nation, an area experiencing increasing levels of large commercial and cargo vessel traffic.

**7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.**

Yes

### **Local Support Description**

The City of Atka along with community residents support this project. It is necessary to allow for expansion of Atka's participation in the Bering Sea commercial fishery. During 2014 comprehensive planning activities, expansion of the local economy was identified as high priority. Eighty-six percent of residents identified a boat harbor as a need in Atka.

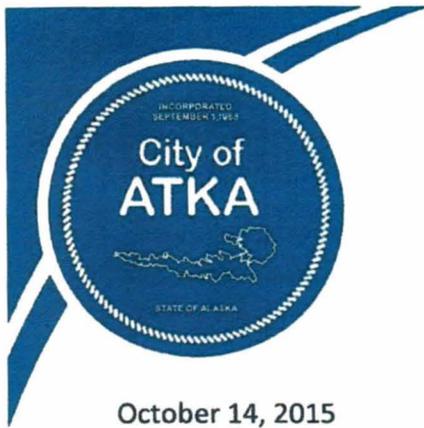
**8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?**

Yes

# Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

(As uploaded)

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<b>City Office</b>	<b>Administrator</b>
PO Box 47070, Atka Alaska 99547 T: 907-839-2233 F: 907-839-2234	8427 Laviento Drive St. 104 Anchorage, AK 99515 T: 907-522-0384 E: dirksjulia@gmail.com

October 14, 2015

District Commander  
Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: CEPOA-PM-C  
P.O. Box 6898  
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK 99506-0898

RE: Request for Boat Harbor Feasibility Study

Dear Sir or Madam:

The City of Atka, Alaska would like to request the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, under Section 107 of the 1960 River and Harbor Act, as amended; under Section 2104 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, or under any other applicable authority, in conducting a feasibility study for improvements to Atka Boat Harbor.

The community of Atka is located in the Aleutian Island Chain in Alaska, an area which is one of the most productive fisheries in the United States and the world. Atka is one of two civilian communities in the Western Aleutian Islands. Not only is this area important to the commercial fishing industry, but it is also to the commercial shipping industry due to its location on the Great Circle Shipping Route, which connects North America and Asia. Future expansion of shipping through Arctic waters will undoubtedly increase the amount of traffic through the Aleutians. Despite this strategic location and proximity to significant shipping and fishing activities, as well as existing infrastructure including a state-owned 4,500 foot airport runway, Atka does not have a boat harbor.

The areas surrounding Atka contain vast quantities of commercially viable fish species. Atka Pride Seafoods, a small seafood processing facility that processes halibut and sablefish, is located here. Beyond halibut and sablefish, the area is abundant with Pollock, Pacific cod, Atka mackerel, and crab. Local residents find it difficult to take advantage of these resources because they have no safe place to moor their fishing vessels. Because there is no harbor, local residents are limited to small vessels that need to be beached during the winter since the size of these vessels is too small to safely fish additional productive offshore areas during the winter and shoulder seasons. As a result, the full economic opportunity offered by natural resources located in their backyard is lost to the Atka community and its residents. The Aleutian weather is commonly known to be extreme. In recent years the number of storms with high winds and seas have increased in quantity and severity due to

global warming. A fully functioning harbor would increase economic activity to more than just a seasonal level, would provide a safe harbor for other vessels operating in the western Aleutians, and would allow the community to serve as an important staging area for vessel response needs in the event of a marine disaster or oil spill.

Atka is one of the most isolated communities in the United States, yet it is located in an extremely important area of the United States and the State of Alaska. Atka needs a harbor the same way a city in the Midwest needs a connecting highway. A harbor in Atka would serve local, regional, and national interests.

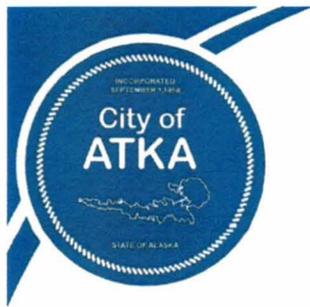
Thank you for your consideration of Atka's request for a feasibility study. Please contact me at 907-522-0384 or [dirksjulia@gmail.com](mailto:dirksjulia@gmail.com).

For City of Atka



Julie Dirks  
City Administrator

Cc: Atka City Council



<b>City Office</b>	<b>Administrator</b>
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F: 907-839-2234	E: <a href="mailto:dirksjuliea@gmail.com">dirksjuliea@gmail.com</a>

April 18, 2016

Bruce Sexauer P.E.  
Chief, Civil Works Branch, CEPOA-PM-C  
Alaska District US Army Corps of Engineers  
[Bruce.R.Sexauer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Bruce.R.Sexauer@usace.army.mil)

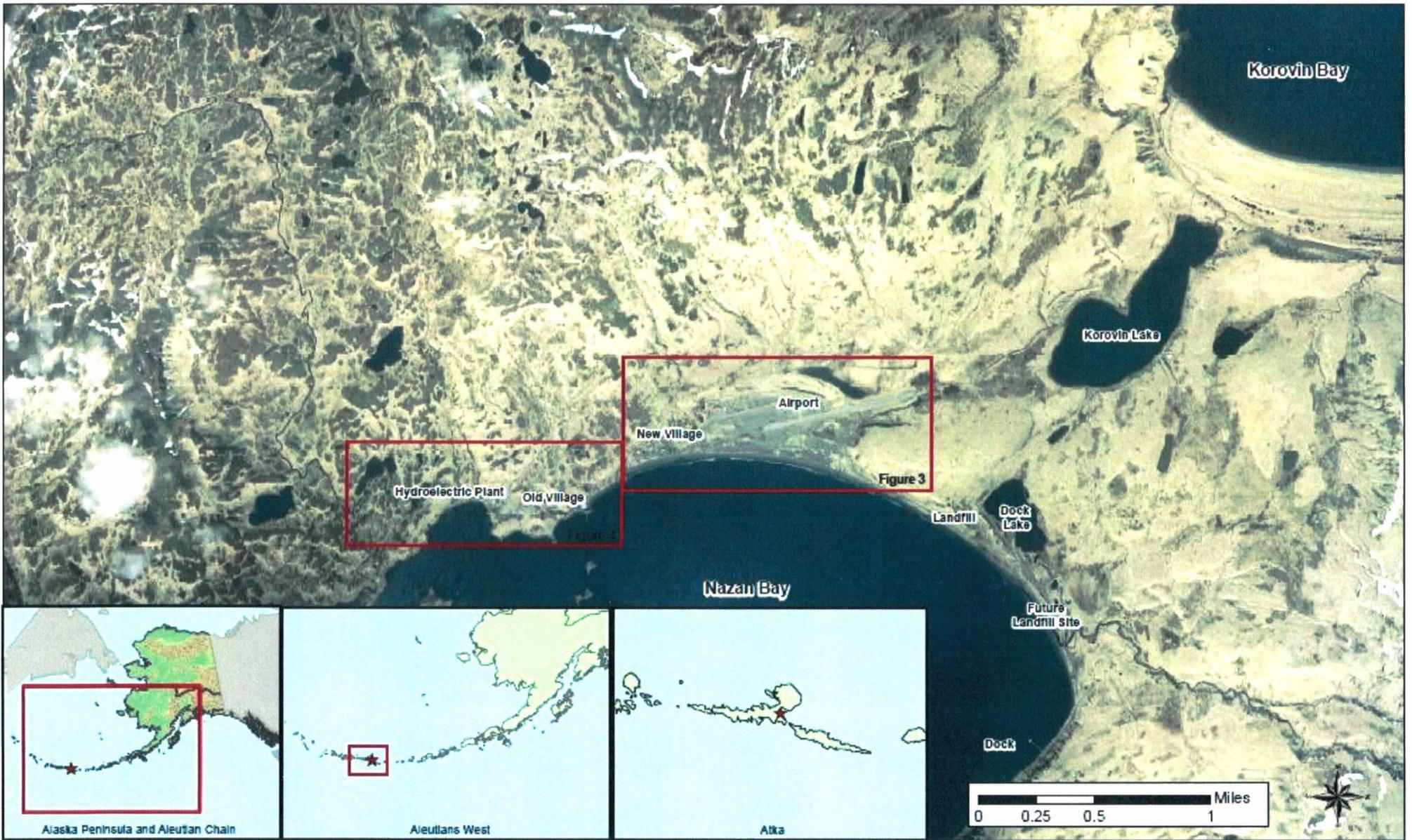
This is to confirm my understanding that if the proposed Atka boat harbor project moves into the feasibility study stage, there will be a 50% match requirement from a non-federal participant. Sources of funds that will be investigate are the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Community Development Association (APICDA), State of Alaska, and possibly City of Atka.

If you need anything else, please contact me at 907-522-0384 or [dirksjuliea@gmail.com](mailto:dirksjuliea@gmail.com).

Signed,

Julie Dirks  
City Administrator

Cc: Atka City Council  
Larry Cotter  
CJ Zane



Atka Community Comprehensive Plan  
**Figure 2: Atka and Surrounding Area**