



CHULOONAWICK NATIVE VILLAGE

Resolution No. 2024-05

OPPOSITION TO A ROAD THROUGH THE IZEMBEEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND SUPPORT FOR THE PROTECTION OF BLACK BRANT AND EMPEROR GEESE

WHEREAS, Chuloonawick Native Village is the sovereign governing body of the community of Chuloonawick, a federally-recognized Native Tribe; and

WHEREAS, Since time immemorial, Alaska Native people in the Yukon River watershed and surrounding areas of the Bering Sea have depended on healthy land, healthy water, and healthy fish and wildlife resources, which are integral to our traditional indigenous way of life;

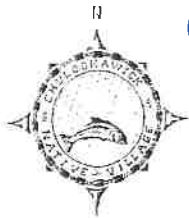
WHEREAS, Alaska Native people from the Y-K Delta have depended on waterfowl subsistence resources that make up a substantial percent of our diet, including Pacific brant and Emperor geese, that depend on Izembek National Wildlife Refuge to feed and build fat reserves at critical junctures in their life cycles; and

WHEREAS, Chuloonawick Native Village and other villages in the Y-K Delta have worked for decades to restore Pacific brant, Emperor geese and other waterfowl populations, by restricting hunting and egg collection and protecting habitat; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Izembek Land Exchange and Road Project would allow the construction of an access road intended to provide a transportation corridor between the communities of King Cove and Cold Bay through a Congressionally designated Wilderness and one of the most important wetlands complexes on the globe; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Izembek Land Exchange and Road Project and associated activities are expected to cause widespread and permanent damage to the designated Wilderness, extraordinary wetlands, waterfowl habitat, waterfowl populations, eelgrass beds, spawning areas, fish habitat, other wildlife and wildlife habitat, water, rivers, ponds, lakes, vegetation, cultural resources, sacred sites, and other resources essential to maintaining our traditional way of life; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Izembek Land Exchange and Road Project would set a precedent that threatens all National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska with development projects, including the Y-K Delta National Wildlife Refuge and all other lands protected by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and



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WHEREAS, The community of King Cove has other viable transportation alternatives to access Cold Bay, such as marine and air transport, as underscored by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s announcement on November 3rd, 2023, highlighting that \$43,376,746 have been allocated for the design, permitting, and construction of a new dock in Cold Bay, “designed and built to accommodate commercial use, freight and fuel transportation, private vessel use, and public uses like emergency medical services and public transportation through the Alaska Marine Highway System”¹; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chuloonawick Native Village opposes the proposed Izembek Land Exchange and Road Project and we urge Tribal and other partners to continue their work to protect future generations from harmful impacts of the proposed Land Exchange and Izembek Road Project and associated activities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chuloonawick Native Village expects to be consulted with throughout the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and National Environmental Policy Act process for the proposed Izembek Land Exchange and Road Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chuloonawick Native Village expects to be invited and included in **all permitting matters** associated with the proposed Izembek Land Exchange and Road Project, related exploration permitting and all permitting associated with the project.

CERTIFICATION:

Passed on this 19th day of June 2024 with a quorum of 5 For, 0, Against, and 0, Abstaining.

Thomas Myomick
Thomas Myomick, President

Naomi Akers
Naomi Akers, Secretary