



Date: Tuesday, February 25th, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Assembly of
City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

From: Mason F. Villarma, *Borough Manager*

RE: Borough Manager's Report

Borough Hiring Status

The following employment opportunities exist within the Borough. For information about any of the positions below, please visit www.wrangel.com/jobs:

- Maintenance I, II, and III (Three Positions) – Open Until Filled
- Parks Custodian Light Maintenance – Open Until Filled
- Police Officer – Reviewing Candidates
- Human Resources Manager/Executive Assistant – First Review March 1st

Employee Spotlight

The Borough is pleased to welcome a new team member to the Fire Department and to recognize two outstanding employees for their dedication and service to the community.

- Anna Allen has joined the Borough as the new *Fire/EMS Coordinator*. We look forward to the expertise and leadership she will bring to this critical role.
- Kathleen Thomas, *Economic Development Director*, is celebrating 10 years of service with the Borough. Previously serving as the Parks and Recreation Director, Kate played a key role in establishing the *Helping Our Parks* initiative and the *Downtown Bump Out Project*. Since transitioning to Economic Development and Planning & Zoning, she has successfully managed multiple boards and commissions, mentored the newly created *Marketing and Community Development Coordinator* position, developed a new travel brand, established tourism best practices while advocating for the industry, secured a firm for the *Community Addressing Project*, facilitated key land sales, and worked tirelessly to secure funding for Borough projects. Her impact has been far-reaching, and her dedication continues to drive progress in Wrangell.

- **Andrew Scambler**, *Water Treatment Lead Operator*, has gone above and beyond over the past several months, working tirelessly to ensure the seamless commissioning of critical water treatment systems. His dedication and expertise have been instrumental in maintaining the reliability of our water infrastructure.

We are grateful for the hard work and commitment of these employees, whose contributions strengthen our community every day.

Federal Government Disruptions

The Borough remains proactive and adaptable in responding to the evolving series of Executive Orders from the Trump Administration and the broader bureaucratic challenges we are navigating. While uncertainty exists regarding the stability of federal project funding sources, we have maintained frequent and productive communication with our Delegation's staff and funding partners. At this time, we do not have any immediate concerns about specific project funding.

Borough Administration remains steadfast in its commitment to meeting both short- and long-term project obligations. We have taken prudent steps to prepare for unforeseen circumstances and emergencies, ensuring that we have sufficient working capital to continue making meaningful progress on key projects and initiatives. Should there be any further delays in federal funding reimbursements, the community may experience temporary postponements in the initiation of new federally funded projects. However, we are well-positioned to sustain momentum by shifting focus to our locally and state-funded projects, allowing us to maintain operational efficiency and productivity.

To ensure we remain informed and prepared, I have asked our Federal Lobbyist, Seb O'Kelly, to provide the Borough with an update on key federal funding matters, including Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding, Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests, and Essential Air Services (EAS) funding. His remarks follow below:

"Mason asked me to report the latest on three matters – FY 2025 appropriations, Essential Air Service (EAS) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS). Keep in mind that there is a great deal of uncertainty in Washington, DC at the moment and so these thoughts and forecast might be very different (particularly on FY 2025 appropriations) just a week from now. But they are based on what I know now and my best read of the current climate.

- **FY 2025 Appropriations:** There has been very little progress in the last few weeks on negotiating a final FY 2025 appropriations package. The probability of a long-term Continuing Resolution (CR) for the remainder of FY 2025 grows by the day as we get closer to the expiration date of the current CR (March 14). The Speaker is pushing for a long-term CR and will have the backing of the

Trump Administration, assuming they are able to secure a Defense spending supplement that is being planned as part of House and Senate reconciliation legislation. A long-term CR level funds Federal agencies and departments relative to their FY 2024 levels. Historically, and it has been sometime since we have had one, a long-term CR does not include Congressionally Directed Spending projects. However, if there is a long-term CR there will be a significant number of "anomalies" included. Could Congress under its rules of procedure add CDS projects as approved last year by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees as an anomaly? Yes, it could. How likely is that option? Not high. If there is a long-term CR without CDS projects, Wrangell's three projects in the FY 2025 Senate Appropriations Bills would be rolled over for re-consideration in the FY 2026 appropriations process as would the two additional projects you have submitted. This result would be disappointing but outside our control, and outside the Alaska Delegation's. It would be a decision made by the House and Senate Republican leadership in collaboration with the Trump Administration.

- **Government Shutdown:** There is a risk come March 14 of a government shutdown. Mind you there is always a risk of one every time we approach the end of the fiscal year or a CR. I don't have a good read on its probability yet. Some in the Democratic party are calling for one as a way to draw a line in the sand over the party's objection to many of the Trump Administration's decisions, particularly the actions of the DOGE in terminating probationary Federal employees, pausing many Federal grants (fortunately, it appears that is not an issue thus far with Wrangell's Federal projects), and closing/reorganizing some Federal agencies. Others in the Democratic party are more cautious, noting that the party which typically supports and fights for keeping the Federal government open should not reverse course and be the one supporting its closure. Secondly, some of the Democrats are concerned that a closure could lead to an acceleration of DOGE activities, with complete shuttering and lock up of some Federal agencies and facilities that would not be reopened once the shutdown is over.
- **EAS:** In January, a House Republican staff memo was circulating with a large list of ideas for inclusion in the House reconciliation legislation (note: "reconciliation" is term of art that describes bills that address taxes, user fees and mandatory spending such Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security and other entitlement/formula spending. For its proponents it has an advantage of bypassing a Senate filibuster. However, starting in the Biden Administration with both the Inflation Reduction Act and American Rescue Plan Act, some agencies and programs normally funded through the appropriations process received some level of appropriations for specialized purposes through reconciliation – yes, I know this is confusing!). The House staff memo included a recommendation terminating U.S. airspace overflight fees charged to air carriers. Overflight fees are responsible for funding approximately 40 percent

of the EAS program, with the balance coming from annual appropriations. Alaska Airlines and other air carriers providing EAS have been lobbying heavily against the idea. The proposal appears to be dead at the moment, but it is something to keep an eye particularly as the reconciliation bills are drafted later this year. Otherwise, EAS is fully funded in the FY 2025 approps bills and would be as well under a long-term CR. But it could face challenges in FY 2026. The new leadership in the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) is drawn heavily from conservative think tanks that have in the past recommended termination of EAS as a “wasteful corporate subsidy.” The President’s FY 2026 Budget Request is projected to roll out in May. We will see then if the OMB budget hawks have taken an ax, a scalpel or left EAS alone. If it is an ax, then an effort will be needed to secure full funding for EAS in the FY 2026 appropriations bills. EAS has good support on both sides of the aisle, and strong support with our two Senators (Alaska and Hawaii are the two States that benefit most from EAS). I am not sure of Rep. Begich’s views. To be fair to him, he has been in Congress for less than two months and may not have had time yet to study the issue.

- **SRS:** The SRS Program has expired, and no further community payments will be made until it is extended or reauthorized. Both our Senators are in strong support of SRS, and I have filed SRS as a “programmatic funding request” on behalf of the CBW in Senator Murkowski online FY 2026 request portal. I don’t know Rep. Begich’s views – again he is new. Where the CBW can be helpful is to make sure either directly in communication with NACO and/or via AML to NACO that NACO makes this one of its highest Federal priorities this year. It is not enough to have the Alaska Delegation in support, but other Western State Members must get behind SRS extension/reauthorization and NACO is really the key to getting that support. NACO has its annual Washington, DC fly in the week of March 8 and SRS should be a high priority “ask” when its members make the rounds meeting with their Members of Congress. In a piece of good news, Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, the lead Committee that will be writing the Senate’s reconciliation bill, represents a State with a high number of SRS communities. He is an SRS supporter, and the reconciliation bill is an ideal vehicle for SRS extension/reauthorization.”

The Borough extends its deepest sympathies to the federal employees in the Wrangell community who have been impacted by workforce reductions. In response, I have directed the Economic Development Director to personally connect with each affected employee to explore alternative opportunities available within the Borough. While ongoing disruptions at the federal level and uncertainty within the State Legislature pose challenges to our budget and local economy, the Borough remains focused on proactive solutions and the factors within our control.

Community Leadership Meeting

The Borough has initiated monthly agency leadership meetings to foster collaboration on core opportunities and address potential threats to the local economy. These meetings serve as a platform for strategic discussions to strengthen partnerships and enhance the region's economic resilience. The next meeting, scheduled for next month, will focus exclusively on critical issues surrounding Housing and Childcare. During the recent meeting, several clear partnership opportunities were presented that hold significant potential for advancing these areas. These opportunities include:

- **USFS** (reduced from 25 employees to 19) – Collaboration through the Good Neighbor Authority timber sales and a focus on positioning Wrangell as an innovation hub for salmon reproduction.
- **SEARHC** (158 employees) – Partnership opportunities in multifamily housing construction to address local housing shortages.
- **WCA** – Support for the expansion of their campus and initiatives related to childcare development.
- **State of Alaska Department of Transportation** (4 employees)– Joint efforts to support the East Runway Ramp Extension, enhancing transportation infrastructure.
- **Wrangell Chamber of Commerce** – Development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and facilitating their move to the Nolan Center, strengthening local business services.
- **Wrangell Public Schools** – Providing financial support to the highest degree permissible by the budget to improve educational resources.
- **Trident** (180-240 seasonal employees/3-5 FTEs) & **Sea Level** (50 seasonal/5 FTEs) – Collaborating to create incentives for expanding the local fishing fleet, enhancing maritime industry growth, and continued upgrades to water and electric infrastructure to enhance production capacity.

These identified opportunities demonstrate strong potential for inter-agency collaboration, aimed at addressing critical local needs while fostering long-term economic growth.

Upcoming Work Sessions, Meetings & Significant Events

- Tuesday, February 25th, 2025 – Entitlement Lands/Timber 2025
- Somewhere in the first two weeks of March – Juneau Lobbying Trip
- Saturday, March 1st, 2025 – Stikine Sportsmen Game Dinner @ NC
- Tuesday, March 11-12, 2025 – SLIPP @ Stika
- Saturday, March 15th, 2025 – Chamber Dinner @ NC
- Monday, March 3rd – 5th – Timber Stakeholders Meeting (Invitation Only)

- Monday, March 24th, 2025 – Joint School Board Work Session (Round 2)
- Tuesday, March 25th, 2025 – Fee and Rate Schedule Analysis
- Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025 – Insurance Work Session
- Wednesday, May 14th, 2025 – Budget Work Session
- Thursday, May 22nd, 2025 – Budget Revision Work Session (if needed)

FY 2026 Budget Development

The Borough is actively advancing preparations for the FY 2026 budget. Administration has expressed significant concerns regarding potential State and Federal funding cuts and the substantial impact these reductions could have on the General Fund budget, as well as Wrangell Public Schools. In light of these challenges, a preliminary General Fund Budget will be developed in advance of the Joint School Board Work Session to ensure informed discussions and strategic planning.

Emergency Operations Plan – Update | Mutual Aid Agreement(s)

The Borough continues its review of the newly drafted Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The draft plan is available for public review at wrangellplanning.com, and Borough officials, employees, partners, and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback by submitting comments to clerk@wrangell.com. Comments are due to the Clerk's office by 5pm on March 14th.

Wrangell Timber Initiative

The Wrangell Timber Initiative visit, taking place from March 3rd to March 5th, 2025, is a critical interagency meeting focused on revitalizing the timber industry in Wrangell, Alaska. This initiative builds on a recent partnership with the Alaska Trust Land Office, with the goal of positioning Wrangell as a sustainable timber hub. The meeting will bring together key stakeholders, including representatives from the Trust Land Office, Governor's Office, local businesses, and the U.S. Forest Service, among others. Attendees will engage in discussions on timber revitalization, value-added product development, and the support of local mill operations. The gathering will also include the presentation of key capital projects, an exploration of prospective timber management zones, and a collaborative session to define agency roles and responsibilities in supporting the initiative.

In addition to the collaborative meetings, participants will have the opportunity to tour Wrangell's accessible timber areas and visit the working local mill. The event will culminate in a review of key takeaways, followed by a discussion to finalize deliverables and actionable next steps. With the support of key partners like Alcan Timber, Viking, and local contractors, this visit aims to create a clear and actionable roadmap for the sustainable growth of Wrangell's timber industry. The focus on capital investments, infrastructure development, and community collaboration will be instrumental in shaping a thriving future for Wrangell's timber sector.

Finally, I'm pleased to learn that the Ketchikan Borough is following Wrangell's lead by forming its own Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Trust Land Office, using Wrangell's MOU as a model for their efforts. The collaborative outcomes of this meeting will be shared jointly between the Trust Land Office and the Boroughs of Wrangell and Ketchikan, further strengthening regional cooperation and enhancing both communities' timber industry revitalization efforts.

Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) / CAPSIS

Borough leadership has successfully submitted all priority projects and funding requests to both the State Legislature and the Federal Delegation. These submissions align with the Borough's strategic goals and include key projects for consideration in the upcoming fiscal years. In the coming week, a comprehensive briefing packet will be provided to the Assembly, outlining the specific priorities and requests, as well as the steps taken to advocate for these projects at both the state and federal levels. This packet will serve as a valuable resource for Assembly members as they engage in the legislative process and advocate for Wrangell's needs.

Barge Ramp Condition Assessment

The Borough has engaged PND Engineering to conduct an updated condition assessment of the Wrangell Barge Ramp, following the last evaluation in 2011. This reassessment is crucial for ensuring the continued safe use of the ramp and will guide future maintenance, improvements, and funding needs. In parallel, a Barge Service Special Committee has been formed to provide leadership continuity, offer independent recommendations, and ensure transparency and stakeholder engagement. The committee, which includes key local leaders and residents, will also help develop and evaluate alternative solutions for the barge service. Once the new assessment is complete, it will be shared with stakeholders, and ongoing collaboration with both barge lines will continue to support Wrangell's infrastructure needs.

*Fee proposal and old condition assessment are attached for reference

WCA, Tlingit & Haida, and the Borough – A Partnership to Offer a Solution to Childcare

The City and Borough of Wrangell, the Wrangell Cooperative Association (WCA), and the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) are planning to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at expanding early childhood education programs in Wrangell. This collaboration will include the establishment of an additional Head Start classroom for children ages 3-5 and the creation of a daycare program for children from birth to age 3. The partners have outlined key responsibilities, including space identification, staffing, and the pursuit of funding to ensure the long-term sustainability of the programs. CCTHITA will oversee the operational aspects, while WCA and CBW will assist in securing facilities and identifying community needs. This MOU is designed to support child development, school readiness, and family support services in Wrangell, with the goal of fostering a strong, collaborative foundation for early childhood education in the community.

St. Michael and McKinnon Street Road Construction Projects:

The City and Borough of Wrangell has made significant progress with PND Engineers in moving forward with the St. Michael Street Rehabilitation project. The signed Professional Services Agreement (PSA) for the initial survey work has been finalized, and PND is now preparing to proceed with fieldwork in late February or early March, pending approval of the contract. Additionally, a revised design proposal will be submitted by PND to incorporate the requested survey expansion for McKinnon Street. The project team is coordinating with Public Works to ensure smooth operations during the survey phase, with regular communication expected to ensure alignment on timelines and resources. Further discussions are ongoing to finalize additional services as the project progresses.

The Borough plans to execute construction on St. Michaels in FY 2025 and McKinnon in FY 2026. Both projects will replace all underground infrastructure.

Upcoming Agreements the Assembly Can Expect

- ~~Tlingit & Haida/WCA/Borough MOU for Childcare~~
- ~~Tlingit & Haida/WCA/Borough MOU for Early Head Start~~
- ~~SoA DOT Mutual Aid Agreement – Water Rescue~~
- ~~SoA DOT Mutual Aid Agreement – EMS~~
- WAC MOA on Nolan Center
- Rod & Gun Club MOA on Trap and Skeet Range

Bradfield Road

The City and Borough of Wrangell is reigniting advocacy for the construction of the Bradfield Road, a project that promises to enhance regional connectivity by linking Southeast Alaska to the continental highway system. While the project has been in the planning and feasibility stages, Wrangell recognizes the significant economic potential of this road. A key part of the advocacy is to promote the phased construction of the road, starting with the development of a logging road. This approach would provide immediate access to timber resources while also serving as a crucial first step toward a more expansive road network that could connect Wrangell to the larger highway system.

The proposed Bradfield Road offers immense potential for economic growth, with its ability to open up previously inaccessible areas for timber and critical mineral development. Starting with logging road construction would allow the community to gain access to valuable timber resources in the region, providing an immediate economic benefit. Additionally, this phased approach will set the groundwork for the development of key mineral resources that are vital to Alaska's future economy. These areas could be crucial for addressing global demand for critical minerals, such as rare earth elements, that are essential for emerging technologies.

For Wrangell, the construction of Bradfield Road would be a game-changer in terms of economic development and long-term sustainability. The road would not only facilitate the transportation of timber and minerals but also open the door for increased business activity, tourism, and regional cooperation. It would also lay the foundation for further infrastructure improvements, including energy and transportation networks that are necessary for attracting investment. Reigniting support for this project is essential to unlock Wrangell's potential and establish the region as a key player in the state's economic future.

As always, I am at the Assembly's disposal. I look forward to continued forward momentum across the organization.

Sincerely,

Mason F. Villarma

Mason F. Villarma
Borough Manager



CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 25th, 2025



MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE
ASSEMBLY OF CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

CC: MASON VILLARMA, BOROUGH MANAGER

FROM: JACKSON POOL, FINANCE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: MONTHLY FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

DATE: FEBRUARY 25TH, 2025

GFOA BUDGET AWARD FOR FY2025 BUDGET

The City & Borough of Wrangell has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for our Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, marking our second consecutive year earning this recognition. This award reflects our commitment to producing high-quality, transparent, and effective budgets. We will continue striving for excellence and aim to receive this honor every year.

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET PROGRESS

We are making steady progress on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, focusing on responsible financial planning to keep the Borough on solid footing. This includes reviewing revenue trends, assessing expenses, and ensuring essential services and key projects are properly funded. By using past trends and future projections, we are making informed decisions to balance the budget while prioritizing long-term stability. Transparency remains a priority, ensuring that the process is clear and accountable. As we refine the FY26 budget, we remain committed to responsible financial management and sustainable growth. Thank you to all staff who have taken part in the process so far.

ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL - PAY IT

We have launched a new online payment portal through PayIt, making it easier and more convenient for residents and businesses to pay sales tax, transient tax, and property taxes. This platform allows for secure, user-friendly transactions, giving

taxpayers the flexibility to make payments anytime from their computer or mobile device. The new system improves efficiency by streamlining payment processing and reducing administrative burdens, while also enhancing transparency and accessibility. We are committed to modernizing financial services and providing better tools for taxpayers, ensuring a smooth and reliable payment experience. More updates for the community will be provided through our website, social media channels, and the Sentinel.

STAFFING UPDATE

The Finance Department is excited to announce that we are now fully staffed with the hiring of our Borough Intern, Daniel Harrison, as the new Property and Sales Tax Clerk. Over his time as an intern, Daniel has continually proven himself through his hard work, attention to detail, and commitment to supporting the department. His knowledge of our processes and willingness to take on challenges have made him an invaluable part of our team.

BANKING UPDATE

The Finance Department is pleased to announce that we have successfully negotiated better banking rates with Wells Fargo, securing more favorable terms that will benefit the Borough's financial management. These improved rates will help reduce costs and enhance our ability to manage public funds efficiently. By optimizing our banking structure, we are ensuring that Borough funds are managed in the most cost-effective way possible. This effort reflects our ongoing commitment to responsible financial stewardship and long-term fiscal sustainability.

AUDIT UPDATE

The FY2024 audit remains ongoing, and we are working diligently to approach the final stages. The audit process has been thorough, and we continue to provide the necessary documentation and analysis to ensure a smooth conclusion. The auditors have been impressed with the City & Borough of Wrangell's progress over the past four years in terms of fiscal responsibility and financial management. This reflects the dedication of the Borough in strengthening internal controls, improving reporting accuracy, and ensuring compliance with best practices. We will continue to work closely with the auditors to finalize the audit in a timely manner and will provide any necessary updates as we progress.

Sincerely,

JACKSON POOL
FINANCE DIRECTOR

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

Nolan Center REPORT

February 3, 2025



MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

CC: MASON VILLARMA, BOROUGH MANAGER

FROM: The Nolan Center

SUBJECT: MONTHLY Nolan Center REPORT

DATE: February 25th, 2025

Late January/February Events :

Community Engagement:

- **Family Literacy Night:** On January 28th, the Nolan Center hosted Wrangell Public Schools' Family Literacy Night. The "Night at the Museum" theme was a hit with students, who participated in a museum scavenger hunt, a readers' theater in the Visitor Center, and a screening of "Night at the Museum 2." The well-attended event was a great success.
- **Wrangell Kids Club:** The Wrangell Kids Club resumed its weekly movie nights in February. Students now enjoy films every Thursday after school in the civic center.

Exhibits and Educational Programs:

- **"Real People, Real Climate, Real Changes" Exhibit:** A new traveling exhibit, "Real People, Real Climate, Real Changes," is on display throughout February. Created by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, CO, this exhibit offers valuable insights into climate change. On February 21st, elementary school students will visit the Nolan Center for a special program related to the exhibit, including a hands-on project led by visiting Assistant Professor Sean Kelly from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Facility Rental:

- SEARHC nursing and CNA skills lab workshop: February 4th-5th
- Tlingit and Haida Executive Council meeting and community reception: February 19th-21st

A Night at the Museum- Wrangell Public Schools

Wrangell Public Schools Title 1 & Migrant Education Programs in Partnership with the City & Borough of Wrangell - Promoting Family Literacy

**You are invited to:
A Night at the Museum 2**

January 28th
5:30pm- 7:00pm at
the Nolan Center



Free popcorn!
Other concessions will be available for purchase.


Come enjoy a fun filled family night of history and learning at the Nolan Center.

- Students and their families will explore the museum with an interactive scavenger hunt.
- Engage in activities promoting literacy and education.
- Enjoy a portion of the hit movie "Night at the Museum 2" in the theater.




Real People, Real Climate, Real Changes Lobby Exhibit

The Nolan Center and the NSF National Center for Atmospheric Research invite you to join us for a traveling exhibit about climate science.



**REAL PEOPLE, REAL CLIMATE,
REAL CHANGES**


January 31 – March 24, 2025

The Nolan Center
296 Campbell Drive
Wrangell, AK 99929

Earth's climate is changing and scientists are working hard to understand what is happening. Through this exhibit, the NSF National Center for Atmospheric Research is sharing what we know about this topic, including stories from across the United States about how people are being affected by rising seas, droughts, severe storms and other climate impacts.

Learn more about this climate exhibit:
scied.ucar.edu/travelingClimate

Learn more about NCAR:
ncar.ucar.edu



This material is based upon work supported by the National Center for Atmospheric Research, a major facility operated by the National Science Foundation and managed by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.



Upcoming Events:

The Nolan Center is pleased to host several events next month. These include the annual Stikine River Sportsman Association Dinner on March 1st, a Southeast Alaskan traveling art exhibit, the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce annual dinner, and a Souzou Concert sponsored by Bearfest.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Assembly and Mayor Gilbert for their ongoing support of the Nolan Center. Their commitment is essential to our mission of enriching the lives of Wrangell residents.

Sincerely,
Jeanie Arnold
Nolan Center Director

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

PORTS & HARBOR REPORT

02/25/2025



MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MOYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE
ASSEMBLY OF CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

CC: MASON VILLARMA, BOROUGH MANAGER

FROM: Steve Miller, Port Director

SUBJECT: MONTHLY PORT & HARBOR REPORT

DATE: 02/25/2025

Harbor Maintenance

The Harbor Maintenance Team has been actively working on the T-section of the Fish and Game Float, undertaking necessary repairs, including the replacement of main beams and decking. This section remains part of the original float, which is over 50 years old, whereas the remainder of the float was replaced in **2005**.

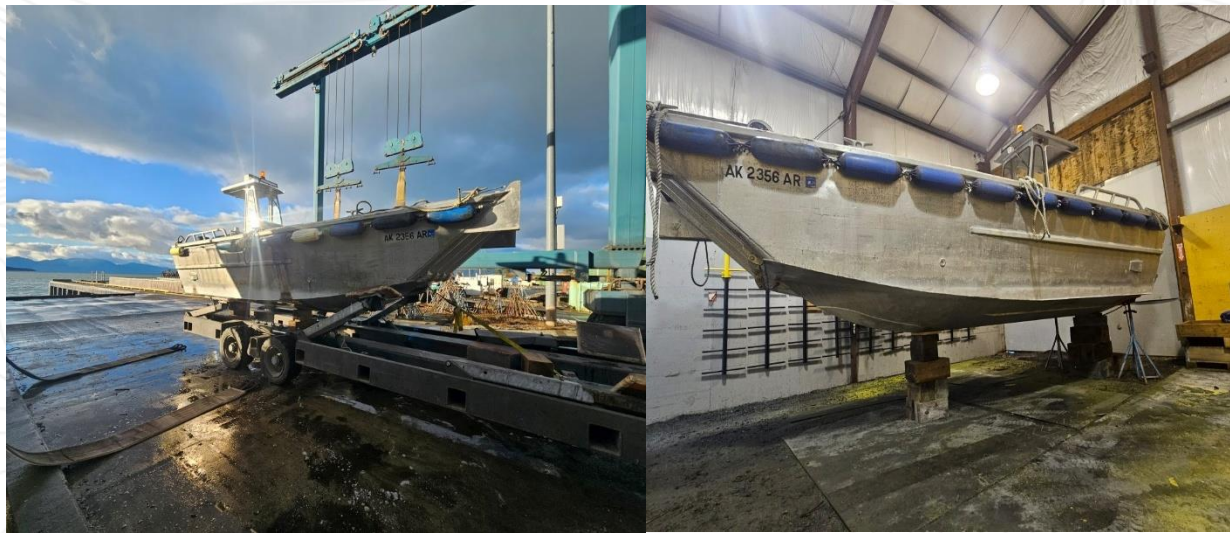
Additionally, the team recently acquired a paint sprayer and has fabricated and painted new transition plates for the summer float. The previous plates had significantly deteriorated, and the newly constructed replacements feature a non-skid surface and a protective two-part epoxy coating to enhance durability and safeguard the steel against corrosion.



Marine Service Center

Reservations for the spring repair and maintenance season at the Marine Service Center (MSC) are steadily increasing. The MSC team remains busy dismantling and draining fluids from impounded vessels, which are scheduled for disposal—wooden vessels will be burned, while others will be crushed and loaded into containers for transport south.

Additionally, the team is utilizing the newly acquired paint sprayer to apply a two-part epoxy barrier coat and bottom paint to the harbor skiff. This process required several days of **preparation** but will significantly extend the vessel's lifespan, ensuring greater durability and protection against the elements.



Port

The barge ramp at the port has undergone significant repairs over the past month. The transition plate had broken loose, with only a few small, broken welds securing it in place. To address this issue, a local contractor was hired to complete the necessary repairs. As part of the process, modifications were made to the transition plate, increasing its width by approximately 8 inches. This adjustment helps protect the concrete, which had been experiencing wear due to the barge ramp sitting about an inch too low.

Upon further inspection, it was discovered that the bossed pins and bearing surfaces had worn down over the past 50 years, causing the ramp to sit too low and preventing the transition plate from functioning correctly. To resolve this, steel was added to the bearing surface, restoring the proper height and ensuring smooth operation. The included photos illustrate the condition before and after the repairs.



Right side Bearing surface after repairs



Right Side Prior to repairs



Barge Ramp Transition Repairs



Barge Ramp transition repaired



Left Bearing Surface prior to repairs



Left Bearing surface repaired

Increased Clearance

Office

The Harbor Team has been tasked with maintenance and improvements on our own facilities. This project began with roof replacement over the summer and has now progressed to interior renovations.

Last month, while Calleigh was on vacation selecting her wedding dress, the team took the opportunity to surprise her with an office makeover. The crew efficiently painted the walls and ceiling, ensuring that the office was out of service for the shortest time possible. The final touches include sanding and recoating the front of the counters, as well as refinishing the door frames, which will soon complete the renovation.



Sincerely,

Steve Miller
Port Director.



September 23, 2011

PND 102077.03

Ms. Amber Al-Haddad
Project Manager
City and Borough of Wrangell
P.O. Box 531
Wrangell, Alaska 99929

Re: Wrangell Barge Ramp Facility
Load Analysis and Alternative Cost Estimates

Dear Ms. Haddad:

PND has completed a load analysis and has prepared four different ROM cost estimates for refurbishment and/or replacement of the CBW's Barge Ramp.

Load Analysis:

Based on the original design drawings supplied by the CBW and PND's field measurements, PND's analysis concludes that the maximum safe live load capacity for the bridge will depend upon the type of vehicle or equipment operating on the bridge.

If a truck-type vehicle is to operate on the bridge, the maximum total weight of the vehicle and payload may not exceed 100 tons nor shall any individual axle load exceed 44 tons. Furthermore, the truck must travel less than 5 mph, along the bridge centerline with the wheels directly over the bridge's box girders (see attached drawing).

If a forklift-type vehicle is to operate on the bridge, the maximum total weight of the forklift and payload may not exceed 75 tons with the front axle load not exceeding 70 tons. Again, the forklift must travel less than 5 mph, along the bridge centerline with the wheels directly over the bridge's box girders (see attached drawing).

Track-type equipment or other vehicles with axle configuration differing from those discussed above will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not they can safely operate on the bridge.

Ramp Refurbishment and/or Replacement Options:

PND has prepared four different ROM cost estimates for consideration by the CBW:

- Option 1 consists of the removal and complete, in-kind replacement of the barge ramp, the floatation tank(s), abutment bearings and all associated appurtenances. This option utilizes guide piles to contain the barge ramp/tank assembly instead of the tethering cables currently used. Tethering cables could be utilized again, to produce some cost savings. Because the ramp and floatation tank will be new, modifications could be incorporated to better suit anticipated operations.

- Option 2 consists of removing the existing floatation tanks entirely, and salvaging/refurbishing the existing ramp. In addition, new ramp support dolphins along with a new ramp support frame would be installed. The main benefit of this option is that the ramp support design eliminates the need for a floatation tank and the long-term maintenance costs associated with the tank. See attached photo of AML's barge facility PND designed for their operations in Cordova.
- Option 3 is basically the same concept as Option 2 with the exception that the existing ramp would not be salvaged and refurbished, but instead replaced with a new ramp.
- Option 4 consists of removing, refurbishing and reinstalling the existing ramp, floatation tanks, abutment bearings, and all associated appurtenances. This option essentially entails field applying new protective coating for the existing ramp and floatation tanks. Operational and load limitations would remain the same.

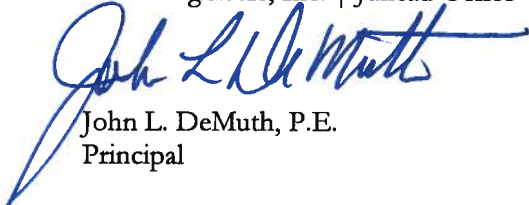
Recommendations:

PND recommends the City consider Option 2 or Option 3 due to the inherent long-term maintenance cost savings the City would experience by eliminating the floatation tank and air supply components of the facility. Option 3 would provide the longest service life and thus the best long-term value by replacing the existing ramp with a new, higher capacity ramp.

PND appreciates the opportunity we have had to assist you with this work, and we trust this information serves your needs. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

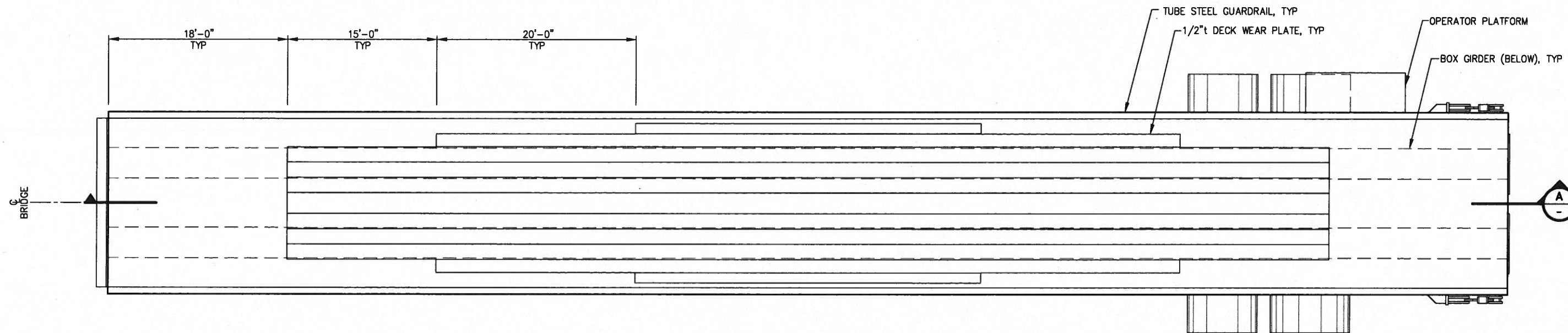
Sincerely,

PND Engineers, Inc. | Juneau Office

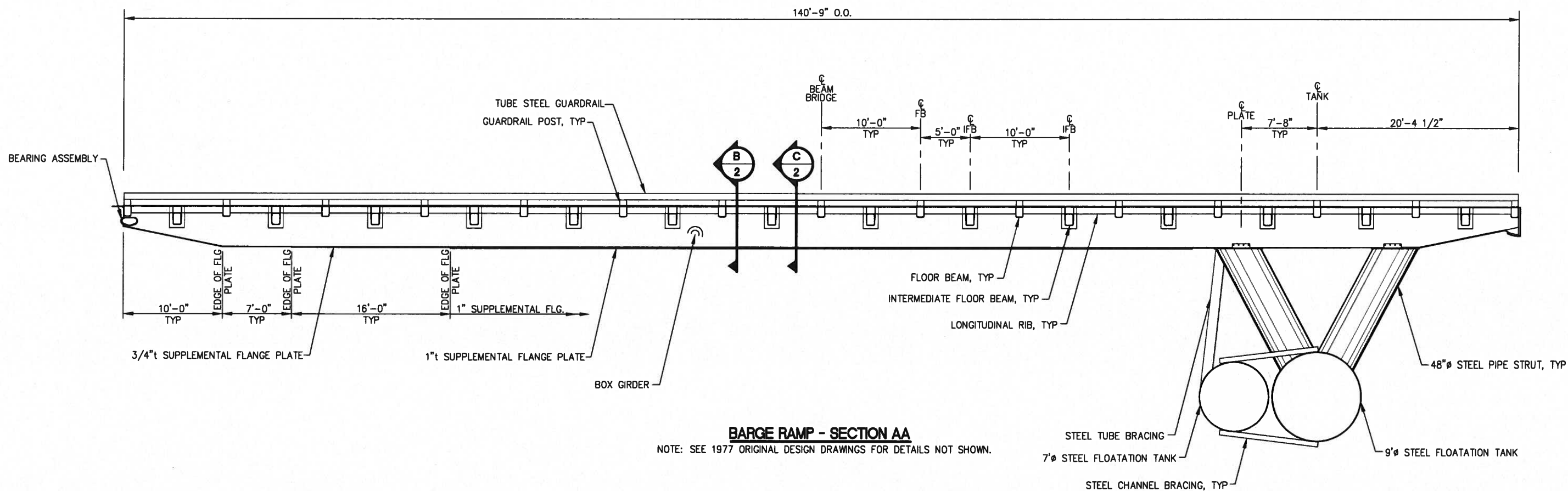


John L. DeMuth, P.E.
Principal

Attachments



BARGE RAMP - DECK PLAN



BARGE RAMP - SECTION AA

NOTE: SEE 1977 ORIGINAL DESIGN DRAWINGS FOR DETAILS NOT SHOWN.

REVISIONS

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DWN.	CKD.	APP.

PND Engineers Inc. (PND) is not responsible for safety programs, methods or procedures of operation, or the construction of the design shown on these drawings. Drawings are for the use of this project only and are not intended for reuse without written approval from PND. Drawings are also not to be used in any manner that would constitute a detriment directly or indirectly to PND.

P | N | D
ENGINEERS, INC.

9360 Glacier Highway Suite 100
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: 907-586-2093
Fax: 907-586-2099
www.pnd-anc.com

DESIGN: _____ CHECKED: _____
DRAWN: JLD APPROVED: _____

SCALE:

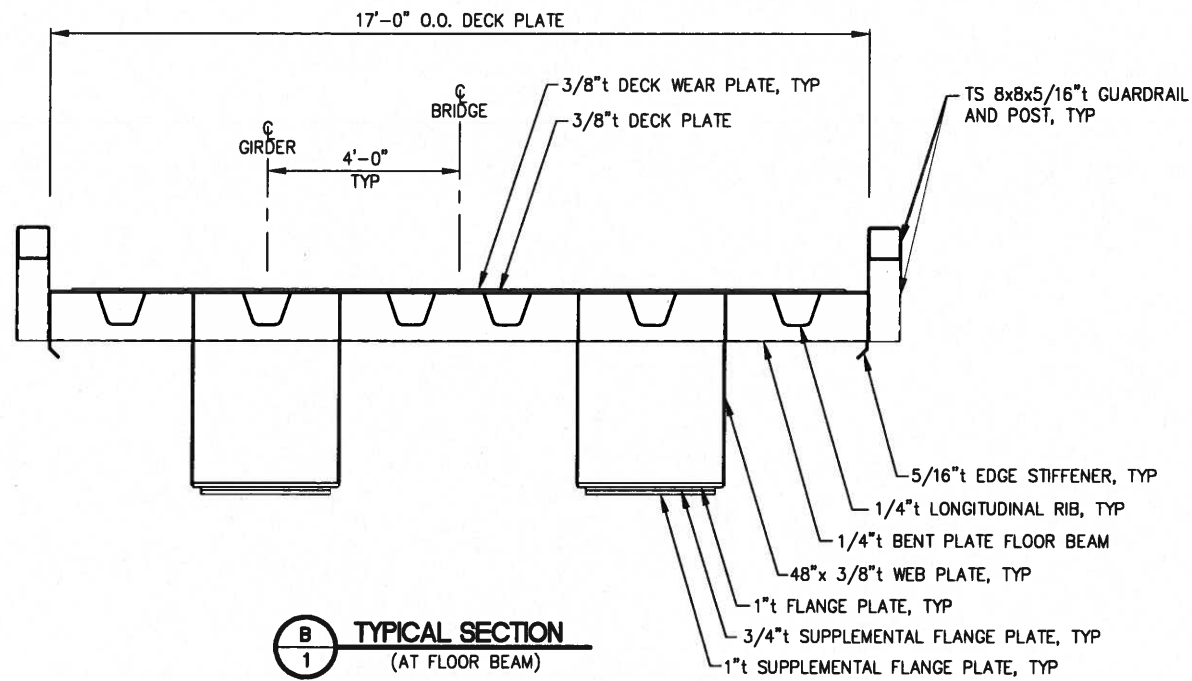
DATE: SEPT. 2011

WRANGELL BARGE RAMP

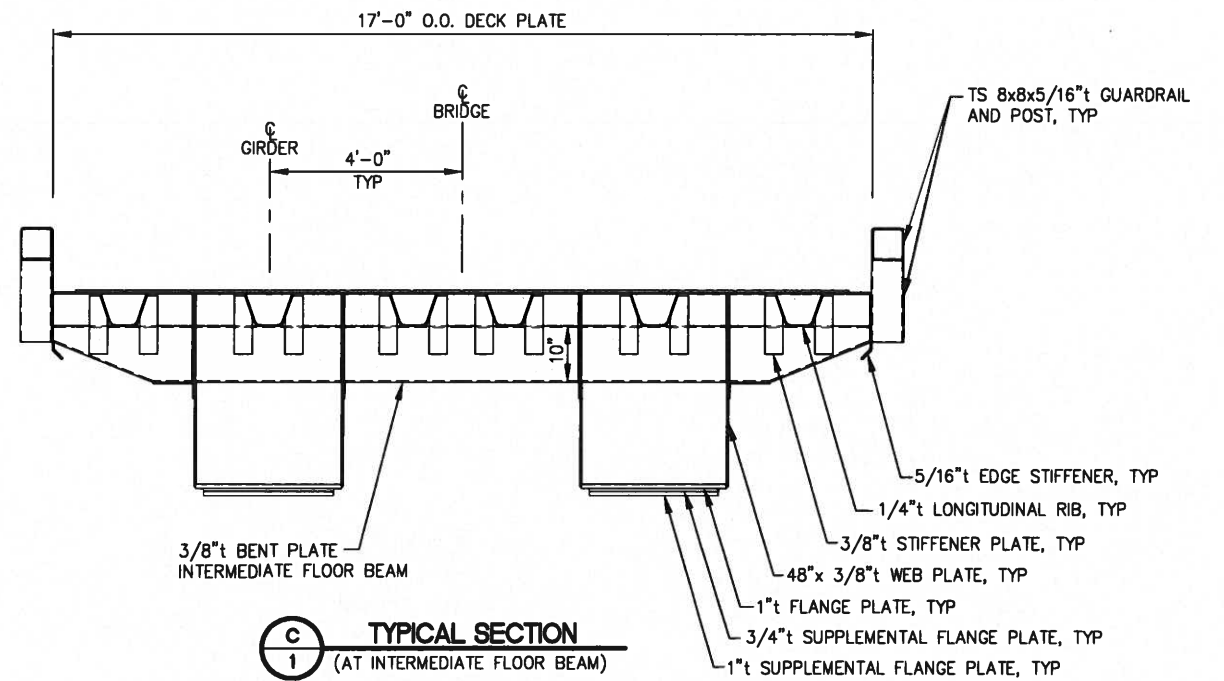
SHEET TITLE:
**BARGE RAMP AS-BUILT
PLAN AND ELEVATION**

PND PROJECT NO. 102077.03 DWG. FILE

SHEET
1 OF 3



NOTE: SEE 1977 ORIGINAL DESIGN DRAWINGS FOR DETAILS NOT SHOWN.



NOTE: SEE 1977 ORIGINAL DESIGN DRAWINGS FOR DETAILS NOT SHOWN.

N:\10000\102077 Wrangell Barge Ramp Inspection\102077.03 Barge Ramp As-Built\Drawings\ASBUILT.dwg, 9/23/2011 11:17:07 AM, \\PND\JLD\Xerox WorkCentre 7665

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REVISIONS					
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DRAWN: JLD APPROVED: _____

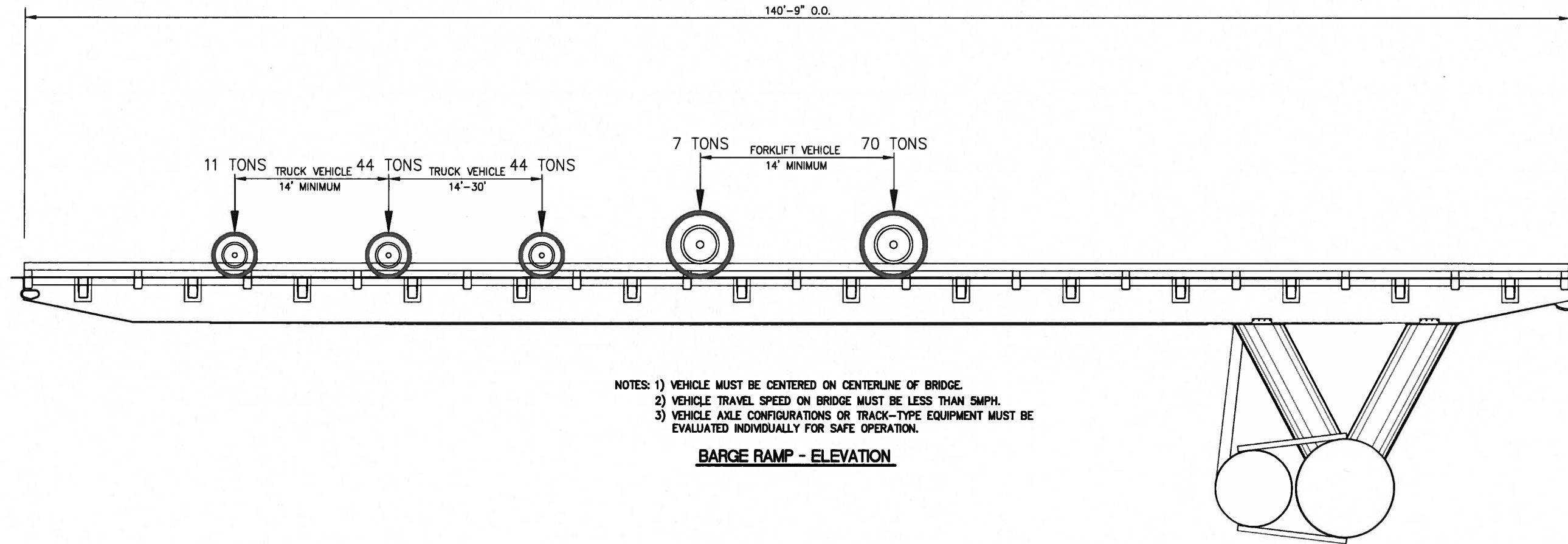
WRANGELL BARGE RAMP

SHEET TITLE:
BARGE RAMP TYPICAL SECTIONS

DATE: SEPT. 2011

PND PROJECT NO. 102077.03 DWG. FILE:

SHEET 2 OF 3



- NOTES: 1) VEHICLE MUST BE CENTERED ON CENTERLINE OF BRIDGE.
 2) VEHICLE TRAVEL SPEED ON BRIDGE MUST BE LESS THAN 5MPH.
 3) VEHICLE AXLE CONFIGURATIONS OR TRACK-TYPE EQUIPMENT MUST BE EVALUATED INDIVIDUALLY FOR SAFE OPERATION.

BARGE RAMP - ELEVATION

N:\1000\102077 Wrangell Barge Ramp Inspection\102077.03 Barge Ramp As-Built\Drawings\LOADING.dwg, 9/23/2011 11:16:37 AM, W:\P\102077\Xerox WorkCentre 7665

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REVISIONS					
REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DWN.	CKD.	APP.

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9360 Glacier Highway Suite 100
 Juneau, Alaska 99801
 Phone: 907-586-2093
 Fax: 907-586-2099
 www.pnd-anc.com

DESIGN: _____ CHECKED: _____
 DRAWN: JLD APPROVED: _____

SCALE: _____

WRANGELL BARGE RAMP

SHEET TITLE:
BARGE RAMP LOADING

DATE: SEPT. 2011

PND PROJECT NO. 102077.03 DWG. FILE

SHEET
3 OF 3



February 19, 2025

PND 25J021

Mr. Steve Miller
Port and Harbor Director
City and Borough of Wrangell

Subject: CBW Barge Ramp - Engineering Services Fee Proposal

Dear Mr. Miller,

PND Engineers, Inc. (PND) appreciates the opportunity to provide this fee proposal to CBW for providing the following anticipated scope of services:

- Project Administration - contract agreement, coordination, correspondence, organization, and oversight.
- Background - review previous report, drawings and load rating calculations
- Site Visit - travel to/from WRG via Alaska Air to examine and document current condition of barge ramp.
- Report - letter report w/ photos; review PND 2011 load rating calculations and revise as needed based on conditions observed in the field.

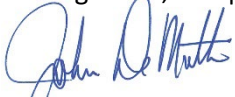
PND proposes to provide the services identified above on a T&M basis in accordance with our current billing rates. Estimated fees are summarized below and we will not exceed this amount without your prior approval.

Item Description	Estimated Cost
1. Project Administration	\$1,638
2. Background	\$790
3. Site Visit	\$6,658
4. Report	\$3,720
5. Expenses	\$2,267
Total Estimated T&M Fees	\$15,073

PND appreciates the opportunity to assist you on this project, and trusts we have accurately perceived your needs. Please feel free to contact us at your convenience if you have any questions or desire any changes to the proposed scope of services to better serve your needs. We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

PND Engineers, Inc. | Juneau, AK



John DeMuth, P.E., S.E.
Vice President

PND Engineers, Inc.
CBW Barge Ramp
Engineering Services Fee Proposal - February 19, 2025
PND Project No. 25J021



Scope of Services

PND Senior Engineer VII	PND Senior Engineer VI	PND Senior Engineer III	PND Senior Engineer II	PND Senior Engineer I	PND Enviro Science IV	PND Staff Engineer VI	PND Staff Engineer III	PND Tech VI	PND CAD Designer VI	Line Item Costs	Task Subtotal Costs
\$255.00	\$240.00	\$188.00	\$177.00	\$167.00	\$172.00	\$172.00	\$140.00	\$169.00	\$147.00		

Engineering Services												
Project Administration - contract agreement, coordination, correspondence, organization, and oversight.	4							2	2		\$1,638	
Background - Review previous report, drawings and load rating calculations.	2							2			\$790	
Site Visit - travel to/from WRG via AK Air to examine and document current condition of barge ramp.	16							16	2		\$6,658	
Report - letter report w/ photos; review PND 2011 load rating calculations and revise as needed based on conditions observed in the field.	2							16	4	2	\$3,720	\$12,806
Total Estimated Manhours	24							36	8	2		

Estimated Third Party & Reimbursable Expenses

No Subconsultants		
Air Travel	Alaska Air roundtrip JNU-WRG \$625/person; Airport Parking \$18/day	\$1,286
Vehicle Rental	\$135/day plus fuel	\$135
Lodging and Food	Hotel \$340/night (suite); Per Diem \$75/day/person	\$640
Admin Fee	10% of Third Party Expenses	\$206
	TOTAL ESTIMATED FEE (T&M)	\$2,267
		\$15,073

Notes: Assume CBW to provide skiff for access under brage ramp.

Additional scope/services not identified herein can be provided by PND upon request as additional services. PND will not exceed this T&M estimate w/o prior CBW approval.