

**Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – January 2019**

**ACTION ITEM**

**Sponsor:** Alan Sorum

**Project number and name or topic:** 8560 Potential Places of Refuge

1. **Description of agenda item:** Approval to fund the remaining two phases of the Potential Places of Refuge Project and support a sole source contract with Safeguard Marine, LLC.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** In 2004, the Council partnered with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), USCG, and others in a multi-stakeholder workgroup to develop a matrix listing potential places a vessel in distress could be taken that provides shelter from the weather.

A review of the ADEC website shows that information developed in the 2004 effort has not been updated. This project would seek to update the Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) matrix to reflect current conditions and develop an interactive job aide to assist the places of refuge decision-making process.

The first phase of this project covering the central Sound, received its initial funding at the September 2015 Board meeting in Kodiak and the project was successfully completed by Safeguard Marine, LLC. An amount of \$54,873 was expended on the first phase. The POVTS Committee evaluated the results of the first year’s work and has gone on record recommending completion of the final two phases of the effort. A presentation was made about the project to the Prince William Sound Subarea Committee and it was positively received by industry and regulatory agency representatives.

The two remaining areas are in the northern and southern areas of the Sound and include five different sites. Ideally budget approval will encompass both areas, but the POVTS Committee would like to see the southern portion done first, if the two areas cannot not be done together.

3. **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:**

| <u>Meeting</u> | <u>Date</u>    | <u>Action</u>                                   |
|----------------|----------------|---|
| Board          | May 2015       | Approved initial project budget.                |
| Board          | September 2015 | Approved final budget and sole source contract. |
| Board          | January 2017   | Acceptance of final report for phase one.       |

4. **Summary of policy, issues, support or opposition:** Establishment of places of refuge is recognized by the International Maritime Organization and governmental agencies as an important marine safety and pollution mitigation measure. Appropriate guidance for choosing acceptable places of refuge is needed by regulators, vessel masters and salvors. The Council’s close involvement with the Sound means it can help shape environmental assessments being conducted, identify environmentally sensitive areas, craft response strategies and help inform the public about potential implications of this planning effort.

Establishment of preplanned places of refuge provide communities, regulators and industry a chance to consider local knowledge and conditions prior to a crisis. An

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accurate PPOR matrix provides the Coast Guard Captain of the Port an additional tool in the decision-making process associated with placing a vessel in sheltered location. Gathering information on potential sites from stakeholders in advance of an incident is always a preferred planning approach.

5. **Committee Recommendation:** The POVTS Committee supports this project. Ideally budget approval will encompass both areas, but the POVTS Committee would like to see the southern portion done first, if the two areas cannot not be done together.
6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** Project 8560 - Potential Places of Refuge was proposed by POVTS for inclusion in the FY2019 budget, but was deferred due to lack of funds with the caveat that the project would be brought back mid-year if funding allowed. In the 2018 Board approved Long Range Plan, the Potential Places of Refuge ranked number 8 out of 23 projects. Funding has become available for a number of reasons, including that the funding for POVTS project 6534--Cape Hinchinbrook Weather Surveillance, approved and funded in FY2019 with a cumulative capital budget of \$210,000, was returned to the contingency fund at the September 2018 Board meeting.
7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:**
  - Approve a project 854 Potential Places of Refuge in the amount of \$101,000 and sole source contract with Safeguard Marine, LLC, and
  - Approve a corresponding budget modification from the contingency fund to project 856 in the amount of \$101,000.
8. **Alternatives:** Fund \$59,276 for the three south sites only.
9. **Attachments:** Potential Places of Refuge project budget sheet.