

# Seward ALASKA

CITY OF SEWARD, AK - 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### LOWELL TUNNEL OUTFALL (FEDERAL)

05

### WATER & SEWAGE EXPANSION (STATE/FEDERAL)

06

### SEWARD COMMUNITY JAIL (STATE)

06

### SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS (STATE/FEDERAL)

07

### SEWARD MARINE INDUSTRIAL CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE

08

### DUCTILE IRON PIPING (STATE/FEDERAL)

10

### SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS (STATE/FEDERAL)

11

### PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY (STATE/FEDERAL)

12

### SEWARD BOAT HARBOR Z-FLOAT (STATE/FEDERAL)

13

### SEWARD AIRPORT (STATE)

14

### AREA MAPS

15



## LOCATED AT THE NORTHERN TIP OF RESURRECTION BAY, SEWARD HAS LONG BEEN AN IMPORTANT DESTINATION.

In the Alutiiq language, Seward is known as Qutekcak, meaning 'big beach', and served the Alutiiq, Sugpiaq, and other Alaska Native peoples as a meeting area.

A deep-water, ice-free port with rail, highway, and air transportation, Seward is easily accessible from Alaska's major hubs and the Lower 48. The wild and stunning natural landscapes attract adventurers from around the world to enjoy the beautiful vistas, hike the stunning trails, experience the diverse wildlife, paddle and fish the rich waters, and explore our historic community.

Today, Seward is home to a vibrant community with a deep appreciation for the natural environment and local history and culture, with hundreds of thriving small businesses, robust maritime and tourism industries, as well as valuable educational and research opportunities.

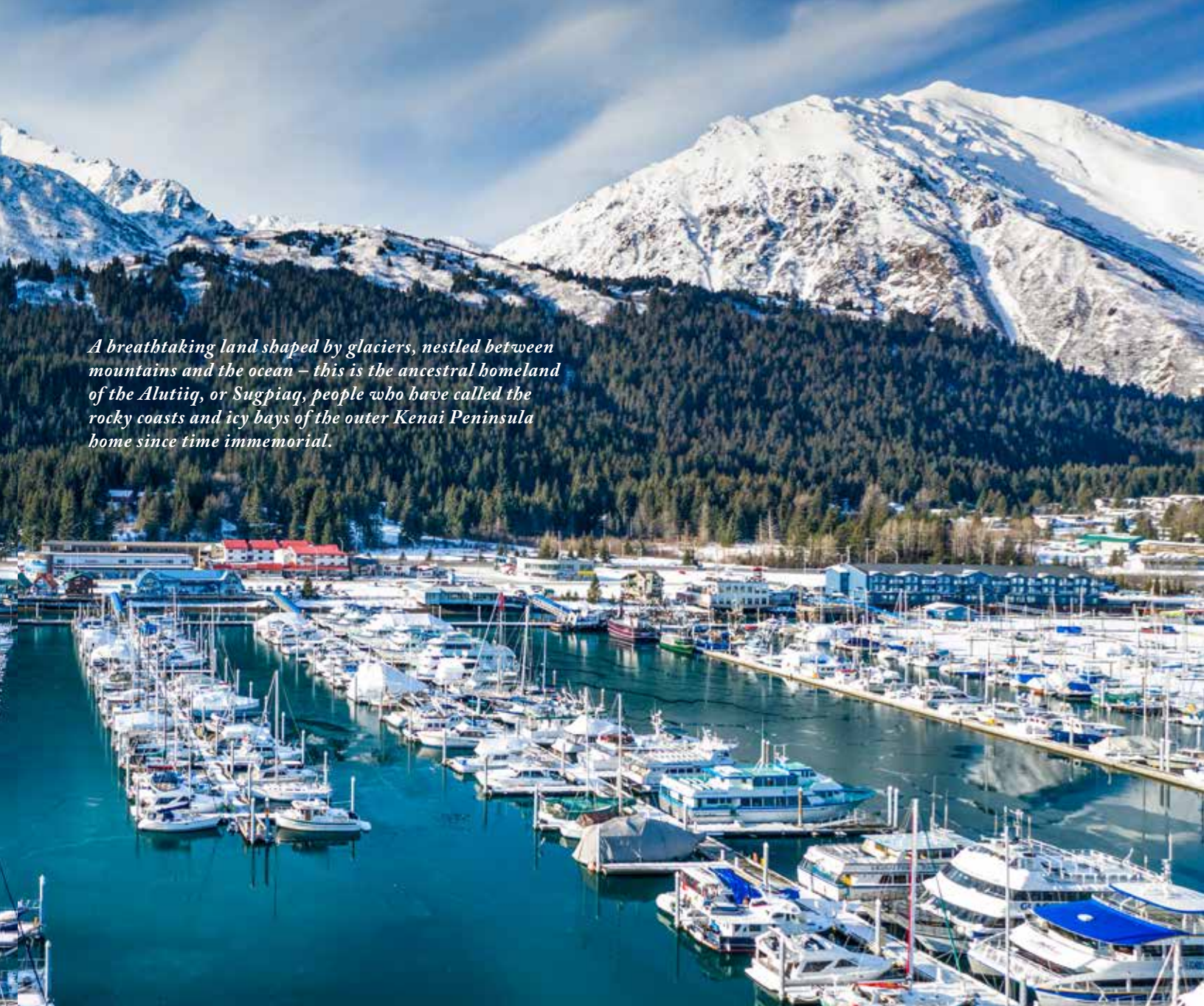
We welcome you to join us in Seward and learn why we say *Alaska Starts Here*.



*Incorporated in 1912, Seward, Alaska is a home-rule city in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.*

*Seward has a population of 2,600, with approximately 3,000 additional people residing in surrounding communities just outside of city boundaries.*





*A breathtaking land shaped by glaciers, nestled between mountains and the ocean – this is the ancestral homeland of the Alutiiq, or Sugpiaq, people who have called the rocky coasts and icy bays of the outer Kenai Peninsula home since time immemorial.*

## BOROUGH GOVERNMENT

Seward is located within the **Kenai Peninsula Borough** - incorporated in 1964 as a second-class borough.

An elected **Borough Mayor** serves as the chief administrator who works with an elected 9-member legislative assembly, on which Seward has one seat.

The Borough is responsible for area-wide education, solid-waste management, planning and zoning, taxation and assessment.

Local service area boards provide hospital, fire, and emergency services.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Seward is a city manager form of government, governed by a **Mayor** and **City Council** who are elected by the people of the City. The **City Manager** is appointed by the elected 7-person City Council, along with a **City Attorney** and **City Clerk**.

The Mayor and City Council act together as the **Governing Body**. The Governing Body, being the elected representative of the people, adopts all ordinances and resolutions and determines the general goals and policies of the city.

## TAXATION

The city, along with the state of Alaska has no personal income tax. Real/personal property tax within the city is at a low 3.84 mils. The real/personal property tax outside the city but within the borough is at 4.5 mils with an additional .5 mils for the Seward/ Bear Creek Area Flood Service Board.

The sales tax for Seward is 4%. The sales tax for the Borough is 3%. Seward also has a 4% bed tax.





*Employing around 90 year-round employees, the City of Seward provides and supports a wide range of services including a 24-hr police department, fire department, library, hospital, youth center, boat harbor, community development, building and engineering, public works, parks and recreation, water/wastewater and electric utilities.*

## CITY MANAGER

**Janette Bower, City Manager**

[jbower@cityofseward.us](mailto:jbower@cityofseward.us)

Office: 907-224-4012

Cell: 907-362-1020

**Stephen Sowell, Assistant City Manager**

[ssowell@cityofseward.us](mailto:ssowell@cityofseward.us)

Office: 907-224-4066

Cell: 907-362-4062

410 Adams St.

PO Box 167

Seward, AK 99664

## 2023 GOVERNING BODY

**Sue McClure, Mayor**

*Term expires October 2025*

**John Osenga**

*Term expires October 2024*

**Liz DeMoss**

*Term expires October 2023*

**Mike Calhoon**

*Term expires October 2024*

**Randy Wells**

*Term expires October 2025*

**Kevin Finch**

*Term expires October 2025*

**Open Seat**

*Term expires 2023*



CONTINUED FULL FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS LOWELL TUNNEL OUTFALL DIVERSION STRUCTURE. (FEDERAL)

**JANUARY 2022: CONSTRUCTION FULLY FUNDED THROUGH THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND JOBS ACT. \$185 MILLION. THANK YOU TO ALL WHOSE EFFORTS MADE THIS FUNDING POSSIBLE.**

The district aims to construct a new flood diversion system for Lowell Creek in Seward, Alaska. Upgrades include a new 18-foot diameter tunnel and diversion dam upstream from the current tunnel; refurbishment to the existing tunnel; extension of the outfall by 150-feet to carry creek flow and debris over Lowell Point Road; and canopy to protect the tunnel inlet from landslides. The plan also calls for select tree removal that in a flood event could block the tunnel if swept up.





## EXPANSION OF WATER/SEWER AND ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH WILL INCREASE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT CITY LIMITS. (STATE AND FEDERAL)

There are two strategic areas that have been identified for utility expansion that would open the door to residential development. Afognak / Forest Acres is an area on the northwest portion of town that has over 25 residential lots. There are 150 acres of private and public land to the north of the Seward Marine Industrial Complex that can be opened up for development with the expansion of sewer lines.



### Afognak Acres

- Water, sewer, electric: \$2,511,000
- Roadway: \$958,000

### SMIC

- Sewer: \$1,090,000
- Lift Station: \$100,000

*Residential housing has been an ongoing issue in Seward and this project will add lots for immediate construction of much needed housing.*

## FULL FUNDING OF THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS IN ORDER TO RETURN TO 100% FUNDING OF THE OPERATIONAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH OPERATING THE SEWARD COMMUNITY JAIL.

In 2013, the City of Seward entered into a 5-year contract with the State of Alaska to run the community jail in Seward. The amount of the contract at that time was \$655,470.00 with the guarantee of an inflation adjustment annually not to exceed 2%. In 2015, the state amended the contract on the basis of budget cuts and voided the CPI increase language. The value of the contract dropped to \$368,952.00 where it has remained ever since. There have been no CPI increases and there have been no opportunities to negotiate. The state has never addressed employee wage changes, increases to benefit package costs, or increases to the costs of operation.

Most recently, Seward has attempted communications with the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections and have been unable to have discourse with the office. Our calls and emails go unanswered and we have, as of this 2021, been shifted to the Probations and Parole office at the state level. The employees in this office admit they are not in a position to negotiate the jail contracts and are not authorized to make contract adjustments. Therefore, the City of Seward is now weighing its options to determine the best course of action moving forward regarding the future of the jail facility.

Collectively, the community jail Chiefs of Police are working along with their respective City Managers, Mayors and Councils, and AML/JIA to bring the state to the table to discuss our collective issues and find solutions so these jails can stay in operation.



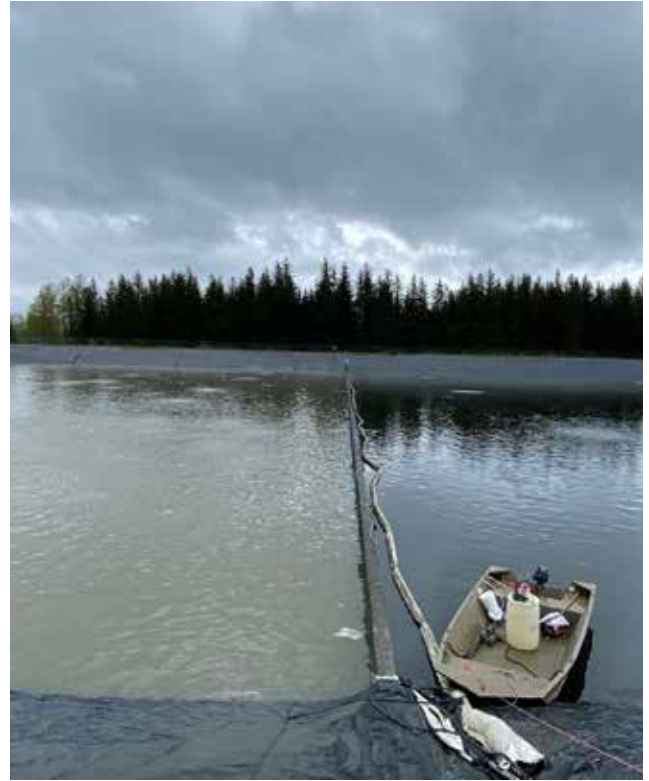


## SLUDGE REMOVAL FOR THE LOWELL POINT AND SMIC SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS. (STATE & FEDERAL)

The City of Seward has a sludge removal program in place for the two separate wastewater treatment plants. These programs are to complete sludge removal every 7-10 years depending on the depth of sludge measured yearly. The very high costs to complete is well out of what City ratepayers can afford. With this project we will also have to install a new liner and replace aeration equipment in the lagoon. Recommended by Senator Murkowski for Congressionally Directed Spending

The current liner and aeration equipment are beyond the 30-year life span. We can only fund this program by utilizing grants and loan programs that are available. There is a one-to-two-year lead time to bidding, contracting, and scheduling this work.

*The successful award of funding now will allow us to proceed with the lengthy and important process to get these lagoons modernized and cleaned. Estimated cost is \$2,000,000.*



## SEWARD MARINE INDUSTRIAL CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE

The Seward Marine Industrial Center (SMIC) has seen a significant increase in demand over the last few years since the grand reopening and with the resident lease taken over by Jag Independent Marine. Every fall the boat yard is completely full with many additional requests for space and amenities that aren't currently available. The US Coast Guard Fast Response Cutter and support will be located there starting in 2024.

*To allow the industry to continue to grow and flourish, there are a number of infrastructure upgrades needed.*

### 20 ACRE LAND EXPANSION (1):

There is approximately 20 undeveloped acres to the north of the current boat yard and syncrolift area (boundary bounded by Olga, Sorrel, Delphin, and Jellison). The city already has had a number of requests for use of that land for leases for marine work by companies both currently operating and new businesses interested in operating out of SMIC.

#### Costs:

- *Brush, fill, top, and grade: \$500,000*
- *500 Foot Road Extensions of Mustang Ave and Morris Ave. with Pipe Culverts to Support 330-ton travel lift: \$225,000*

### SHIP YARD: FILL AND REGRADE (2):

The main boat yard area (approximately 20 acres) needs to be slightly lifted and regraded for drainage during the rainy season and break up so that the boat moving and repair business can continue with minimal disruption:

#### Costs:

- *Regrading: \$100,000*

### LINE EXTENSIONS AND POWER PEDESTALS IN MAIN SHIP YARD (3):

There is an increasing demand for power in more areas of the yard. This would fund line extensions and 20 additional power pedestals in main yard which would allow more work to be done concurrently.

#### Costs:

- *Pedestals (20 x \$8,000ea): \$160,000*
- *Line Installation: \$150,000*





**WATER SERVICE AND FIRE HYDRANTS (4):**

With the boat yard expansion and growth, the need for water extensions and fire hydrants has increased.

**Costs:**

- *Water Line (6900LF x \$225/LF): \$1,500,000*
- *Fire Hydrants (15 x \$5000ea): \$150,000*

**PUBLIC RESTROOMS (5):**

There is only one, small public restroom located at SMIC which covers over 90 acres and provides space for over a hundred large vessels. An additional, large public restroom with shower facilities is needed to service the area for current use and continued growth.

**Costs:**

- *Lift Station Cost and Install: \$100,000*
- *Extension Lines : \$100,000*
- *Building and Facilities: \$350,000*

**SECURITY (6):**

Narrative: With the increasing boat working going on and the presence of equipment and tools, the area needs securing upgrades to help keep theft down and business moving without delays.

**Costs:**

- *Fencing: \$250,000*
- *Security Camera System (20 Cameras and installation on light poles): \$100,000*





## REPLACEMENT OF OLD PIPING WITH NEW DUCTILE IRON PIPING THROUGHOUT SEWARD. (STATE & FEDERAL)

The City of Seward needs funding to replace existing galvanized and transite (AC – asbestos-cement) water mains. These problem mains are nearly 60 years old and well past their lifespan. The new ductile iron mains will replace and thus prevent the inevitable collapse and failure of the old water mains.

*With available funding we will replace up to 1000 feet per year to keep safe drinking water for the community. Estimated cost is \$4,000,000.*





**SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT AND  
REFURBISHMENT THROUGHOUT  
THE CITY OF SEWARD.  
(STATE & FEDERAL)**

Pedestrian Safety is a high priority in Seward as our visitors increase and our sidewalks continue to deteriorate. We have multiple sidewalks needing attention throughout Seward.

*Securing grant and ADA funds for sidewalk replacement and refurbishment allows us to address ADA access issues for ramps, parking, and dangerous large cracks and broken concrete areas with high pedestrian traffic. Estimated cost is \$2,500,000.*





**FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY AT A MORE APPROPRIATE SITE. THIS MOVE WILL FREE UP SIGNIFICANT LAND FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE CURRENT PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY SITE. (STATE & FEDERAL)**

The Seward Public Works Facility was built in 1965 after the '64 earthquake. Relocating this facility from downtown has been a desire of this community for over 40 years. The relocation of the facility to a more commercial area with adequate acreage for a new equipment warm storage building, a maintenance repair shop, and other public works function are needed.

The current building is worn out and doesn't fit well in the more residential use district. It is too small, very inefficient, and critically inadequate for today's operations and staff.

*This project is high on the City's priority list for funding. Completing this project asap will also free up 32 small downtown residential lots to the public and will greatly help with the housing shortage in Seward. Estimated cost is \$10,000,000.*

**SEWARD PUBLIC WORKS**

Responsible for operations of the Water and Wastewater utilities, the Street Department, the City Shop, and limited Municipal Building maintenance. It is our mission to provide the City of Seward residents with prompt service and maintenance in a cost effective manner. The majority of our work consists of maintenance, repairs, and improvements of the City's streets, utilities, and equipment.

**SERVICES**

- Maintaining approximately 31 miles of paved and unpaved roads.
- Maintenance of 28+ miles of both water distribution and wastewater collection main lines.
- Maintaining the City's vehicle fleet.
- Providing snow removal and sanding for safe roads in the winter.



Current Public Works facility.



Conceptual examples of new Public Works Department facility.

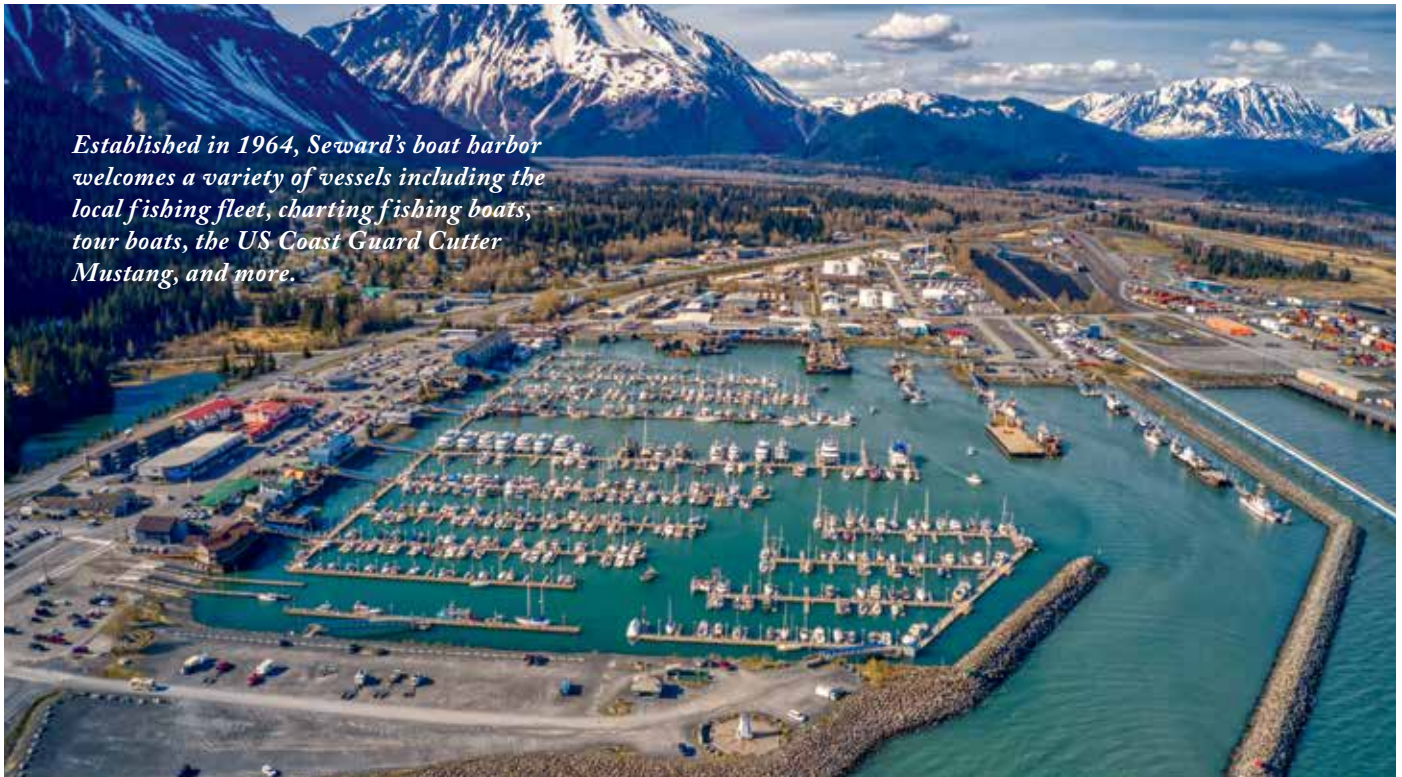




## FLOAT EXTENSION PROJECT IN THE HARBOR FOR Z FLOAT. (STATE & FEDERAL)

There is currently an extensive wait list for vessels in the Seward Harbor. The wait list is a barrier for businesses and economic growth with charter vessels, tugs, barges, personal vessels, and commercial transient vessels not having the places they need to operate.

*The current wait list has been in existence for over 10 years when this was initially placed on the Capital Improvements List. There has been movement on this list but the overall list (of over 200) has not changed significantly with the oldest request currently still waiting since 2014. Estimated cost is \$8,000,000.*



*Established in 1964, Seward's boat harbor welcomes a variety of vessels including the local fishing fleet, charter fishing boats, tour boats, the US Coast Guard Cutter Mustang, and more.*



## FULL FUNDING AND ONGOING MAINTENANCE FOR THE SEWARD AIRPORT OPERATED BY THE STATE OF ALASKA. (STATE)

The Seward Airport, operated by the State of Alaska, is a vital lifeline for our community and its safety. With no over-the-road ambulance service, we have regular Medevac flights to get citizens, workers, and visitors the urgent medical care that they need.

The US Coast Guard uses the airport regularly for local refueling and transport as well during rescue operations. When there have been avalanches or slides and the road is closed, the airport is our only link for goods and supplies. Less urgent but also important is that it generates significant commerce for our community with businesses in the visitor industry.

*We are requesting funding for prioritized and regular maintenance.*

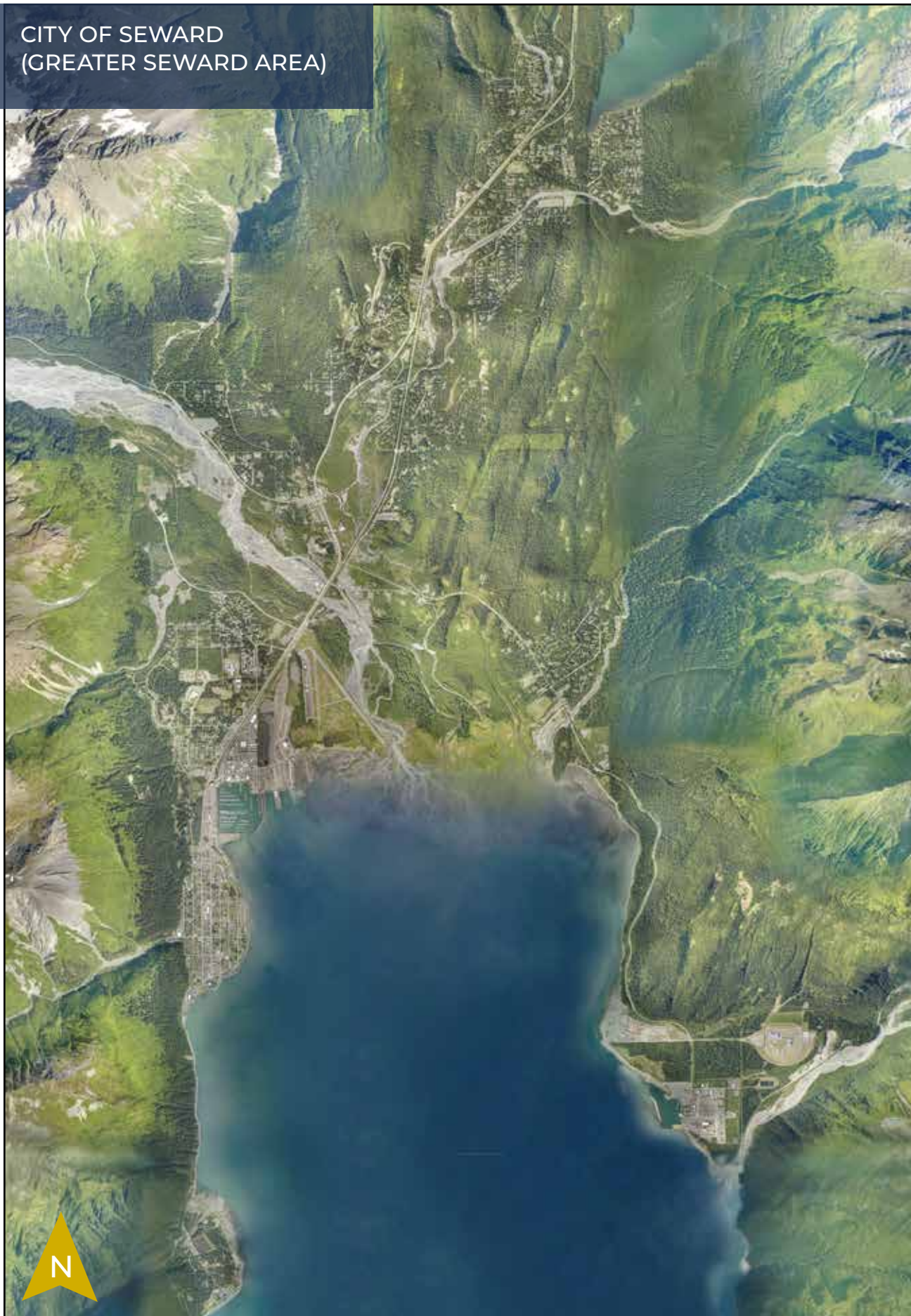


The Seward Airport is unmanned and operated by the State under visual flight rules. Some air service, flight-seeing and charter services are available. Two paved runways are utilized with one being 4,240' long by 100' wide, and the other is 2,279' long by 75' wide. Flight time to Anchorage is about 45 minutes.





CITY OF SEWARD  
(GREATER SEWARD AREA)



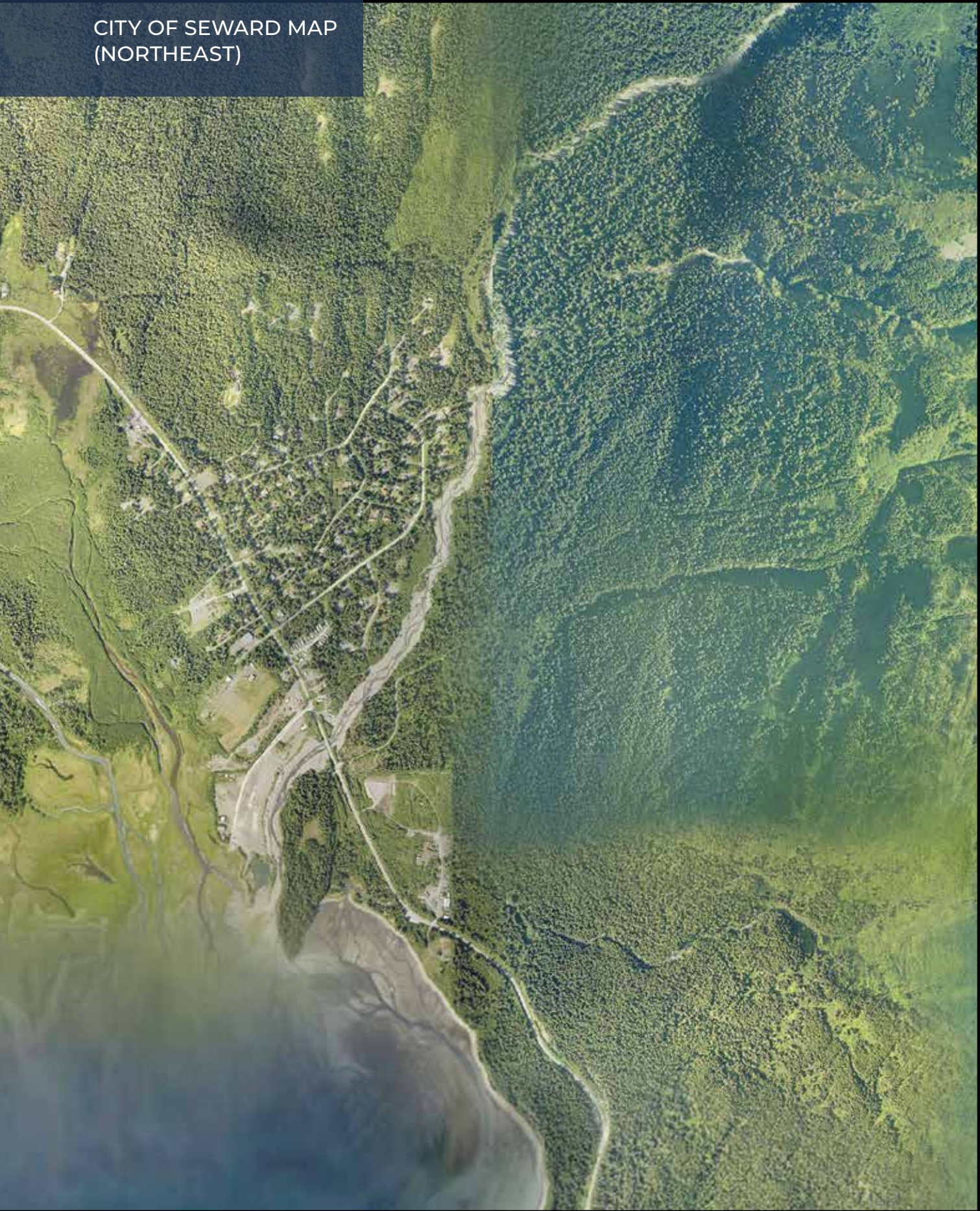


CITY OF SEWARD MAP  
(NORTHWEST)





CITY OF SEWARD MAP  
(NORTHEAST)





CITY OF SEWARD MAP  
(SOUTH)



LOWELL POINT  
MAP INSET



CITY OF SEWARD MAP  
(SMIC AREA)







*City of Seward © 2023*

*City of Seward, AK | P.O. Box 167  
410 Adams Street City Hall Building  
Seward, AK 99664 | (907) 224 3331  
[www.cityofseward.us](http://www.cityofseward.us)*

*The City of Seward would like to acknowledge the Seward Chamber of Commerce & CVB for their invaluable partnership in economic development and destination marketing and management. Their work is supported by the thousands of annual visitors to Seward through a portion of the 4% bed tax collected by Seward's esteemed lodging providers, as voted by the citizens of Seward in the 1995 general October election via Initiative Ord. 95-001z, which took effect in November 1995, and was implemented January of 1996.*

*Branding, design, and photography elements for the 2022 City of Seward Legislative Priorities Report have been provided by the Seward Chamber of Commerce & CVB, as it continues to strive to fulfill its mission to keep Seward the best place in the world to live, work and play.*

**Seward**  
CHAMBER

*Seward Chamber of Commerce & CVB  
PO Box 749 | 2001 Seward Highway  
Seward, AK 99664 | (907) 224-8051  
[www.seward.com](http://www.seward.com)*





# Seward ALASKA

CITY OF SEWARD, AK - 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES