CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request

version 2.16

(Submission #: HQJ-J4PA-V8QQW, version 1)

Details

Site: Recurring Beluga Slough Outlet Maintenance

Submission ID HQJ-J4PA-V8QQW

Form Input

Form Instructions

Form Instructions

Instructions for filling out the 401 Prefiling Meeting Request Form are located on the Alaska DEC website at the link below.
401 Prefiling Meeting Request Form Instructions

Agents: For Delegation of Authority to act on behalf of the applicant in processing the application, use the following form, have signed, and upload with application.

- Delegation of Authority - 401 Application

Contact Information (1 of 1)

Required Contacts

The following **Contact Roles are *REQUIRED***. Please select the appropriate role(s) for each contact and complete the contact details. Multiple role(s) may be assigned to each unique individual.

- **Applicant** (Responsible Party)
- **Billing Contact**

Contact Role(s)
Applicant
Billing Contact

Contact

Prefix
Mr.

First Name **Last Name**
Aaron Yeaton

Title
GIS Technician

Organization Name
City of Homer Public Works Department

Phone Type **Number** **Extension**
Business 9074353137

Email
ayeaton@ci.homer.ak.us

Mailing Address

3575 Heath St.

Homer, AK 99603

[NO COUNTRY SPECIFIED]

Project / Facility Site Info

Identify the applicable federal license or permit

A copy of the federal permit or license application is required to be submitted with the request for the water quality certification. (18 AAC 15.130, 18 AAC 15.180)

Federal Agency
Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Permit License Number (ex. USACE: POA-XXXX-XXXX; FERC: FERC-xxxx-xxxx; EPA: AK#######)
POA-2002-00977

Project Name or Title
Recurring Beluga Slough Outlet Maintenance

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name
NONE PROVIDED

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date
03/01/2026	04/01/2026

Approximate date(s) when any Discharge(s) may commence (+/- 30 days)

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
Deposit excavation spoils at or below MHW	03/01/2026	04/01/2026

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)
Request a 10 year permit for recurring maintenance of the Beluga Slough Outlet. The scope of work includes re-establishing outlet channel by excavating storm berms that prevent Beluga Slough from outflowing to Kachemak Bay. Deposit Excavated sand and gravel in either the new channels formed during storm berm blockage or grade along the MHW line immediately east of excavation. Work to be conducted with heavy machinery, i.e., excavators and bulldozers. This work procedure has been conducted several times in the past under permit POA 2002-977. The most recent outlet maintenance occurred in 2024.

Work will be performed at low tide. Machinery will not unnecessarily enter stream channel. Benthic environment will not be dredged. Only storm berm sand and gravel will be excavated and deposited.

Project Purpose (Describe the reason(s) for discharge)
Allow drainage from Beluga Lak to efficiently outflow to Kachemak Bay. Storm-berm formation at the beach inhibits this drainage and causes water levels to rise in Beluga Slough. In the past, this flooding compromised city storm drain outfalls and sanitary sewer infrastructure.

Is any portion of the work already complete?
No

Description of current activity site conditions
Currently the site is not experiencing storm berm blockage of the Beluga Slough outlet

Relevant Site Data, Photographs that Represent Current Site Conditions, or other Relevant Documentation
100_0087.JPG - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
100_0081.JPG - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
100_0086.JPG - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
Comment
Photos taken at high tide 10/18/2025

Is this a linear project? (i.e., utility line, road, etc.)
No

Project Address
Parcel ID 17714017
Homer, AK 99603

Visit the link below to help with conversion between DMS and Latitude/Longitude
DSM - Lat/Long converter

Project Location
59.6358299,-151.5355585

Visit the following link if you need to convert the lat/long to get the **PLSS information**
Converter for Section, Township, and Range

PLSS Location (Public Land Survey System)

State Tax Parcel ID	Borough/Municipality	Meridian	Section	Township	Range
17714017	Kenai Peninsula Borough	Seward	20	T6S	R13W

Directions to Site
South on Sterling Hwy to Homer. Take right turn onto Main St. Left turn onto E. Bunnell Ave. Right Turn onto Beluga Place. Park at Bishops Beach Parking lot. Walk east along storm berm for 300 meters to work site.

Federal Agency Contact (1 of 2)

Have you been working with anyone in the Federal Agency?
Yes

Federal Contact Role
USACE

Federal Agency Contact

First Name Carolyn
Last Name Farmer
Title
Project Manager
Organization Name
US Army Corps of Engineers
Phone Type Business
Number 561-785-5634
Extension
Email
Carolyn.h.farmer@usace.army.mil

Federal Agency Contact (2 of 2)

Have you been working with anyone in the Federal Agency?
Yes

Federal Contact Role
USACE

Federal Agency Contact

First Name	Last Name
Randal	Vigil

Title
Project Manager

Organization Name
US Army Corps of Engineers

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-201-5022	

Email
CEPOA-RD-Kenai@usace.army.mil

Dredge Material to be Discharged

Is dredging involved?
Yes

How many acres?
0.34

How much volume? (Cubic Yards)
2,600.00

Is the dredging considered a new project, or maintenance?
Maintenance

If maintenance, how frequent?
as needed/2-4 years

Tier Analysis

A tier analysis is comprised of a layered approach to determine the need for testing the dredge material to aid in generating physical, chemical, toxicity and bioaccumulation information, but not more information than is necessary to make factual determinations.
The tier analysis is a series of tiers (I – IV) or levels of intensity (and cost) of investigation. It is necessary to proceed through the tiers only until information is sufficient to make factual determinations, no further testing is required.

- **Tier I - Site Evaluation and History**. The initial tier (Tier I) uses readily available, existing information (including all previous testing). For certain dredge materials with readily apparent potential for environmental impact (or lack thereof), information collected in Tier I may be sufficient for making factual determinations.
- **Tier II - Chemical Testing** is concerned solely with sediment and water chemistry.
- **Tier III - Biological Testing (bioassay and/or bioaccumulation testing)** is concerned with well-defined, nationally accepte toxicity and bioaccumulation testing procedures.
- **Tier IV - Special Studies** allows for case-specific laboratory and field testing, and is intended to for use in unusual circumstances.

For more information regarding a Tier analysis, see below references

- EPA Inland Testing Manual

- USACE Seattle District Civil Works DMMP User Manual

Has a Tier analysis been conducted of the dredged prism?
No

Note, if marked NO; A Tier analysis may be required later upon review of the request.

For more information regarding a Tier analysis, see below references

- EPA Inland Testing Manual
- USACE Seattle District Civil Works DMMP User Manual

Fill Material to be Discharged

Will Fill Material be Discharged?
Yes

For fill material, identify the material source
beach sand and gravels excavated storm berm at work site from work site

Types of material being discharged and the amount of each type (cubic yards)

Type	Cubic Yards
beach sand and gravel	2,600.0

Surface area in (acres or linear feet) of wetlands or other waters filled

Surface Area	Units
0.25	Acres

Discharge Location Information (1 of 1)

Identify the location and nature of any potential discharge that may result from the proposed project and the location of receiving waters

Discharge Location ID (001, 002, 003, - increment by one)
002

Location Description
at or below MHW adjacent to the excavation east and adjacent to excavation

Placement of Dredged/Fill material discharge
Wetland

NOTE: if you have a receiving water that is Wetlands, just enter the generic term "Wetlands". Do not enter "Wetlands of Tanana River", for example.

Please select 'Other' if your waterbody is not in the list below.
You can start typing the name of the waterbody to filter the list.

Receiving Waterbody / Wetlands Name
Kachamak Bay

Discharge Location
59.63521265295153,-151.5320224839754

Other Pollutant Sources

Contaminated Site Information

Determine if your project is **within 1,500 feet** of a known Alaska DEC Contaminated Site. See the *Alaska DEC Contaminated Web Map* below. This will help you to identify if any potential pollutants/parameters of concern may be present on your project site., see DEC's website:

- **Contaminated Sites Web Map**
- **Contaminated Sites Database Search website**

Is the project within 1,500 feet of a known contaminated site?
No

Parameters of Concern that may be present in discharge

Parameter(s) of Concern

Identify the parameters of concern that may be present in your discharge from the dredge and/or fill material.

Note, **TURBIDITY** and **SEDIMENT** are routine parameters associated with dredge and/or fill activities.

Consider if other parameters may be present from past activities in the area such as contamianted site data, impaired waters or other relevant water quality data, or other parameters of concern identified during the application process.

Parameter(s)
Turbidity
Sediment

If known, describe respective concentrations, persistence, and potential impacts to the receiving water and data on parameters that may alter the effects of the discharge to the receiving water
Only expect minor temporary turbidity during construction. Once the drainage way is restored, the amount of turbidity and sediment input will resume to pre-construction levels

Impaired Waters

An ***impaired waterbody*** are those listed as a **Category 4 [304(b)] or Category 5 [303(d)]** in the current EPA approved *Alaska's Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report.*

For the most recently *Approved Integrated Water Quality Monitoring And Assessment Report (Integrated Report)*, see DEC's website:

- **Integrated Water Quality Monitoring And Assessment Report** https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report

Does a discharge of any parameter identified above occur to an impaired waterbody?
No

> If determined necessary and requested by the Department, submit sufficient and credible baseline water quality information for the receiving water which meets the requirements of 18 AAC 70.016(a)(6)(A-C).

Avoidance & Minimization BMPs and Mitigation Measures

Describe how impacts are being avoided and minimized on the project site. Include best management practices (BMPs) for sediment and erosion controls that will be implemented to minimize environmental impacts, and any methods and means proposed to monitor the discharge and the equipment or measures planned to treat, control, or manage the discharge.

Include a description of any methods and means proposed to monitor the discharge and the equipment or measures planned to treat, control, or manage the discharge
All work, excavation and fill, to be conducted at low tide when the project site has been naturally dewatered.

Machinery will only travel to and from work site once.

Avoidance Measures
The establishment of silt curtains in the intertidal zone was considered, but due to the dynamic and turbulent tidal environment combined with the shoreline wave action present at the project site, it was determined that application of this measure was un-realistic.

Also, It was determined that natural long-shore sediment transport and natural disturbance by wave actions exceed the impact of the proposed project.

Minimization Measures
All work, excavation and fill, to be conducted at low tide when the project site has been naturally dewatered.

Machinery will only travel to and from work site once.

Mitigation Measures
All work, excavation and fill, to be conducted at low tide when the project site has been naturally dewatered.

Machinery will only travel to and from work site once.

Social / Economic Importance

Social or Economic Importance

(18 AAC 70.016(c)(5): Provide information that demonstrates the accommodation of important social or economic development. The applicant shall complete either a social OR economic importance analysis (or both) for each affected community in the area where the receiving water for the proposed discharge is located.

Social Importance Analysis
Community services provided
Infrastructure improvements

Economic Importance Analysis
NONE PROVIDED

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project
Removing storm berm blockage of the Beluga Slough outlet prevents flooding of Beluga Slough which compromises city stormwater and sewer infrastructure. Reducing or mitigating threats to city infrastructure is part of the City's responsibility to maintain the services to and safety of its residents.

The beluga slough hosts migrations of shorebirds which draws many visitors to this location. During the last flood event, many residents and visitors were concerned about the impact to the shorebird habitat because of permanent inundation of the inter-tidal habitat. Maintaining tidal flushing of the slough keeps shorebirds in this location improving the experience of visiting birders, which in tern is benefits the local economy and boosts social events centered around shorebird migration.

Description of Social or Economic Importance, if needed
NONE PROVIDED
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

List of Other Permits or Certificates

*Would include but is not restricted to zoning, building, and flood plain permits.

Include a list of all other federal, interstate, tribal, state, territorial, or local agency authorizations required for the proposed project, including all approvals or denials already received.

Agency	Type of Approval*	Identification Number	Date Applied	Date Approved	Date Denied
ADFG	Fish Habitat Permit	FH25-V-0193	10/01/2025	11/06/2025	*NONE PROVIDED*
ADFG	Special Area Permit	SA25-V-0194	10/01/2025	11/06/2025	*NONE PROVIDED*
USACE	PCN	POA - 2022 - 00977	10/16/2025	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*
USFWS	Email Communication	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*	10/15/2025	*NONE PROVIDED*

Other Agency or Local Contacts (1 of 3)

Contact Role
OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name Kaitlynn **Last Name** Cafferty

Title
Kenai Peninsula Area Manager

Organization Name
AK Department of Fish and Game

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-953-3040	

Email
kaitlynn.cafferty@alaska.gov

Other Agency or Local Contacts (2 of 3)

Contact Role
OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name	Last Name
Wayne	Haimes

Title
Habitat Biologist

Organization Name
AK Department of Fish and Game

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-714-2478	

Email
wayne.haimes@alaska.gov

Other Agency or Local Contacts (3 of 3)

Contact Role
OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name	Last Name
Jeff	Williams

Title
Refuge Manager

Organization Name
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-290-5225	

Email
jeff_williams@fw.gov

Attachments

Copy of Federal Application (USACE, EPA, or FERC, etc.)
Eng_Form_4345_2022Sep Signed.pdf - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
SA25-V-0194_City of Homer_Dredging_KBCHA.pdf - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
25-V-0193_City of Homer_Dredging_Beluga Slough.pdf - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
Pages from Re [EXTERNAL] RE Beluga Slough outlet, long term maintenance.pdf - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

Figures and/or Drawings/Plan Sets. To include a map or diagram of the proposed activity site, including the proposed activity boundaries in relation to local streets, roads, and highways.
PHOTO EAST VIEW.pdf - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
Construction_9_16_25.pdf - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
Access_Corrected.pdf - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
Dike East Perspective.pdf - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
Stormberm_North View.pdf - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
BelugaSlough_North View.pdf - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
PHOTO WestVIEW.pdf - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
BelugaSlough_North View.pdf - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
LargeScale_NaturalFeaturesMap_9_16_25.pdf - 01/12/2026 12:57 PM
Comment
The photos provided are from the spring of 2024. Approval was granted to excavate storm berm after the bird nesting season of 2024.

Document Attachments
NONE PROVIDED
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

Delegation of Authority for Submission of Application

NONE PROVIDED

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

As per 18 AAC 15.030 signing of applications, all permit or approval applications must be signed as follows:
1) in the case of corporations, by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president or his duly authorized representative, if the representative is responsible for the overall management of the project or operation;
2) in the case of a partnership, by a general partner;
3) in the case of a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor; and
4) in the case of a municipal, state, federal or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other duly authorized employee.
The project proponent hereby certifies that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. The project proponent hereby requests that the certifying authority review and take action on this CWA 401 certification request within the applicable reasonable period of time.

Agreements and Signature(s)

As per 18 AAC 15.030 signing of applications, all permit or approval applications must be signed as follows:
1) in the case of corporations, by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president or his duly authorized representative, if the representative is responsible for the overall management of the project or operation;
2) in the case of a partnership, by a general partner;
3) in the case of a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor; and
4) in the case of a municipal, state, federal or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other duly authorized employee.
The project proponent hereby certifies that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. The project proponent hereby requests that the certifying authority review and take action on this CWA 401 certification request within the applicable reasonable period of time.

Signed By ayeaton@ci.homer.ak.us ayeaton@ci.homer.ak.us on 01/12/2026 at 2:28 PM