

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2026-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL IDENTIFYING THE CITY OF UNALASKA'S FEDERAL PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska annually identifies federal priorities to guide engagement with the Alaska Congressional Delegation and federal agencies, including project requests, programmatic needs, and policy issues affecting the community and the commercial fishing industry; and

WHEREAS, Captains Bay Road is a heavily used commercial corridor vital to the community's economic welfare, with safety concerns and economic development potential requiring road improvements and utility upgrades; and

WHEREAS, Unalaska's shoreline is threatened by serious erosion at multiple locations, placing critical infrastructure and public and private property at risk and necessitating a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Erosion Feasibility Study; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Ounalashka Corporation have successfully secured EPA Brownfields funding for assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites resulting from historic military activity, and continued federal support is needed to advance this work; and

WHEREAS, the City and Matson Navigation Company of Alaska are collaborating on a project to replace major port infrastructure, including the ship-to-shore crane at the Unalaska Marine Center Dock, which is essential to maintaining efficient cargo operations and reducing costly delays caused by equipment failures; and

WHEREAS, Unalaska is a remote island community located more than 800 miles from Anchorage with no road access and a single airport, making reliable and affordable air transportation essential to public safety, workforce stability, education, and the continued operation of the nation's largest commercial fishing port; and

WHEREAS, severe Aleutian weather, limited navigational aids, and the absence of alternate airports frequently result in flight cancellations, extended passenger backlogs, reliance on a single carrier, and some of the highest airfares in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City remains committed to long term energy resilience and supports continued investigation of the Makushin Geothermal resource to meet future community and industry power needs; and

WHEREAS, the seafood harvesting and processing industry is the economic driver of Unalaska, and sufficient federal funding for NOAA fisheries surveys is essential to maintain sustainable harvest levels and protect the region's economic stability; and

WHEREAS, Unalaska and its residents experienced a severe storm in December 2025 that damaged airport infrastructure, exacerbated coastal erosion, and disrupted communications, underscoring the need for federal support for recovery and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, access to healthcare remains a critical priority for the community, and Iliuliuk Family & Health Services (IFHS), operating in an IFHS owned facility on City owned land, provides essential emergency and after hours care but faces facility and equipment limitations that restrict its ability to bill insurance and expand preventive services; and

WHEREAS, public broadcasting is a vital component of emergency communications and community information in remote Alaska, and KUCB serves as Unalaska's Emergency Alert System (EAS) LP 1 station and sole real time local news source; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Unalaska hereby identifies its federal legislative priorities as:

CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING PRIORITIES

1. Captains Bay Road Paving – \$5 Million CDS Request
 - Support federal funding to reconstruct and pave Captains Bay Road, a critical commercial corridor whose deteriorating condition and utility needs directly affect safety, port operations, and the economic vitality of the nation's largest commercial fishing port, a critical component of the national seafood supply chain.
2. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Erosion Feasibility Study – \$1 Million
 - Support federal funding for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study to address severe coastal erosion threatening public infrastructure, utilities, transportation corridors, and private property across multiple locations in Unalaska.
3. IFHS Mammography Suite Equipment – \$700,000 CDS Request
 - Support federal funding for the purchase and implementation of a mammogram machine, initial technician support, and radiology cross training for installation in the City owned IFHS clinic facility. This project will expand access to preventive care, reduce significant travel costs for residents, and enable IFHS to meet federal and insurance billing requirements as part of its ongoing facility expansion scheduled for completion in 2026.
4. Unalaska Marine Center (UMC) Port Infrastructure Project – Support MARAD PIDP Grant Application
 - Support federal funding for replacement of the ship-to-shore crane and associated port infrastructure improvements at the Unalaska Marine Center

Dock, in partnership with Matson Navigation Company of Alaska, to enhance cargo reliability and reduce operational disruptions.

5. Geothermal Energy Investigations

- Support federal investment in continued investigation and testing of the Makushin Geothermal resource to advance long-term energy resilience and provide renewable, cost-stable power for community and industry needs.

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

1. AIRPORT & AIR SERVICE

- Advocate for federal support to improve the reliability, resilience, and affordability of air service to Unalaska through existing U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration programs, including the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP), Airport Improvement Program (AIP), Supplemental Discretionary Grants, and other federal initiatives that enhance weather resilience, operational reliability, and long term service stability for remote communities. Recent severe weather events, including the December 2025 storm, further underscored the fragility of Unalaska's air transportation system and the need for federal investment in reliability and recovery capacity. Work cooperatively with regional partners and air carriers to pursue federal resources that strengthen Unalaska's air transportation system.
- Remain attentive to regional discussions regarding the Essential Air Service (EAS) program and explore any future federal pathways that may emerge, while recognizing that current federal statute significantly limits Unalaska's ability to participate in EAS. The City views this as a long term, exploratory issue and will continue coordinating with federal partners and Aleutian communities to evaluate any opportunities that could support long term reliability and affordability.
- Support federal funding for capital, safety, and operational improvements at Tom Madsen Airport, including terminal modernization, airfield safety area improvements, weather and navigational upgrades where feasible, and infrastructure that enhances reliability and recovery capacity following prolonged disruptions.

2. HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Support federal funding for healthcare infrastructure and equipment that strengthens emergency, preventive, and after hours medical services in Unalaska. The City recognizes the importance of modernizing the IFHS facility and supports federal investment that enables the clinic to meet billing requirements, expand diagnostic capacity, and improve long term healthcare access for the community.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP & CONTAMINATED LANDS

- Support full federal funding for EPA's Brownfields and ANCSA Contaminated Lands Programs in the FY27 appropriations process. The City further supports and aligns with the Ounalashka Corporation in pursuing federal resources for site assessments and cleanup of contaminated lands in Unalaska, and urges Delegation support for any grant submissions by these entities or the City.

4. FISHERIES PRIORITIES

- Support continuance and strict enforcement of the Russian Seafood Import Ban, including preventing rerouting through third party countries, and urge the European Union to adopt similar restrictions.
- Support the fisheries management process under the Magnuson Stevens Act and oppose judicially or legislatively mandated bycatch standards for groundfish fisheries under the jurisdiction of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.
- Support full implementation of Executive Order 13921 – Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness.
- Support sufficient federal funding for NOAA fisheries surveys to ensure adequate data collection for sustainable quota and harvest levels in BSAI fisheries.

5. PUBLIC BROADCASTING & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

- Support restoration and protection of federal funding for rural public broadcasting, recognizing its essential role in emergency communications, public safety, and real time community information in remote Alaska. KUCB serves as Unalaska's Emergency Alert System (EAS) LP 1 station and the community's sole local broadcast news source. Reliable public broadcasting infrastructure is critical for severe weather alerts, maritime safety information, and timely communication during disruptions.

6. DISASTER RELIEF

- Support federal recovery and mitigation funding from appropriate agencies, should the Governor approve and forward the City's disaster relief request related to the December 2025 storms, and request Delegation support for any necessary appropriations.

TOP CAPITAL PRIORITY

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Unalaska identifies the Captains Bay Road Paving Project as its top capital project funding priority.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on February 10, 2026.



Alejandro R. Tungul
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Estkaflen P. Magdaong, CMC
City Clerk



MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Abner Hoage, Interim City Manager
Date: February 10, 2026
Re: Resolution 2026-08: Identifying the City of Unalaska's Federal Priorities for Fiscal Year 2027

SUMMARY: Resolution 2026-08 presents the City's recommended federal priorities for Fiscal Year 2027, including capital project requests, programmatic priorities, and policy issues that directly affect Unalaska's transportation, infrastructure, healthcare, fisheries, and community resilience. These priorities were developed in coordination with our federal lobbyists, Sebastian O'Kelly and Rick Marks, and reflect Council's direction from the January 27 Work Session. The resolution will guide preparation for the March Washington, D.C. visit and inform the City's submissions for the FY27 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) and programmatic appropriations cycle.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: Council last adopted a Federal Priorities resolution in February 2025 (Resolution 2025-09), which identified capital and programmatic priorities for the FY26–27 cycle. A copy of that resolution is attached for reference.

BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION: The revised Resolution 2026-08 incorporates several updates based on Council feedback from the January 27 Work Session, new information from community partners, and strategic guidance from our federal lobbyists:

Capital Projects:

The list now includes five CDS-eligible projects: Captains Bay Road, the Coastal Erosion Feasibility Study, the IFHS Mammography Suite Equipment request, the Unalaska Marine Center ship-to-shore crane replacement (PIDP), and continued geothermal investigations. Summary descriptions have been added for clarity.

Healthcare Infrastructure:

A new section highlights the community's healthcare needs and supports federal investment in IFHS facility modernization and diagnostic capacity, including the FY27 CDS request for a mammography machine and implementation support.

Airport & Air Service:

This section has been expanded to reflect Council's broader concerns regarding reliability, resilience, and affordability of air service. It includes advocacy for federal programs such as SCASDP, AIP, and FAA discretionary grants, as well as a realistic, long-term posture regarding potential future EAS eligibility.

Environmental Cleanup:

The contaminated lands priority has been reframed as a programmatic request, consistent with federal appropriations structure and lobbyist guidance. I also spoke with Natalie Cale, CEO of the Ounalashka Corporation, who confirmed that OC supports this approach and agrees that a programmatic request is the most appropriate mechanism for advancing contaminated lands work.

Public Broadcasting:

A new priority has been added recognizing the essential role of KUCB as the community's EAS LP-1 station and sole real-time local news source and supporting restoration of federal funding for rural public broadcasting.

Fisheries and Disaster Relief:

These sections carry forward long-standing City positions with updated context.

Although our lobbyists will not be present at the February 10 meeting, they will prepare the detailed briefing materials for the March D.C. visit and will incorporate Council's adopted priorities into those documents.

ALTERNATIVES: Council may adopt the resolution as presented, modify the priorities, or request additional changes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Adoption of the resolution has no direct financial impact. Federal funding secured through these priorities may reduce future City expenditures on capital projects and community services.

LEGAL: No legal review required.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move to adopt Resolution 2026-08.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: I appreciate Council's engagement and direction throughout this process. The revised resolution reflects a balanced and realistic federal strategy that advances Unalaska's highest priorities while positioning the City and our partners for success in the FY27 appropriations cycle. I look forward to Council's discussion this evening and to working with our lobbyists to prepare for the March D.C. visit.

ATTACHMENT: Resolution 2025-09 (last year's priorities)