



STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Commissioner

Sarah Palin, Governor
Emil Notti, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 5, 2007

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Land settlement reached for Tyonek community expansion lands.

(Anchorage). The State of Alaska and the Tyonek Native Corporation finalized an agreement last week on the setting aside of certain lands for community expansion in Tyonek, Alaska. Tyonek is a small Native village forty five miles west of Anchorage located on a bluff above Cook Inlet. The Tyonek Native Corporation (TNC) and the Native Village of Tyonek believe that resource development could occur in the Tyonek area in the coming years. Leaders at TNC and the Village considered several strategies to minimize the negative impacts that resource development may have on Tyonek. Tyonek residents feel strongly that their way of life should not be adversely affected by the changes that may occur on nearby lands.

The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development is involved in this effort as one of the strategies to minimize the negative impacts, utilizing Section 14(c)(3) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. This provision of the law requires that TNC make land available for the needs of the existing community and a possible city that could form. In unincorporated communities like Tyonek, the law calls for the State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) to oversee the process and serve as a Trustee for the community lands. In order to consider what lands might be appropriate for community use in Tyonek, DCCED gathered aerial photography and mapping data sets that provided information on land use, ownership and land suitability. TNC and the Village Council reviewed this information before approving a conceptual layout of lands that could be used for future community development. After several informational meetings in Tyonek, residents passed a resolution approving the proposed community land settlement. The "map of boundaries" identifying the land called for in the settlement agreement will soon be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management for surveying and platting.

Commissioner Emil Notti stated, "We encourage villages to use the 14(c)(3) provision of ANCSA to address change in their communities and plan for the future. TNC and the Native Village of Tyonek are working to keep their traditional ways while also providing new opportunities for residents and shareholders and providing for orderly growth and development."

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