



## Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association

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### **APICDA Wraps Up 2020 with 19 Community Projects Funded and New Programs Established**

**Juneau, Alaska** – The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) funded a broad range of community and economic development initiatives in 2020 to support infrastructure, housing, health and safety, education, and increased fisheries access for residents in their Community Development Quota (CDQ) member communities.

The APICDA board approved 19 projects for funding in 2020 through their Community Development Grant Program (CDGP). Since its inception in June 2019, this program has awarded a total of \$3,190,917 for initiatives in Atka, Akutan, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski, False Pass and St. George. A wide range of projects were funded including essential water utility upgrades in Nikolski, matching funds for the replacement of the health clinic in Atka, and an energy assistance program for residents in Nelson Lagoon.

As Nikki Hoblet, Mayor of the City of False Pass, explains, “We built a residential duplex to attract new families to False Pass with APICDA’s Community Development Grant Program funding. The lack of family housing in our community has directly affected the stability of our school due to low enrollment. False Pass can now welcome new families to ensure our school remains open, which also encourages established families to stay. Addressing the lack of housing has been a priority for a long time, our community is deeply grateful to APICDA for making the funding available.”

The organization also launched several new programs in 2020 to help address COVID-19 pandemic-related hardships and to support its small boat fisheries in the Aleutian-Pribilof region. In St. George, an emergency relief program was offered to captains and deckhands to mitigate the financial impact of the processing plant suspension due to COVID concerns during the halibut fishery. Over the past year, APICDA’s board also approved a new college and vocational scholarship for the region, a new gear reimbursement grant and revised its large-project Infrastructure Grant program that contributed \$800,000 for projects in False Pass and Atka.

“During this challenging time, APICDA has remained focused on identifying ways to increase and adapt our program offerings and direct CDQ resources to address growing needs in our communities, and we are excited to continue these efforts in 2021,” said Luke Fanning, APICDA’s CEO.

In June, APICDA merged Prowler Fisheries (a wholly owned subsidiary), with Aleutian Spray Fisheries to form the Aleutian Longline Company (ALC). Strategic investment decisions like the ALC merger have

allowed APICDA to significantly increase contributions to its member communities and expand its program offerings over the last two years.

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APICDA is a non-profit dedicated to strengthening local fisheries-based economies through increasing direct fisheries participation in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, building support infrastructure, and offering programs to assist the advancement of priority initiatives in its six member communities in the Aleutian-Pribilof region of Alaska. APICDA is one of six western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) organizations. The CDQ Program allocates a percentage of all Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands quotas for groundfish, prohibited species, halibut, and crab to eligible communities. The purpose of the CDQ Program is to provide eligible western Alaska villages with the opportunity to participate and invest in fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, alleviate poverty and provide economic and social benefits for residents of western Alaska.