

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska SeaLife Center****Federal Tax ID: 92-0132479****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

Alaska SeaLife Center - Critical Building and Equipment Repairs, Upgrades and Replacements

State Funding Requested: \$650,000**House District: Kenai Areawide (28-30)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

This request provides for a number of critical building and equipment repairs, upgrades and replacements throughout the Alaska SeaLife Center, including replacement of outdated IT and maintenance equipment, vessel repairs, pump repair and replacement, vehicle replacement and rock work in animal habitats.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$650,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$650,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**We are unable to secure financing for this project.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC) has been operating for 15 years. Critical building systems and infrastructure are requiring increasing maintenance or must be upgraded due to advances in technology or constant operation in a harsh saltwater environment. While these upgrades are presented as separate components, they collectively represent a singular facility improvement that is vital to the long-term sustainability of the Center. This project supports several major maintenance, repair and replacement needs at the Alaska SeaLife Center, including but not limited to:

1. Pumps Repair and Replacement

ASLC depends on a complex system of pumps to circulate seawater and freshwater throughout the facility. Seven saltwater supply pumps and four contaminant/waste discharge pumps work do most of the work, and run 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The pumps and associated hardware are aging quickly and we frequently need to take pumps out of service for repair. If the condition worsens, we may lose the ability to meet the water flow requirements for the health of our animals and staff. Funding is requested to provide for repair and replacement of these vital pumps.

2. Boom Lift Replacement

As a structure nearly three stories tall, the ASLC makes extensive use of boom lifts/cherry pickers. The boom lift ASLC had used for years outlived its useful life in 2011, leaving us unable to perform both critical and routine maintenance and repairs throughout the facility. There are no suitable rental lifts available locally, so purchasing a unit is our only option.

**\$450,000
Approved**

3. Vehicle Replacement

Funding is requested to replace the plow truck and two other vehicles in the ASLC fleet, which are either over 10 years old or have more than 100,000 miles on them. These vehicles are critical to the continued operation of the Center and are used on a daily basis, often on hazardous road conditions along the Seward Highway. Keeping the vehicles in safe working condition is no longer cost-effective and unnecessarily puts staff safety at risk.

4. Server Room Fire Suppression System

When the ASLC was constructed the server room was equipped with a standard water-based sprinkler system. In the event of a fire the system would help limit the spread of fire throughout the building, but would also likely destroy all the servers and the data they contain. Funding is needed to retrofit the server room with a clean agent fixed system that would provide fire protection without damaging servers and data. The ASLC board of directors has deemed this to be of the utmost priority.

5. Upgrading IT Infrastructure

The ASLC network currently has 21 servers supporting numerous databases, video and graphics processing, remote controlled video cameras, laboratory data acquisition systems, and distance education. As many as eight of these servers that are critical to the network are at end-of-life (EOL) or no longer adequate to fulfill required duties. Additional funding is needed to replace up to 60 individual workstations throughout the building, many of which are over seven years old and struggling to keep up with the demands of current software and processing demands. An in-depth analysis of the Center's IT infrastructure needs has deemed these to be another high priority.

6. Engines for boats

To support field research and collection of display animals, we operate four different vessels. We are requesting engine replacements for the two most heavily used vessels, Jubatus and Sea Searcher. As the workhorse of the Alaska SeaLife Center fleet, the Jubatus' current 2002 Honda 4-stroke, 115 HP engines are in need of replacement. The Sea Searcher's current 2002 Yamaha 4-stroke, 200 HP engine is also in need of replacement. The engines are well maintained but are getting close to "end of expected life" at 1000 hours. Considering the remote nature of our diving, and a relatively unforgiving marine environment, the reliable function of these engines is paramount to the safety of the crew, visiting scientists, graduate students, and scientific divers.

7. Rock Work in Animal Habitats

Rock work installed in the marine mammal habitats during construction of the building have deteriorated. Concrete spalling in these habitats has been temporarily patched over the last several years, but is in need of major repair. This condition represents a potential permitting and animal safety issue which if not repaired could force us to close the habitats.

Project Timeline:

This project can be completed and fully expended within one year of receipt of funding.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Alaska SeaLife Center

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No