



# CITY OF SAINT PAUL

## ALASKA

February 1, 2024

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RE: City of Saint Paul Comments on the St. Paul Island Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: 2024-2028

Aang:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the St. Paul Island CEDS.

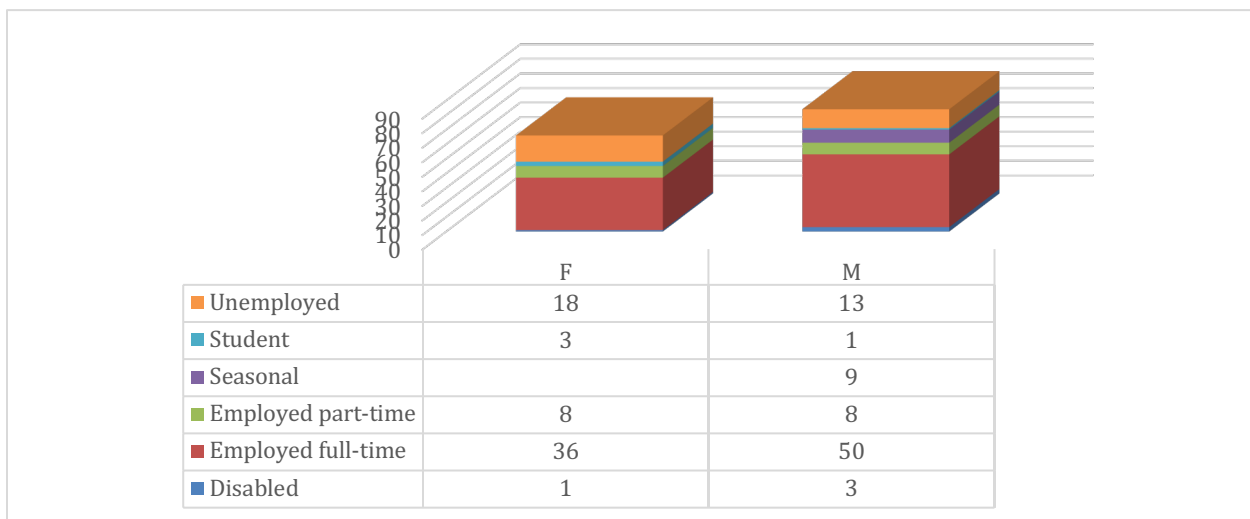
The City of Saint Paul administration has reviewed the draft CEDS documents and has made several comments and suggested changes in the attached Word version of the document using track changes.

Additionally, on December 11, 2023, the City Council held a workshop to review the CEDS. All council members were present as well as Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk and myself. Below is a list of general comments from this workshop. We have incorporated some of these comments in the attached Word CEDS document.

- Strategies 15 and 20 are linked. A big factor of those not able to maintain employment seems to be substance abuse.
- A career counselor, school readiness preparation is a need as part of a workforce development program.
- It is unlikely to develop a cod fishery. We would need a high volume for any other fisheries to work here. We cannot get additional quota as a CDQ group. Best to take out community quota items, CBSFA already has a loan program available. What is there to explore if already exists?
- Action 3a - Boat tours, should go under tourism as a separate item – summer is the time to do these activities and that is the time most are fishing.
- Add a vocational education section to put all the education and teaching under one.
- Mariculture Goal - a feasibility study is needed to help guide the investments and evaluate what makes sense to do here.
- The research goal is not broad enough to cover the strategies and actions that are listed in this section. Some items need to be in workforce development. So here the focus can be on infrastructure. The goal does not match the strategies; 6a comes to a conclusion, we recommend changing to assess current status of ecosystem.
- Actions 6a through 6c do not seem accomplishable in 5 years.
- The tourism goal is framed in terms of progress, a good goal.

- What would it take for the extension of the US Marine Highway system to include Saint Paul and getting a ferry service here? Update feasibility study.
- Arctic opportunities-14d, it is a state-owned runway, who is going to do it? Experience is military installments don't allow public entities to use their equipment. Evaluate what the needs are for airport improvement.
- Community foundation-establish a break-even plan for the store.
- 15d-expand what is meant, is it childcare explicit? It's a real issue and the workforce is impacted.
- There needs to be a strategy to improve quality of life for the residents. This strategy needs to be developed by the residents.
- Page 12 Saint George Island is circled instead of Saint Paul Island.

The demographic data should use local data collected and maintained by the City via the City Clerk's office. Analysis of this data should be considered when developing and projects, programs, or services, especially workforce development programs. The City can provide a spreadsheet with this data to Agnew Beck. Below is a graph that shows employment status of residents between the ages of 19-54 years of age by gender:



Additional analysis can be performed for the demographic data maintained by the City that will inform planning efforts and implementation of the CEDS.

The following new goals should be added:

- Infrastructure Improvement and Expansion – See attached Word document for details.
- Community-Wide Workforce Development Strategy and Plan
- Small Business Development Plan and Support

The City recommends development of a local economic indicator matrix to evaluate the proposed CEDS Goals, Strategies, Actions and Projects to determine their actual contributions to the economy of Saint Paul Island and potential for developing the economy of the island. Some of the recommended economic indicator categories include Balanced Growth, Revitalization, and Sustainability; Business Activity; Employment; Infrastructure; Housing; Income; Industry Types;

Quality of Life; and Tax Revenue. I can share more details of this matrix and work with the partners to expand upon how to use a matrix to evaluate the proposed Goals, Strategies, Actions and Projects. Some of the proposed Goals, Strategies, Actions and Projects may not actually contribute the development and growth of the Saint Paul Island economy and may take away from or compete with limited resources, so such a matrix will be useful to inform planning efforts and implementation of the CEDS.

For the City to officially sign onto this document, the city council will need to approve a resolution adopting the CEDS.

Sincerely,



Phillip A. Zavadil, City Manager

Enclosures:

- CEDS document with City comments and changes
- Infrastructure Improvement and Expansion Goal, Strategies, Actions
- Community-Wide Workforce Development Goal, Strategies, Actions
- Small Business Development Plan and Support Goal, Strategies, Actions

Cc. Saint Paul City Council  
Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk, City of Saint Paul  
Stephanie Mandregan, Finance Director, City of Saint Paul  
Lynn Sterbenz, Project/Grants Specialist, City of Saint Paul  
John Wayne Melovidov, President, Aleut Community of Saint Paul  
Ray Melovidov, President, Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association  
Michael Baldwin, Superintendent/Principal, Pribilof School District  
Christopher Mandregan, CEO, Tanadgusix Corporation