



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES CBS

LANDS NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT...

STATE PARCELS SELECTED FOR FUTURE GROWTH

CBS requests the State of Alaska transfer ownership of four land parcels located adjacent the Sitka road system. These parcels have been identified as prime areas for community development. The parcels are known as Millersville, DOE parcel at the end of Seward Avenue, Indian River Valley parcel and Starrigavan/Katlian Bay parcel.

STATE FUNDING FOR STATE FACILITIES...

SUPPORT FOR STATE SERVICES AT SITKA JAIL FACILITIES

Sitka's contract is not sufficient to sustain jail operations. CBS requests the State of Alaska to fund the Community Jail Contract at its previous level of \$695,000. By law, the State is responsible for caring for persons charged under State law: 89% of our inmates fall into this category. Costs for personnel, food and laundry services have all risen sharply.

ADOPTION OF A SUSTAINABLE BUDGET...

WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE A LONG TERM FISCAL POLICY

CBS requests that Alaska Legislators work together to develop a sustainable and balanced budget that allows municipalities to plan for the future. Lack of a comprehensive budget plan has adversely impacted public safety, infrastructure maintenance, education and other key services.

CONTINUED STATE SUPPORT TO MUNICIPALITIES...

LONG TERM FUNDING SOURCE TO SUSTAIN COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE REVENUE

CBS requests the State of Alaska continue the current level of the Community Assistance Program and develop a long term funding source on which municipalities can rely. Prolonged budget level uncertainties are causing severe difficulties for Sitka and other local governments.

MANAGING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKFORCE...

NO INCREASE TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM CONTRIBUTIONS

CBS requests the State of Alaska maintain the current level of 22% of the PERS/TRS unfunded liability. Municipalities currently pay the amount set by the State but requiring a larger percentage could drastically impact already stressed municipal budgets.

HIGHWAY TO SITKA...

PROVIDE EQUITABLE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SERVICE

CBS requests the AMHS provide adequate and consistent service to our 9,000 residents and the visitors of our community. The AMHS acts as Sitka's highway, providing core service critical to our economy. Ferry service needs to be increased to the same level as other mainline ports in Southeast Alaska.

FUNDING FOR SITKA SCHOOLS...

SCHOOL BOND DEBT REIMBURSEMENT

CBS requests the State of Alaska resume fully funding the School Bond Debt reimbursement program. The drastic decrease has left many communities, including Sitka, struggling to come up with revenue to balance the general obligation bonded debt.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES...

SUPPORT FOR THE MUNICIPAL HARBOR GRANT PROGRAM

CBS requests the State of Alaska fully fund the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2020 State Capital Budget to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity for coastal communities. Municipalities have committed significant match for projects of local importance.

QUALITY EDUCATION IS OUR FUTURE...

SUPPORT OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CBS requests the State of Alaska recognize the increasing costs facing our schools and maintain the funds allotted for FY 2020, with consideration of further forward-funding for the future. Sitka's schools are struggling economically, which affects staffing and student instruction.

**PREPARING ESSENTIAL WATER
SERVICE FOR TIMES OF
MAINTENANCE OR EMERGENCY ...**

**CRITICAL SECONDARY WATER TREATMENT
BLUE LAKE PENSTOCK SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE**

CBS obtains 100% of its drinking water and 60% of its electricity from Blue Lake. The Blue Lake Dam is one of the most essential pieces of infrastructure within the community and it is crucial that we maintain the dam penstock system infrastructure and the water conveyance system. In order to provide water when the Blue Lake penstock system is being maintained or Blue Lake water quality does not meet the standards of the CBS filtration avoidance waiver, CBS is planning to install a critical secondary water treatment system. The proposed project would draw water from Sawmill Creek and treat it in a new filter plant located adjacent to the existing Ultraviolet Radiation (UV) Water Treatment Plant.

In 2013 and 2014, CBS spent \$145,000,000 to raise the height of the Blue Lake Dam from 145 feet to 228 feet and increase renewable power generation by 16 megawatts. To protect this investment in the hydroelectric project and in accordance with FERC requirements, CBS will at 5-year intervals shut down the penstock system for maintenance and cleaning. During these maintenance periods, CBS will be without a source of raw water.

Blue Lake surface water is the source for the community's drinking water, and CBS has experienced several high source water turbidity readings during recent large storm events. Future high turbidity readings would require filtration to ensure State and Federal water quality regulations are met.

CBS has completed an analysis outlining various alternative water source solutions including an alternative water transmission line, a permanent treatment facility or a groundwater secondary water supply.

Funding for this critical infrastructure project ensures that various State and Federal regulations will be met and that the citizens of Sitka will have access to water in times of necessary infrastructure maintenance or emergency.

CBS requests \$18,000,000 to develop the critical secondary water treatment.

Total Project Cost...\$18,000,000 (100%)
FY 2020 State Funding Request...\$18,000,000(100%)

