U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Aviation
Administration

FAA Alaskan Region
ATO WSA Engineering Services

222 W. 7th Avenue, Box 14
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7587

February 22, 2019

Shane Guan, Ph.D.
National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Protected Resources
1315 East-West Highway, SSMC-3, Suite 13700
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: **Incidental Harassment Authorization Renewal Request**
Biorka Island Dock Replacement, Symonds Bay

Dear Mr. Guan,

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was issued an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) on October 25, 2017 under Section 101(a)(5)(D) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act for unavoidable take (Level A and Level B harassment) associated with the Biorka Island Dock Replacement Project in Symonds Bay, Alaska. This IHA is valid from May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019 and is herein referred to as the 2018 IHA.

During project planning and permitting, it was assumed that in-water construction activities would be completed within a one year timeframe. However, due to the severe weather conditions at the project site, the contractor encountered substantial operational and construction challenges which caused major delays. As a result of on-going winter storms with very small work windows, the Contractor demobilized from the site in December 2018; they plan to return in spring 2019 to complete the work.

Environmental conditions at Biorka in April present substantial challenges to pile-driving and general construction. It is not anticipated that the remaining work can be completed before the 2018 IHA expiration date of April 30, 2019; therefore, the FAA is requesting an IHA that would cover a subset of the take authorized in the 2018 IHA. The scope of the project remains the same as prescribed in FAA's initial IHA application. Should you have questions about this packet, please contact Kristi McLean of R&M Consultants at 907-646-9689 or kmclean@rmconsult.com.

Sincerely,

John Louie
Environmental Engineer
FAA WSA Engineering Services-Anchorage
AJW-2W15Q