



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



OCT 15 2010

Ms. Heather Pichter
President, Edna Bay, Alaska
General Delivery
Edna Bay, Alaska 99950

Dear Ms. Pichter:

Thank you for your September 13, 2010, letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar requesting immediate conveyance of land to Sealaska Corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Secretary Salazar has asked me to respond to your letter.

The Bureau of Land Management honors the responsibility of finalizing land entitlements and claims due Native corporations, Alaska Native individuals, and the State of Alaska under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA), the Native Allotment Act of 1906, the Alaska Native Veteran's Allotment Act of 1998, and the Alaska Statehood Act of 1959. Sealaska filed its final land selection on June 10, 2008, in compliance with the deadline set by the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act of 2004. In that letter, Sealaska requested that the BLM delay conveyance of remaining entitlements, pending the outcome of proposed federal legislation, S. 881 and H.R. 2099, the Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization Act. The BLM has complied with the corporation's request.

I appreciate your concerns and the concerns of those who signed the September 13 letter. I assure you the timely conveyance of Sealaska's 85,000-acre entitlement is important to BLM, as is the conveyances of each remaining entitlement. We continue to work closely with our land transfer clients to balance remaining work and meet client priorities.

We sent a copy of your letter to Sealaska and placed another in our files. If you have additional questions please contact Ramona Chinn, Deputy State Director, Alaska Lands, at 907-271-3806.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Abbey
Director

cc:
Sealaska Corporation
One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 400
Juneau, AK 99801