



NATIVE VILLAGE OF EKLUTNA

March 22, 2005

Mr. David C. Miller
Alaska Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
P.O. Box 21648
Juneau, Alaska 99802

RE: Knik Arm Crossing Project
State Project # 56047/58142, File # HDP-CA 0001-277/56047/58142

Dear Federal Highway Administration:

We received your March 17 initiating letter for NHPA Section 106 consultation for the Knik Arm Crossing Project. We thank you for inviting us earlier in the process.

We notice that the letter and "Project Consultation Options" form limits us to identify places that may be of traditional religious and cultural importance to our organization. Although there are or may be such resources present or within the vicinity of the proposed project, as well as significant historical interests and other cultural resources, and further consultation is requested, we reserve all our consultation rights, directives, and topics.

It is not clear what is meant on your form for Eklutna to talk to the Knik Arm Bridge & Toll Authority (Dale Paulson), and for Knik to talk to the Federal Highway Administration. We would like a copy of your agency's American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, formulated as a result of E.O. Here is part of another agency's language:

Recognizing that a unique and distinctive political relationship exists between the United States and the tribes that mandates that, whenever actions may have the potential to significantly affect protected tribal resources, tribal rights, or Indian lands, The agency must provide affected tribes an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process that will ensure these tribal interests are given due consideration in a manner consistent with tribal sovereign authority

Please provide your version before we schedule consultations.

Sincerely,
NATIVE VILLAGE OF EKLUTNA

by: *Lee Stephan*

Lee Stephan, CEO and Second Chief

cc: Ms Karen A. Schmidt
Mr. Dale Paulson, AKDOT&PF