Department of Fish and Game





DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION Southeast Region

> 802 3rd Street P.O. Box 110024 Juneau, Alaska 99811-0024 Main: 907.465.4148

January 31, 2024

Mr. Ryan Anderson, P.E. Commissioner Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 3132 Channel Drive Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Dear Mr. Anderson,

In 2007, the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) removed bald eagles from the list of threatened and endangered species, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BAGEPA) became the primary federal law protecting eagles. In 2009, the FWS published a rule under the BAGEPA authorizing a permit program that allows take of eagles under certain circumstances. The FWS has primary jurisdiction over eagles throughout the United States. However, Alaska also retains management and permitting authority, and eagle take as defined in the BAGEPA requires written authorization from both the FWS and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

The ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) recognizes that the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) commonly undertakes projects that are in the public's interest, but also have the potential to take or disturb bald eagles. We further recognize DOT&PF staff expends considerable effort to minimize effects of projects on eagles and to acquire FWS Eagle Take permits. Because DOT&PF projects already undergo review by the FWS and the public, we have determined that additional review of individual projects by DWC is unnecessary. Consequently, this letter of concurrence authorizes take or disturbance of bald eagles associated with all projects for which DOT&PF has acquired a FWS permit.

This authorization is valid through December 31, 2024 and may be renewed by submitting a request (paper or e-mail) to the DWC, Permits Section at <u>dfg.dwc.permits@alaska.gov</u> or P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526.

Sincerely,

Mark Burch.

Mark Burch Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation 1255 W. 8th StreetJuneau, AK 99811