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PRESS RELEASE

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Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation's wetlands mitigation bank—the North Slope's first compensatory mitigation resource.

Utqiaġvik, Alaska — Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation (UIC) is pleased to share that the Charles Etok Edwardsen, Jr. Wetlands Mitigation Bank (CEEMB)—established in late 2024 with partner Ecosystem Investment Partners (EIP)—is the first wetlands-mitigation resource on Alaska's North Slope. More than 1,000 mitigation credits are immediately available, giving project proponents a fast, Clean Water Act–compliant path to meet compensatory-mitigation requirements.

Beyond simplifying permitting and providing budget certainty to developers, the CEEMB channels net proceeds from credit sales into the UIC Land Development Fund, a portion of which supports new housing in Utqiaġvik and other UIC shareholder priorities. Nearly 2,300 acres within the Barrow Environmental Observatory (BEO) are permanently protected by conservation easement, remaining accessible to UIC shareholders for subsistence and cultural activities—safeguarding both the land and traditional rights for generations to come.

"*Launching this bank was a strategic goal and seeing it ready to serve North Slope developers is profoundly satisfying,*" said **UIC Board Chair Vernon James A. Edwardsen**. "*The CEEMB proves that sound business and cultural stewardship can go hand in hand.*"

UIC President and CEO Dr. Pearl K. Brower added, "*Bringing CEEMB online required the Board's vision, our team's Arctic expertise, and EIP's industry insight—yet the unwavering support of our shareholders remains the cornerstone of our success.*"

Developers can learn more or purchase credits at ecosystempartners.com or by contacting Joe Williams (joe@ecosystempartners.com). Additional information on the CEEMB is available online at uicalaska.com.

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About UIC: UIC is the Alaska Native Village Corporation of Utqiaġvik, Alaska and provides social and economic resources to over 4,000 Iñupiat shareholders and their descendants. Since its establishment, UIC has diversified its investments and consistently ranks among the top Alaskan-owned companies. UIC employs more than 4,400 people and provides services to clients in a variety of industries, including operations in Utqiaġvik, construction, architecture and engineering, regulatory consulting, information technology, marine operations, logistics, and maintenance and manufacturing. More information about UIC and its family of companies can be found at uicalaska.com.

***About EIP**:* EIP manages 59 projects across 15 states and has restored and conserved over 43,000 acres of wetlands, 220+ miles of streams, and has eliminated over 7,000 tons of nutrient and sediment pollution (as of 12/31/22). EIP's national footprint continues to expand. Learn more at ecosystempartners.com.