STATEMENT OF NEED

Unlimited Access to National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, Fagatele Bay via privately held lands in order to conduct Law Enforcement activities NOAA OLE PID and JEA Partners.

1.0 Organization

The Pacific Islands Division (PID) of the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC), is a government agency charged with the mission of enforcing laws, regulations and conservation measures supporting stewardship for living marine resources.

2.0 Background

The PID OLE and Joint Enforcement Agreement Partner (JEA) American Samoa (AS) Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) conducts land patrols to the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (NMSAS), Fagatele Bay on a regular basis. These patrols are to detect and deter possible violations of the MSA, ESA and MMPA. Access, by land, to the NMSAS Fagatele Bay is only available via privately held lands. Accessing Fagatele Bay requires a fee payable to the landowner.

2.1 Scope

NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), Pacific Island Division, Pago Pago Field Office together with Joint Enforcement Agreement Partner (JEA) Department of Marine and Wildlife Resource Division (DMWR) conduct sea patrols and land patrols to NMSAS Fagatele Bay regularly. The ability to gain unlimited access to Fagatele Bay in a consistent manner without delays, or rejections by the private landowner, is critical to enforcement and conservation activities. To address these circumstances, it is necessary to pay the landowner for access through their land.

2.2 Benefits

Implementation of this proposal will enhance NOAA OLE and DMWR's operational tempo within the NMSAS Fagatele Bay. The implementation of this proposal will provide better access, the ability to conduct monitoring activities; public education, and to detect, deter and cite possible violations occurring within the National Marine Sanctuary.

3.0 Service Required

The requirements to meet our objectives will include the following. The landowner shall perform any required work.

A. Provide unlimited access via privately held land.

B. Provide NOAA OLE PID the ability to add a coded padlock to the gate chain. This will ensure OLE and DMWR can access the land via vehicle or on foot at any time.

C. Ensure vehicle routes, footpaths and trails are maintained and accessible.

4.0 Points of Contact

The primary PID point of contact (POC) will be [redacted]. The POC ([redacted]) will accept delivery, perform inspection, and installation as required.

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