

Introduced by: Assembly Members and Mayor
Date: 01/02/24
Action: Adopted
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2024-001**

**A RESOLUTION URGING ADDITIONAL STATE OF ALASKA MATCH FUNDING
FOR THE HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION GENERAL INVESTIGATION STUDY IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$288,523**

- WHEREAS,** Homer’s Port & Harbor is a regional port, serving the needs of commercial vessels operating across southcentral and western Alaska, and the Arctic in the maritime industrial, marine transportation and commercial fishing industries and, over time, the increased demand for services provided by the Homer Port & Harbor has outgrown Homer harbor’s ability to safely and efficiently serve this fleet; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Homer (“City”) has identified a new large vessel port expansion among its highest ranked priority capital improvement projects since 2004 to (1) meet the growing needs of our commercial fleet, (2) address overcrowding and associated navigational safety concerns and high maintenance costs, and (3) support emerging regional and national economic opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** in recognition of this need, the City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) entered into a Federal Cost Share Agreement in March 2023 to initiate a Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation (“GI”) that investigates all planning aspects needed to build a large vessel harbor at the Homer Spit including, but not limited to: selecting a preferred design alternative and construction methods, evaluating social, economic and environmental factors, determining costs and conducting a cost benefit analysis; and
- WHEREAS,** the initial cost of the Homer Harbor Expansion GI study was set per the USACE Project Management Plan (PMP) at \$3,000,000, as a shared partnership between the USACE, the State of Alaska, and the City (\$1.5M federal/\$750,000 State of Alaska/\$750,000 City of Homer); and
- WHEREAS,** after reaching the study’s Alternatives and Measures Milestone, the USACE project development team updated the PMP to include two additional activities in the GI scope (geotechnical analysis and ship simulation) so that the study would have sufficient data to develop the most realistic benefit to cost ratio; and
- WHEREAS,** the additional work increases the cost of the GI study by \$1,154,093 to be similarly shared between the Federal and local partners; and

WHEREAS, the success and continuation of this project lies in continued active partnership and investment at the local, state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, Homer City Council passed Resolution 23-130 agreeing to the revised scope and cost of the GI under the PMP, stating it is prudent to continue to explore options for a harbor expansion to relieve congestion and improve navigational safety within Homer's Port and Harbor; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the shared local match partnership, Homer City Council Resolution 23-130 additionally expresses the City of Homer's intent to appropriate funds in the amount of \$288,524 for fifty percent of the required local sponsor match and to seek State matching funds for the remaining fifty percent; and

WHEREAS, investment in the GI aligns with the Kenai Peninsula Borough's Comprehensive Development Plan, which prioritizes Homer's large vessel harbor expansion in order to meet current moorage demand and improve the Kenai Peninsula's support capabilities to the regional and statewide marine transportation network; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this resolution is to state the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly's support of the completion of the GI study for the Homer Harbor Expansion project, and thereby take the next step in building a large vessel harbor that will support current moorage needs as well as emerging regional and national economic opportunities on the Kenai Peninsula;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Assembly urges the State of Alaska to provide \$288,523 in additional match funds in the FY25 State budget in order to fully fund local match requirements for the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation study in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Homer as the development of this public facility will help enhance safety and economic prosperity among the many Alaskan communities who depend on services operating out of Homer Port and Harbor.

SECTION 2. That a copy of this resolution will be sent to Governor Dunleavy.

SECTION 3. That a copy of this resolution will be sent to State Senator Jesse Bjorkman and State Senator Gary Stevens, State Representative Ben Carpenter, State Representative Justin Ruffridge, State Representative Louise Stutes, and State Representative Sarah Vance.

SECTION 4. That a copy of this resolution will be sent to the borough's congressional delegation.

SECTION 5. That this resolution is effective immediately.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 2ND DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.

Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tunseth, Tupper, Johnson
No: None
Absent: None