



# City of Homer

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Port and Harbor

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## Memorandum 14-005

TO: MAYOR BETH WYTHE & HOMER CITY COUNCIL  
THROUGH: WALT WREDE, CITY MANAGER  
FROM: BRYAN HAWKINS, PORT DIRECTOR/HARBORMASTER *BH*  
DATE: JANUARY 2, 2014  
SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT OF THE CITY-OWNED FISH WASTE GRINDER

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The City owns and manages a fish waste grinding facility, located on Fish Dock Road directly across from the Ice Plant. The fish grinder is connected to the City's fish waste outfall line facility, which picks up the waste from the grinder and pumps the effluent out into the bay at the terminus by the Pioneer Dock. Approximately 2 million pounds of fish waste, comprising of sport and commercial fish carcasses, is ground and pumped through the system annually.

All the grinder and outfall activities are permitted through ADEC. This permit outlines strict criteria for these activities, such as particulate size, sampling/ recording, and required annual dive surveys. The City is responsible for all reporting and compliance in order to maintain our outfall permit. The Fish Factory and Auction Block both have outfall use agreements with the City, which allows them to discharge into the City's outfall system under our permit. The City has managed the fish grinder facility in the past under a memorandum of agreement with the Fish Factory, who supplies the trained personnel to operate and perform some of the required maintenance on the machinery.

The fish grinder is an essential piece of equipment to our sport, commercial, and charter fish operations on the Spit. This equipment gets heavy use, and after 14 years of service my staff and I recommend that it is time to replace the grinder unit. In truth, there is no backup plan for handling the volume of fish carcasses we receive if the fish grinder were to break down for an extended period of time. It is our fear that the unit will not withstand another busy season and should be replaced during the slow season before it becomes an emergency.

Harbor Staff researched a multitude of price and availability options and determined that, from a cost/benefit standpoint, purchasing a direct replacement unit is the best option that we can recommend. Staff estimates the project cost to purchase and install a new hydraulic-driven Autio grinder in the fish grinder shed is \$35,000.00.

### Recommendation

Staff recommends appropriating monies from the Port and Harbor Reserves for the purchase and installation of a new hydraulic-driven Autio grinder.

Fiscal Note: \$35,000.00 from Port and Harbor Reserves 456-380