



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

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(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager
DATE: March 17, 2020
SUBJECT: City Manager Report

COVID-19 Response

With the rapidly changing nature of COVID-19 response and preparedness, I do not have a written briefing for you but am trying to send you daily email briefings and will have a verbal update to report under the City Manager's report at the meeting on Monday. As you are aware, the City of Homer stood up the Emergency Operations Center on Monday March 16th, and Mayor Castner issued a disaster declaration on Wednesday, March 18th. I have attached the latest press release from the City for updated information of closures of public facilities.

Postponements Due to COVID-19 Response Activates

Due to COVID-19 response activities, the following administrative activities have been postponed:

- Way Finding and Street Scape request for proposals is still in first draft form
- Request for Proposal for a Lobbyist is in draft form
- Preparations for Seawall worksession scheduled for March 31 have been suspended (will likely be cancelled)
- Procuring owners representative for Large Vessel Harbor project

Homer's Raw Water Transmission Main Replacement Funding Request

We are happy to announce that the State Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee (SHMAC) has ranked Homer's Raw Water Transmission Main Replacement project fifth among 51 complete and eligible projects totaling over \$54 million dollars under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Federal disaster recovery funds were made available for hazard mitigation projects after the 2018 Cook Inlet Alaska Earthquake. While our selection does not authorize funding to begin construction, it is a big step forward in the long FEMA/State funding process and a step closer to protecting our raw water supply infrastructure from seismic damage. The grant award amount is \$2,000,000, requires no local match and would replace the cast iron water main that delivers water from the water treatment plant into town, which is currently vulnerable to failure.

Summer Programing for Youth

Community Recreation is hopeful that by this summer services will be able to return as usual. When it does, there will be a great demand for social activities for kids. Community Recreation Manager Illg will be working to offer additional programs and opportunities for local youth during the summer months. He

believes within the existing budget Community Recreation can cover the hourly costs of a temporary youth recreation programmer for 20 hours a week for ten weeks (June, July and two weeks in August) Monday through Thursday, 10am-3pm. The total cost for this employee \$3,448, and Community Recreation expects revenue to exceed \$4,000. The program would offer indoor/outdoor sports related opportunities such as basketball, pickleball, soccer, youth fitness, etc. for youth participants. Community Recreation would be utilizing the Homer High School facilities and sports equipment. The initial age groups for new program would be 12-17 with the potential to expand for younger age children depending upon interest and space availability.

City Manager Transition

I will be working with City Staff and the Interim manager to transfer all duties and responsibilities of City Manager and Incident Command by Friday, April 3rd. As you recall, the original schedule detailed called for an April 3rd end date under the interim hire scenario. The changing nature of how we provide City services, including suspending some public services, has changed significantly the priorities for transitioning. I will be prioritizing ensuring the safety of employees and the ability to continue essential City services with the Interim Manager. Incident Command duties will shift to Chief Kirko, who has experience in this regard and has been serving as Emergency Management Director and Operations Section Chief during this response.

Refinancing Harbor Revenue Bonds

I have been notified by the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank the City has a decent taxable advance refinancing prospect in the 2013 harbor revenue bonds. There is the ability to restructure \$1.9 million and generate savings of \$188K. I have directed the Finance Director to work with Bond Counsel on exploring this possible savings for the Enterprise.

Enc:

March 18, 2018 Press Release

DR-4413 HMGP SHMAC Homer Raw Water Transmission Replacement Project

Hillcorp Terrasond Site Survey Study



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Administration

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NEWS RELEASE

Mayor Castner Declares Local Emergency

For immediate release March 18, 2020.

COH-COVID-19-003

At 2:30 pm today, Homer Mayor Ken Castner officially declared a Local Emergency in response to the confirmation of new cases of COVID-19 in Alaska and in support of COVID-9 prevention measures being implemented throughout the Borough and the State. Mayor Castner's declaration is effective for seven days and will go into effect until further notice only after City Council consideration and ratification at their regularly scheduled March 23rd meeting. Accommodations are being made at the Council meeting for proper social distancing and legislation in place to allow telephonic participation.

"The declaration elevates Homer's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to Level 3 status. Under this status, our EOC will continue response coordination under a unified command structure with South Peninsula Hospital, the local Division of Public Health, and other partners. It also activates the continuity of operations plans (COOP) for all City departments, which adds further precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID19) among the public and employees and helps ensure the continuation of essential City services," City Manager Katie Koester said.

Effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 5:00 pm, all City facilities will be closed to the public until further notice. City staff will still be available during regular business hours by telephone and email. Contact information can be found under each department listing on the City website: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov.

Police and fire and emergency medical services will continue to be provided in accordance with Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, state recommendations and area healthcare providers' protocols. Non-emergency concerns can be addressed by email or by calling Homer Police Department at 907-235-3150 or Homer Fire Department at 235-3155. Call 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.

"Though we're limiting our face-to-face interactions for now, please know that the City is making every effort to maintain essential government services to the public: street maintenance, public safety, water/sewer utilities, and critical administrative and legislative functions," said City Manager Koester.

"As Alaskans, we are resilient in times of adversity. The conditions we are facing are the same as every other population in the United States. Please exercise some patience and respect. Those that are providing the goods, services and care we need must remain healthy. That includes those working at our pharmacies and grocery stores. Protect yourselves: Be serious about the CDC guidance on hand washing and social distancing. Protect others: After travel outside of Alaska, please go directly home and enter a 14-day self-quarantine. Following these measures will do much to slow the possible spread of the infection on the Kenai Peninsula. Many lives will depend on it. Working together we'll get through this. For the best information go to coronavirus.alaska.gov or the City's website," Mayor Ken Castner.

Contact:

Jenny Carroll, Public Information Officer
907-435-3101 (office); 907-299-6645 (cell)
jcarroll@ci.homer.ak.us

Posted:

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov
Outside City Clerks Office at City Hall,
Homer Public Library & Harbormaster Office



City of Homer

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Office of the Mayor

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Declaration of a Local Emergency

March 18, 2020

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization has characterized a newly discovered Coronavirus, named COVID-19, as posing is significant threat to the world's population; and

WHEREAS, The particular traits and communicability of the virus are enough to predict a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has declared the pandemic to be a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, As the emergency response unfolds, measures have been taken that have disrupted the lives of many Americans and will cast lasting effects upon our communities' prosperity, physical health and mental health, as normalcy is supplanted by isolation and work stoppages; and

WHEREAS, The Kenai Peninsula Borough, acting under the statutory authority of AS 26.23,140, has declared a disaster emergency; and

WHEREAS, Homer City Manager, Katie Koester, acting in accordance with the City of Homer's Emergency Operations Plan, has requested I make this declaration;

NOW THEREFORE, I find that there exists a wide-spread financial and public health emergency that will require unexpected expenditures of public funds that should be separately accounted, to perhaps be eligible for Emergency Disaster Relief; and

FURTHERMORE, I request the Homer City Clerk disseminate this Declaration to the general public and the parties identified in the City of Homer's Emergency Operations Plan.

Ken Castner
Mayor, City of Homer, Alaska

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK



March 9, 2020

State of Alaska
Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
PO Box 5750
JBER, AK 99505

RE: DR-4413 HMGP SHMAC Ranking and Applicant Selection Notification

Dear Applicant,

Thank You for your project submissions under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the DR-4413, 2018 Cook Inlet Alaska Earthquake funding cycle.

We are happy to announce the State Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee (SHMAC) has ranked and prioritized 51 complete and eligible projects totaling over \$54 million dollars. The DR-4413-AK Final Ranking Sheet is attached.

SHMAC members' recommendations were reviewed by the DHS&EM leadership, State Hazard Mitigation Officer and the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR). The below listed project has been identified for submission to FEMA. This selection **does not authorize** you to start ordering materials or begin construction. If you have any questions please contact us.

Raw Water Transmission Main (RWTM) Replacement Project

Part of the FEMA/State process may entail further Requests for Information (RFI). Responding to these requests in a timely manner will help prevent delays in funding or the start of your project.

If you submitted projects that were not selected for funding this round and remain eligible, we will reach out to you for second round DR-4413 funding submission or other future funding opportunities.

I want to thank you all of the many long hours of work you contributed in identifying, developing and making these projects a reality. Should you have any questions or need assistance during this project please contact us.

Respectfully yours,

Sage McReynolds
HMGP Specialist
Department of Veteran & Military Affairs
Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
PO Box 5750
JBER, AK 99505-5750
Phone: (601) 218-4038



Terrasond Site Survey Study

• Purpose

- In preparation for a 2021 drilling program in the Lower Cook Inlet
 - These studies will allow us to identify surface locations that will be safe for the temporary location of a jackup rig within the Hilcorp-held OCS leases
 - One to four wells with two sidetracks are planned for this 2021 program

• Timing:

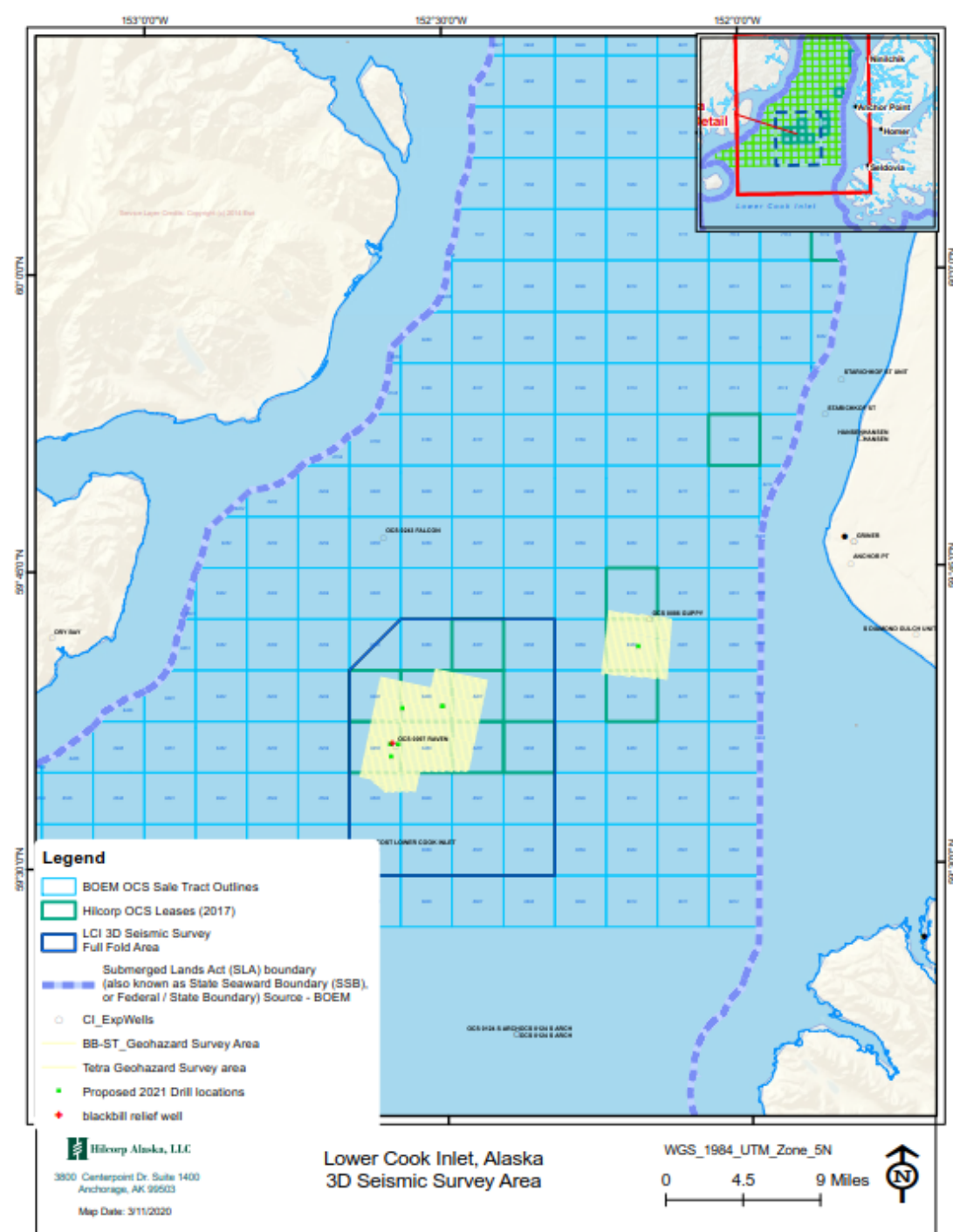
- April 10 through April 22
 - Seabed and shallow subsurface imaging
- April 22 through May 5
 - Shallow core sampling and surface grab sampling

• Environmental mitigation

- This area in the central part of the Lower Cook Inlet has a variety of marine mammal species present, as logged in the 2019 PSO reports completed during the Hilcorp 2019 3D survey
- Three PSOs will be onboard the survey vessel and will be on duty when acoustic emissions in the marine mammals' sensor range are being used. Mitigation procedures similar to those used in 2019 are in place.
- During the geotechnical coring and sampling period at least one PSO will be on board the survey vessel.

• Description:

- Two parts to the survey:
- Imaging the seabed and shallow subsurface (Geohazard)
- Sampling and shallow core sampling for geotechnical analysis (Geotechnical)
- Objective:
 - Identify surface locations for the safe, temporary placement of a jackup drill rig
 - **Ensure no impingement on existing archaeological or unique subsurface habitats**



Alaskan Vessels: Norseman II or Q 105



All offshore work is planned to be completed prior to sport-fishing and tourist season.



Equipment & Survey Activities for Geohazard Evaluation

- Multi Beam for seafloor imaging
- Side Scan Sonar for seafloor and water column imaging
- Chirper for high resolution imaging of upper 50 feet of seabed sediment
- Sparker (2 joule) high resolution imaging for depths down to 500 feet
 - There is a small, low energy, acoustic signature with the sparker that falls within one marine mammal acoustic ranges.
 - PSOs will be on duty when this tool is in use.
 - The sparker will be the main tool used to identify shallow faults, channels, dunes, and other features that are relevant to locating a jackup rig
- Magnetometer to help resolve any seabed images that might be related to shipwrecks or lost cargo
- ADCIRC to evaluate tidal and storm currents in the region



Equipment & Survey Activities for Geotechnical Evaluation

- Cone Penetrometer measurements:
 - This tool will measure the sediment integrity and shear strength of the near surface sediments
- Vibra-coring
 - This tool is designed to penetrate 25 feet into the seabed, and will be used to recover cores for lab analysis.
 - The core samples will be analyzed in the lab for sediment integrity, and for geochemical analysis
- Box core
 - May be used should additional seabed samples be required