



City of Homer

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Memorandum 19-085

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL
FROM: BRYAN HAWKINS, PORT DIRECTOR/HARBORMASTER
DATE: JULY 17, 2019
SUBJECT: CATHODIC PROTECTION FY21 MUNICIPAL HARBOR GRANT APPLICATION

When the State of Alaska transferred ownership of Alaska's harbors to Municipalities and local authorities, the maintenance and cost burden transferred with it. In 2006, the Municipal Harbor Grant Program was created to provide a 50/50 matching grant fund program to assist municipalities with this continued maintenance of our important Alaskan Harbor resources.

Pile in the harbor range in age from 34 to 26 years old and over time electrolysis has depleted the original galvanized protective coating; it is no longer protecting the pilings from corrosion.

In 2018, we started installation of a zinc anode protection system for the harbor, designed by R&M Engineering. This work on our Cathodic Protection project was funded from our maintenance budget/Port and Harbor Reserve funds, and cost approximately \$200,000. About 25% of the load bearing piles within the harbor are now protected against corrosion, have significantly reduced anticipated maintenance costs and enjoy an extended useful life, avoiding costly replacement.

While attending the latest AAHPA conference in Juneau information was made available that cathodic protection projects are eligible for funding under Tier II (mid-range) Municipal Harbor grants. City Staff are working on applying for a FY21 Tier II Harbor Facility Grant that will allow us to complete the work started in 2018 using the plans and design already in place, extending the benefits of cathodic protection harbor-wide.

Although program funding for this program is unknown this year, and funds to the program have recently been subtracted in the latest veto by the Governor, it is still beneficial for the City of Homer to turn in our completed application for two reasons:

- ✓ #1 By submitting and having an approved application on file it would hold our place in the queue should funding become available
- ✓ #2 Having requested projects on file that need funding shows an overall need and justification for the Municipal Harbor Grant Program

The Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, in the past and currently, has issued support for the importance of cathodic protection of the Homer Harbor. Most recently, during their June 26, 2019 meeting, the members of the commission made a formal motion, passed with unanimous consent, in support of both the nomination of the Cathodic Protection Project as a new CIP item with a #1 Priority and to endorse the application for the Harbor Facility Grant. Excerpt from the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission meeting minutes provided below:

NEW BUSINESS

- A. New Proposed CIP Project for Cathodic Protection
 - i. Memo from Port Director Hawkins Re: Homer Harbor Cathodic Protection Project Proposal for Addition to the CIP
 - ii. Draft CIP Cathodic Protection Nomination

Chair Zimmerman introduced the agenda item and invited Special Projects and Communications Coordinator Jenny Carroll to participate in the discussion.

Port Director/Harbormaster Hawkins shared the information staff learned from the State on grant funding for Tier II projects for cathodic protection. Ms. Carroll provided an explanation of the granting process and facilitated discussion with the commission on their involvement in the process.

STOCKBURGER/ULMER MOVED TO SUPPORT STAFF'S NOMINATION OF THE CATHODIC PROTECTION PROJECT TO THE CIP LIST WITH A #1 PRIORITY, ENDORSE THE APPLICATION FOR THE HARBOR FACILITY GRANT, AND RECOMMEND THE CITY'S 50/50 MATCH COME FROM THE PORT AND HARBOR RESERVES.

There was discussion on what the cathodic protection project will cover in the harbor, and the current condition of the Port and Harbor Reserves.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

The Harbor Facility grant program requires authorization from the City of Homer to submit the grant application and to identify the source of the City's matching funds. The Port & Harbor Enterprise Reserve Funds have been identified as the source for the City's \$357,120 grant match.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt the Resolution formally authorizing the City Manager to submit an FY21 Harbor Facility grant application in the amount of \$714,240 for the Homer Harbor Cathodic Protection Project.