



# City of Homer

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Public Works

3575 Heath Street  
Homer, AK 99603

[publicworks@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:publicworks@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907- 235-3170

(f) 907-235-3145

## Memorandum 20-083

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council  
THRU: Rick Abboud, Acting City Manager  
FROM: Carey Meyer, City Engineer  
DATE: June 17, 2020  
SUBJECT: Ordinance 20-30 Authorizing Seawall Design Funds

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Property owners, City Council members, maintenance crews and myself have expressed concern about the condition of the seawall and its ability to continue to protect property behind the wall:

- 1) Seawall maintenance costs have been increasing substantially in recent years,
- 2) The seawall maintenance budget, authorized to be spent this year, has been spent,
- 3) Full repairs of significant damage from the 2019 winter storms are estimated to approach \$100,000,
- 4) In 2019, the Council approved funding for a study to identify alternative solutions (from the Ocean Drive Loop Special Service District seawall maintenance account), and this was completed,
- 5) Protecting the toe of the wall with armor rock appears to be the most cost effective solution, property owners have shown support for implementing this solution,
- 6) A property owner requested SAD creation process is underway,
- 7) The timeline to assure that armor rock is in place by November of this year (eliminating the need for significant repair) requires prompt action now in order to proceed with the SAD creation process and procurement (see attached timeline).

Allowing the normal process to play out – benefited property owner engagement, Council action to create a Special Assessment District, design, environmental permitting, construction bidding, contract award, quarrying of the rock, transporting it to the site, and placement of the rock; traditionally will not allow for project completion in the timeframe required this year.

Any improvements to the seawall must be completed under the existing Corps of Engineers permit (the Corps has ruled that the City is the entity with the permit). The design and permitting for the project needs to be initiated quickly by the City if the work is to be completed this year.

The existing Ocean Drive Loop Special Service District fund (containing funds collected by the Borough through property tax, designated for seawall maintenance) can be used to design and

construct improvements to the seawall. The account balance currently is approximately \$60,000.

**Recommendation:** The City Council authorize the expenditure of \$47,484 to complete seawall improvement design (12% from the City's Seawall Maintenance Fund/88% from the Seawall Special Service Area Fund). Funds will be utilized to complete a design survey, prepare bid ready drawings and specifications, complete required rock size calculations, and support environmental permitting.