



# 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 21-070

TO: City Council  
THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager  
FROM: Janette Keiser, PE, Director of Public Works  
DATE: May 3, 2021  
SUBJECT: Charles Street/Bunnell Ave Water & Sewer Special Assessment Districts

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**Issue:** We received an application from a property owner in the Charles St/ Bunnell Ave neighborhood for Special Assessment Districts for City water and sewer. The deadline to respond was April 19<sup>th</sup> and the petition process was one signature short. On Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> City Clerk Jacobsen received a call from Kathrin Pereira, a trustee of the Mary Joanne Hillstrand Living Trust, who explained Ms. Hillstrand had passed in November and in dealing with the estate she had just read the petition information. Ms. Pereira is interested in the property improvements and asked if there was a way her signature could be accepted. City Clerk Jacobsen suggested that she sign and submit the petition with an explanation of the situation, which is included with this memorandum for Council's consideration with the resolution to initiate the district.

We recommend the City Council initiate the districts so we can go to the next step; hosting a neighborhood meeting to provide information and hopefully, gain support.

### **Background:**

The properties involved in the proposed special assessment districts currently rely on on-site sewage disposal systems, hauled water and/or spaghetti lines. There are 27 properties, owned by 21 different property owners. One of the property owners filed a petition to create special assessment districts. The process involves collecting signatures from the property owners; to move the process forward, signatures of at least 50% of the properties (11 signatures) are required. We received 10 signatures by the April 19<sup>th</sup> deadline and one was received after the deadline.

The City Council can initiate the special assessment district process and has done so before, such as the pending Tasmania Court Sewer Assessment District. We recommend the City take this step with the Charles Street/Bunnell Ave. water/sewer districts for multiple reasons:

- a. We've received word from the AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) that the water project is eligible for "Principal Forgiveness"; that is, a grant in the amount of \$225,000.

- b. This neighborhood is partially developed with businesses and residents, most of whom don't have access to water or sewer service. This raises serious concerns about the public health risks.
- c. This district would serve Bishop's Beach, allowing new plumbed restroom to be built. The benefit of this to the district is that the City would, as a property owner, pay an assessment fee, defraying a portion of the cost to the other property owners.

**Action Recommended:** Adopt the resolution initiating the Special Assessment District process for the Charles Street/Bunnell Avenue neighborhood for the purpose of extending City water and sewer service.