



# City of Homer

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Public Works

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## Memorandum 21-017

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council

THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

FROM: Janette Keiser, PE, Director of Public Works

DATE: June 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Iris Court Drainage Issue

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- I. **Issue.** Water from a City-owned road ditch is flowing onto private residential property, without benefit of a drainage easement, and has caused damage to the home. We propose to design and construct remedial measures that will channel the water into a mini-storm drain system laid in the ROW and a nearby existing drainage easement, so it is diverted away from the house.
  - II. **Background.** Iris Court is a cul de sac located off Mattox Street. The road was built to City Standards and accepted for City maintenance around 1985. The roadside drainage ditch network includes a cross-culvert that conveys water from the north side of Iris Court to the south side. From there it sheet flows across private property, specifically Lot 22, 1293 Iris Court. There is an existing drainage easement on the east side of this lot, but not on the west side, which is where the water flows.

In 2019, the City, as part of its normal road maintenance work, dug out the ditches around Iris Court. In 2020, the owner of Lot 22 contacted the City. He said water from the roadside ditch had flowed under his house where it glaciated around his electrical duct as well as a wooden member under his house, and caused damage. We investigated the situation and determined it was more likely than not that water from the City's drainage ditch had done what he said.

Our first plan was to do some remedial ditching, using in-house forces, to direct the water away from the house. So, this project was not included in the Public Works 5-Year CIP. However, one of the neighbors strongly objected to that plan, fearing the water would backflow onto her property. So, we explored other options, including consulting with the Corps of Engineers.

We determined the most feasible option would be to direct the water to the existing drainage easement on the west side of the lot. Even this option will be challenging because there are significant 3<sup>rd</sup> party utilities at that easement, which will need to be moved to get sufficient grade to allow the water to flow that way. The estimated cost for this solution is \$150,000, about 1/3 of which is the cost of relocating the existing utilities.

- III. Funding is available.** The City Council, on April 24, 2017, passed Resolution 17-038, which adopted the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails Program (“HART”) Manual. The HART Manual identified a set of criteria for projects that may be considered for HART funding. The criteria that would be addressed by the Iris Court Drainage Project include addressing drainage issues.

The attached Pie Chart shows what the impact of this project would be on the HART Road fund, assuming the projects listed in the PW 5-Year CIP are also funded.

- IV. Recommendation.** That the City Council pass the proposed ordinance authorizing expenditure of \$150,000 from the HART-Roads Fund for the Iris Court Drainage Repair Project.