



City of Homer

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Public Works

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MEMORANDUM 21-167

To: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Through: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
From: Janette Keiser, PE, Public Works Director
Date: September 8, 2021
Subject: Small Works Integrated Pest Management Program

Issue:

The purpose of this memo is to request funds for a Small Works Integrated Pest Management Program, which would support the development of an Integrated Pest Management Strategic Plan as well as training and implementation of means and methods to mitigate the spread of invasive plants and other organisms.

Background:

One of the goals of the Public Works Department is to adopt practices in our operations and maintenance work that support environmental sustainability. We have partnered with the Homer Soil & Water Conservation District to understand how we can do this, by issuing a Term Contract to the District covering multiple scopes of work. For example, the District is currently helping the Department with research related to drainage and erosion. The District coordinates the Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (KP-CISMA), a partnership of state, federal, nonprofit, tribal and local governments that collaborate on invasive species management and priorities for the region. The District has recommended that the City develop an Integrated Pest Management Plan, which would be based on the KP-CISMA strategic plans and recommendations to ensure alignment with the latest research and effective management strategies.

The District has submitted a proposal to develop such a plan at the estimated cost of \$7,821. Once the Plan is developed, we would engage in follow up activities:

- a. Develop education materials and conduct training to help people understand how to control invasive species, which could be shared with contractors, developers and others interested in managing invasive species.
- b. Implement the strategies recommended in the plan to control invasive species on City-owned ROW and properties.

Funding:

Most of the issues the City faces related to invasive species involve City rights-of-way and thus, the HART Road Fund is an appropriate source of funding for the Small Works Pest Management Program.

The City Council adopted Resolution 17-038, on April 24, 2017, amending the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails Program (HART) Policy Manual. The HART Policy Manual establishes criteria to be used for determining which projects qualify for HART-Roads funding. The criteria, which would be met by the Small Works Pest Management Program, include:

- Corrects deficiencies of existing systems; that is, the Program will reduce the proliferation of invasive species in road ROWs
- Reduces maintenance costs; that is, the Program's education and training elements will mean less money for remediation

The HART-Roads Fund has sufficient capital to fund a Small Works Pest Management Program. The current projected balance at the end of FY 23 is \$4,342,136.

Recommendation: We recommend establishing a Small Works Pest Management Program and authorizing \$25,000, from the HART Roads Fund to fund the development of the plan, training and two years of implementation.