



City of Homer

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Public Works

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Memorandum 22-131

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
FROM: Janette Keiser, PE, Director of Public Works
DATE: July 27, 2022
SUBJECT: Request Appropriation for Solids Retention Pond Aerators

I. **Issue:** The purpose of this Memorandum is to request funding for three sewage pond aerators.

II. Background:

The City's waste water treatment process utilizes a solids retention pond to settle out solids before the waste water is disinfected and discharged to Kachemak Bay. This is an aerobic pond; that is, a series of six mechanical aerators introduce oxygen into the pond to help the bacteria that help digest solids in the sewage, do their job. When the pond has no oxygen, the friendly bacteria die; the pond goes anaerobic creating odors and disrupting solids removal.

Three aerators have stopped functioning. We need to purchase new aerators, for which we received a quote from a specialty manufacturing company, Aeration Industries International, Chaska, Minnesota, for \$12,999 per aerator, not including shipping. We estimate it will cost about \$4,000 to get each unit shipped to Homer. We're asking for an appropriation of \$50,000 to acquire the three units we need. Once we get them, they will be installed by our capable crew.

These units were flagged as a high risk item in the Water and Sewer Utility Asset Management Plan. We had hoped we could keep them working until we could add them to the Water & Sewer Capital Improvement Plan for the next regular budget cycle, but they had other ideas.

III. **Recommendations:** That the City Council authorize \$50,000 from the Sewer CARMA fund to purchase three aerators for the solids retention pond.