



# MEMORANDUM

---

**Resolution 24-024, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Authorizing Issuance of a Change Order to Coble Geophysical Services, LLC, in the Amount of \$34,505 to Continue Work on the Beluga Slough Green Infrastructure Project and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute the Appropriate Documents. City Manager.**

**Item Type:** Backup Memorandum  
**Prepared For:** City Council  
**Date:** February 13, 2024  
**From:** Owen Meyer, Project Technician  
**Through:** Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

---

**I. Issue:** The purpose of this Memorandum is to request approval to issue a change order to Coble Geophysical Services LLC., in the amount of \$34,505 for the Beluga Slough Green Infrastructure Project.

**II. Background:**

At its regular meeting of April 10, 2023, The City Council passed Ordinance 23-16(S) authorizing funding to support the Beluga Slough Green Infrastructure Storm Water Treatment System (Project) as follows:

- |    |                    |   |
|----|--------------------|---|
| a. | \$153,307          | 2023-2025 Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA) Grant |
| b. | \$83,388.44        | HART Road Fund                                    |
| c. | <u>\$23,792.43</u> | Employee wages as in-kind services                |
|    | \$260,487.87       | Total Project Cost                                |

The goal is to develop a storm water treatment installation that filters out particulates, dissolved metals and other contaminants that storm water carries, before the water is discharged into the Slough.

In reality, this budget has not turned out quite as planned. Some of matching funds which Public Works said would come from City staff hours came from Coble Geophysical Services instead. These expenses were coded to the Public Works operating budget (GL# 100-0177-5210). This is an entirely new concept for a project. Homer has never designed or built any infrastructure of this type before and there were unforeseen complications in the design meaning that design expenses for the first reporting period were greater than expected. Additionally, City staff hours spent on the project were less than expected and we needed a way to fulfill our match obligations. As of yet, the match has consisted of \$6,868.81 in City

staff hours and use of Public Works office space and \$15,969.03 in design services and materials purchased by CGS.

Resolution 23-041 authorized issuance of Task Order 23-01 to Coble Geophysical Services, LLC., (“Coble”) to design the project, which involved the following activities:

- Task 1 – Collecting baseline data to properly characterize the site, including collecting data regarding sediment load and water volumes
- Task 2 – Researching containment structure alternatives & recommending a preferred alternative
- Task 3 – Designing the treatment facility
- Task 4 – Assisting the City with permitting
- Task 5 – Assisting the City with installation

Activities related to these Tasks have been on-going all year. We have been testing the density, porosity and chemical constituency of the existing soils to ascertain their suitability for a nature-based storm water treatment facility and researching the type of facility that would be compatible with the site’s soils, ground water levels and vegetation. Sadly, we found that much of the soils at the Beluga Slough site have dried out over time, due to the City’s construction of a gravel berm that extends into the Beluga Slough wetland. This means this site would not have the potential we had hoped for to serve its original purpose, so we looked for a supplemental site.

Design work for a vault at the East end of Bunnell Avenue is almost complete. Construction of the vault is expected to begin in the spring or summer of 2024. Part of the envisioned plan was for Coble Geophysical Services to aid the City in organizing and overseeing construction of the vault. In September of this year, the Council approved an increase of \$23,000 to Coble Geophysical Services’ task order. At the time, Public Works knew that this increase would be insufficient to cover the remainder of the work, but we did not know what the full amount needed would be so we asked for the \$23,000 to cover expenses that we knew about.

Public Works now estimates needed funds will be \$34,505. Using the grant money and the money appropriated from HART roads for the match, there will be enough budgeted to cover all remaining expenses.

**Costs (Current + Projected)**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Coble Geophysical Services – Design Engineer | \$87,217 |
| Jay Rand – Vault Materials                   | \$80,000 |
| Fritz Creek Welding – Vault Materials        | \$18,000 |
| Installation Contractor (Vendor TBD)         | \$20,000 |
| Overflow Pipe (Vendor TBD)                   | \$10,000 |

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <u>City Staff</u> | <u>\$6,868.81</u> |
| Total             | \$222,085.81      |

In order to continue the work on the Bunnell Avenue, site, we recommend an increase of \$34,505, to complete the final design and assist with installation of the component parts that will comprise the treatment facility.

- III. RECOMMENDATIONS:** That the City Council authorizes the issuance of a Change Order to Coble Geophysical Services, LLC., in the amount of \$34,505 to continue work on the Beluga Slough Green Infrastructure Project.