



# MEMORANDUM

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**Ordinance 24-50, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$10,000 from the General Fund Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund for Construction Work for the Re-establishment of the Beluga Slough Outlet. City Manager/Public Works Director.**

**Item Type:** Backup Memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Mayor and City Council  
**Date:** October 1, 2024  
**From:** Daniel Kort, Public Works Director  
**Through:** Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

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**Background:**

The Beluga Slough Outlet is subject to the re-establishment of a storm berm during storms with westerly winds that coincide with very high tide events. These storms are more frequent during late winter and early spring; however, they can occur at any time throughout the year. A storm event in March of 2024 created a storm berm that closed off the Beluga Slough Outlet. The project to re-establish the Outlet was delayed due to some citizen concerns. The Public Works Department (PWD) contracted with East Roads Services in late August to re-establish the Beluga Slough Outlet for \$5,000 using the work done to re-establish the Mariner Park Slough as a means to estimate the project effort. During construction, it was found that the volume of water retained in the Beluga Slough significantly impacted the effort to re-establish the Beluga Slough Outlet. The effort ran short of money prior to completion of the planned full excavation. The PWD in conjunction with East Road Services determined that the water flowing from the Slough after the re-establishment of the Outlet was continuing to erode at the storm berm and the outlet would be naturally re-established after this effort.

An unusual storm event in mid-September that coincided with a high tide of greater than 20-feet, recreated a storm berm and closed off the Beluga Slough Outlet. Subsequent rainfall during the following 2 days re-filled the entire Beluga Slough to the water level observed in early April.

In early 2023 the City was awarded an Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA) Grant from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation in the amount of \$153,307 for the Beluga Slough Green Infrastructure Stormwater Treatment System. This project is anticipated to begin construction in late October or early November. The floodwater in the Beluga Slough is encroaching upon the proposed construction site for this project. Without re-establishment of the Beluga Slough Outlet, additional construction dewatering costs is likely as well as the need to construct a coffer dam to hold the floodwater back from the open excavation. Both costs would be borne by the construction project

and would be in excess of the Grant, and therefore paid for by the City. With the timely re-establishment of the Beluga Slough Outlet, only general construction dewatering will be needed as the Treatment System will be constructed within a wetland with high groundwater and low permeability soils. This Treatment System must be completed before Spring of 2025 because the Grant expires on June 30, 2025 and the City's consultant must collect stormwater samples for laboratory analysis to provide as part of a report proving the concept of the new Treatment System.

**Recommendation:**

The Public Works Department is recommending the City of Homer approve the re-establishment of the Beluga Slough Outlet.