



MEMORANDUM

Ordinance 25-50, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY26 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$20,000 from the Port Reserves Fund for the Purpose of Installing a Drywell in Lot 12B. City Manager/Port Director.

Item Type: Back Up Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council
Date: July 7, 2025
From: Bryan Hawkins, Port Director
Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

Staff is requesting approval to proceed with drainage improvements on Lot 12B to resolve longstanding storm water issues that impact both fish dock operations and adjacent lessees. Specifically, we recommend the installation of a drywell this fall to mitigate the persistent flooding and improve year-round accessibility for truck staging and commercial use.

Background

Lot 12B is located adjacent to Fish Dock Road and supports the Fish Dock operations, including use as a staging area for semi-trucks and trailers transporting fish products delivered to Homer. The City's Grind Shack facility is also located on this lot. The adjacent lots to 12B are leased to private fisheries-related businesses.

When these lots were originally developed and leased out, the City of Homer did not implement a coordinated drainage plan for the area. As a result, Lot 12B has become a collection point for storm water runoff. It is now the lowest point in the area, and during rainfall events, a significant pond forms, oftentimes axle deep on a pickup. In winter, the pond freezes, making the lot nearly impassable.

Compounding the issue, water from Lot 12B occasionally flows into Lot 12A, causing unnecessary inconvenience for the lessee of that property. The lack of drainage presents not only a functional problem for users of the Fish Dock, but also a long-term liability for the City infrastructure.

Proposed Solution

After a discussion with the Public Works team, staff recommends the installation of a drywell on Lot 12B to handle storm water runoff and eliminate the recurring ponding problem. Drywells have

been successfully used elsewhere on the Homer Spit and represent a cost-effective and low-maintenance drainage solution.

This work should be completed this fall, before winter conditions return. Addressing the issue now will benefit not only the current lessees but also improve efficiency and access for truck traffic staging in support of the Fish Dock.

Funding

Staff recommends using funds from the Port and Harbor Reserve to fund the cost of this improvement. This is an appropriate use of the Port and Harbor Reserve as the upgrade directly supports harbor-related operations and will reduce future maintenance needs associated with water damage and lot degradation.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully requests approval for funding and implementing this drainage solution from the Port and Harbor Reserve Fund.