

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Manager/Port Director

RESOLUTION 21-064

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, IN
SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING OF \$11,492,760 FOR THE STATE OF
ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE
FY 2023 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET.

WHEREAS, The majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska were constructed by the State during the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, These harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and are the transportation hubs for waterfront commerce and economic development in Alaskan coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, These harbor facilities are ports of refuge and areas of protection for ocean-going vessels and fishermen throughout the State of Alaska, especially in coastal Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska over the past nearly 30 years has transferred ownership of most of these State-owned harbors, many of which had infrastructure at or near the end of their service life at the time of transfer, to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, The municipalities took over this important responsibility even though they knew that these same harbor facilities were in poor condition at the time of transfer due to the state's failure to keep up with deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, Consequently, when local municipal harbormasters formulated their annual harbor facility budgets, they inherited a major financial burden that their local municipal governments could not afford; and

WHEREAS, In response to this financial burden, the Governor and the Alaska Legislature passed legislation in 2006, supported by the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, to create the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant program (AS 29.60.800); and

WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities utilizes a beneficial administrative process to review, score and rank applicants to the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program, since state funds may be limited; and

WHEREAS, For each harbor facility grant application, these municipalities have committed to invest 100% of the design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction cost; and

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46 WHEREAS, The municipalities of the City of Valdez, City and Yakutat, City & Borough of
47 Juneau, City & Borough of Sitka, City of Homer, City of Edna Bay, Aleutians East Borough/City
48 of Sand Point, and the Municipality of Anchorage have committed to contribute \$11,492,760 in
49 local match funding for FY2023 towards harbor projects of significant importance locally as
50 required in the Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

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52 WHEREAS, Completion of these harbor facility projects is all dependent on the 50%
53 match from the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

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55 WHEREAS, During the last fifteen years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has
56 only been fully funded twice; and

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58 WHEREAS, A survey conducted by the Alaska Municipal league of Alaska's ports found
59 that the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace former State-owned harbors has
60 increased to over \$500,000,000; and

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62 WHEREAS, Over the past five years municipal harbors have submitted \$70 million in
63 capital project match requests, representing over \$116 million in shovel-ready capital projects
64 that have received only \$20 million in funding through the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant
65 program with zero funding in FY21 and half of the requested funding in FY 22.

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67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, urges full
68 funding in the amount of \$11,492,760 by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State
69 of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2023 State Capital budget in order
70 to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

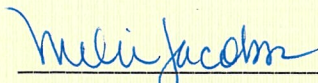
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72 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 27th day of September, 2021.

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75 CITY OF HOMER

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78 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

79 ATTEST:

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82 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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84 Fiscal note: N/A

