

1 CITY OF HOMER  
2 HOMER, ALASKA

Lewis

3  
4 RESOLUTION 14-030

5  
6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,  
7 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE KACHEMAK BAY RESEARCH  
8 RESERVE AND REQUESTING CONTINUED FINANCIAL AND  
9 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA.

10  
11 WHEREAS, The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR), also  
12 known locally as the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR), or "Reserve" , is a federal-state  
13 collaborative partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
14 (NOAA) Coastal Office and the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)  
15 Division of Sport Fish; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, KBRR was established in 1999 with strong support from the community;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The mission of KBRR is to enhance the understanding of the Kachemak Bay  
20 estuary and adjacent waters to ensure that these ecosystems remain healthy and productive;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, KBRR has a local advisory council which stimulates a dialogue about local  
23 coastal issues of concern and provides a voice for the community on coastal matters; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, The "Reserve" has an annual operating budget of approximately \$2 Million,  
26 is a significant local employer, and attracts visiting professionals, grants, and related revenues  
27 and expenditures which circulate through the local economy; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, KBRR "partners" with local NGOs, universities, and state and federal  
30 agencies and these partnerships bring highly skilled professionals and cutting edge research to  
31 the community; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, KBRR has provided relevant research which has applied applications to the  
34 City of Homer including studies on coastal bluff erosion, sea level rise, and coastal uplift; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, KBRR is well positioned and has the resources to be a leader in climate  
37 change research; and

38 WHEREAS, The "Reserve" has an education program which reaches 3,500 people per  
39 year through public and K-13 programming and needs based training for decision makers; and  
40

41 WHEREAS, ADF&G is experiencing a period of sustained budget constraints associated  
42 with General Fund cuts, declining license revenues, and decreased federal grant funding at a  
43 time when operating costs continue to rise; and  
44

45 WHEREAS, ADF&G contributes 40% of the cost of the "Reserve", a non-federal match  
46 is required, and anticipated shortfalls in state funding will necessitate a reduction in the  
47 KBNERR budget; and  
48

49 WHEREAS, The state rental agreement and associated funding was a key component in  
50 securing the funding for construction of the Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center and  
51 continued state funding is crucial for continued operation of a facility that hosts 75,000 visitors  
52 each year; and  
53

54 WHEREAS, The KBRR mission is much broader than the Division of Sport Fish's mission  
55 which is to "protect and improve the state's recreational fisheries resources"; and  
56


57 WHEREAS, For the reasons stated above, it is ADF&G's intent to seek a new state  
58 partner for the "Reserve" with a mission more closely related to coastal and estuarine  
59 stewardship.  
60

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council finds that the  
62 Kachemak Bay Research Reserve is an important component of the local economy and that it  
63 provides research and educational programs that are important to the community.  
64

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council hereby requests that the State of Alaska  
66 proceed with its stated intent to find a new state partner for KBRR and further, that it provide  
67 adequate and stable funding necessary to sustain the operations of the "Reserve" so that it can  
68 continue to carry out its mission.  
69

70 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014.  
71

72 CITY OF HOMER

73  
74   
75 MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

76 ATTEST:

77

78

79

80   
JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

81

82 Fiscal Note: N/A

83

84

