



City of Homer

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Administration

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NEWS RELEASE:

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Col. Damon Delarosa, the Alaska District Commander of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was in Homer on Wednesday, March 29 and executed a feasibility cost share agreement with the City of Homer to officially begin a General Investigation feasibility study into the Homer Harbor Expansion.

This milestone officially launches a study, which will be conducted over the next three years by the USACE in close partnership with the City of Homer to examine expanding the Homer Harbor. Located at the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula, and about 120 air miles southwest of Anchorage, the harbor is critical community infrastructure that supports the local and regional economy. For many years, the harbor has been experiencing overcrowding, transportation delays and navigational hazards, and it has limited capacity for larger vessels.

The purpose of the study is to identify a feasible solution to meet harbor moorage needs. The study will investigate all aspects of feasibility, including defining and quantifying Federal and non-Federal harbor conditions and needs, soliciting input from the community and stakeholders, developing alternative approaches and designs to address identified challenges, conducting environmental review and determining whether the benefits of the project merit Federal investment in construction.

At the cost share agreement signing, Col. Delarosa commented, "This is a huge accomplishment for the Homer community and the whole USACE team, as only a handful of General Investigation new starts are authorized each year. We are excited to work in partnership with the City of Homer and in collaboration with harbor users, and we value input from all members of the community so that the General Investigation produces a harbor design that is right-sized for the need, can be maintained and addresses community priorities. We look forward to this collaborative effort with the City of Homer as the non-federal sponsor!"

The study is anticipated to kick off in May. Curtis Lee, from the USACE Civil Works Program will manage the USACE team, providing expertise in civil engineering, planning, programming, project management, economics and budgeting. City of Homer staff will be working with HDR to assist with the study. The City is creating HomerHarborExpansion.com, a project website to host updates and inform the public about opportunities to provide public input during the course of the study. You are encouraged to check the site regularly for updates. The website is under construction and will be available soon. Meanwhile, the public can go to www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/port/homer-harbor-expansion to subscribe to email updates on the project. The public can send comments and questions to info@HomerHarborExpansion.com.

The City acknowledges Senator Lisa Murkowski for her support of Federal funding for the study, as well as our State legislators who helped secure State matching funds for the study in the State FY23 Capital budget. The City of Homer set aside its share of local matching funds in 2020.

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