

1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 City Manager/Port Director

4 **RESOLUTION 19-076**

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6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
7 SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING (\$12,145,312) FOR THE STATE OF
8 ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE
9 FY 2021 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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42 WHEREAS, The municipalities of the City of Cordova, City and Borough of Sitka, City of
43 Ketchikan, City of Homer, City of Edna Bay, City of Kake, City and Borough of Juneau, and the
44 Municipality of Anchorage have offered to contribute \$12,145,312 in local match funding for

45 FY2021 towards seven harbor projects of significant importance locally as required in the
46 Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

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

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51 WHEREAS, During the last ten years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has
52 only been fully funded twice; and

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54 WHEREAS, During the last ten years the backlog of projects necessary to repair and
55 replace these former State-owned harbors has increased to over \$100,000,000.

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57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, urges full
58 funding in the amount of \$12,145,312 by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State
59 of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2021 State Capital budget in order
60 to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

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62 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 28th day of October, 2019.

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CITY OF HOMER

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KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

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70 ATTEST:

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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75 Fiscal note: N/A