

Presented by: The Manager
Presented: 11/23/2020
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2923

A Resolution Supporting Full Funding (\$14,049,988) of the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY2022 State Capital Budget.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators recognizes the majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska were constructed by the State of Alaska 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 for protection for ocean-going vessels and people fishing 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 were 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, the State's failure to adequately maintain the harbor facilities has become a major financial burden that municipal governments cannot 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 Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, is pleased with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 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

WHEREAS, the municipalities of the City of Cordova, City and Borough of Sitka, City and Borough of Juneau, City of Seward, and City of Sand Point are poised to contribute \$14,049,988 in local match funding for FY2022 towards five harbor projects of significant importance locally as required in the Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

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

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

WHEREAS, a survey done by the Alaska Municipal League of Alaska's ports and harbors found that from the respondents, the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace former state-owned harbors has increased to at least \$500,000,000; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years, municipal harbors have submitted \$58 million in capital project match requests, representing over \$116 million in shovel-ready capital projects that have received only \$16.6 million in funding through the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program with zero funding in FY2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. That the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly urges full funding in the amount of \$14,049,988 by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2022 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 23rd day of November, 2020.



Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:


Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk