CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 10-23-31

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA SUPPORTING
FULL FUNDING ($7,644,677) FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR
FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY 2024 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, the harbor facilities in Alaska are ports of refuge for ocean going vessels, and serve
as essential transportation hubs to coastal Alaskan communities for supplies, trade in goods and services
and connections to the world market for our exports and imports; 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, 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

WHEREAS, the municipalities of the Sitka and Juneau have committed to contribute half of their
project cost in local match funding for FY2025 towards harbor projects of significant importance locally
as required in the Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

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

WHEREAS, during the last fifteen 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, given that Alaska is a maritime state and that our harbors are foundational to both our way of life and the economy of this great State it is in the public's best interest to maintain this critical infrastructure by using State, Local and Federal funds to recapitalize the crucial harbor moorage infrastructure statewide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Cordova, Alaska urges full funding in the amount of $7,644,677 by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska’s Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2025 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25th DAY OF OCTOBER 2023

ATTEST:

David Allison, Mayor

Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk