



Homer Harbor Expansion Public Meeting

Saturday, September 23, 2023

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions (10 mins)
2. Study Overview (10 mins)
3. Process & Screening Criteria (20 mins)
4. Array of Alternatives (15 mins)
5. Workshop (60 mins)
6. Report Out (15 mins)
7. Questions & Answers (15 mins)
8. Closing (5 mins)





Welcome & Introductions

Study Overview

Process & Screening Criteria

Array of Alternatives

Workshop

Report Out

Q/A

Closing

Welcome & Introductions

Meet the Team

City of Homer

- **Bryan Hawkins**
Harbor Director**
- **Matt Clarke**
Harbormaster
- **Amy Woodruff**
Administrative Supervisor**
- **Julie Engebretsen**
Economic Development Manager
- **Jennifer Carroll**
Public Information Officer**

USACE*

- **Curtis Lee**
Study Project Manager**
- **Robin Carr**
Study Lead Planner**
- **Kayla Campbell**
Environmental Resources Lead**

HDR

- **Ronald McPherson**
Project Manager/Lead Engineer**
- **KC Kent**
Coastal EIT**
- **Angela Schedel**
Director of Coastal Programs
- **Amy Burnett**
Strategic Communications Lead**
- **Pearl-Grace Pantaleone**
Strategic Communications Support**
- **Alice Rademacher**
Strategic Communications Support

*US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

**Project development team member





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An aerial photograph of Homer Harbor, Alaska, showing a large marina filled with numerous boats and yachts. The harbor is bordered by a road and several buildings, including a large green-roofed structure. The background shows a wide expanse of water and distant hills under a cloudy sky.

Study Overview



The key goals of the study are to relieve existing transportation congestion and improve safety and efficiency within the harbor



Why Now?

- Planning for Homer's future, which is grounded in a maritime economy
- Smart growth
- Support safety and efficiency for key users:
 - Barges and cargo transport vessels currently supplying 47 small communities
 - Commercial fishing fleet
 - Coastal marine research vessels
 - U.S. Coast Guard
 - Pilot and tug vessels
 - Recreational boating



Study to Date

USACE's Feasibility Study for Expanding the Harbor

- 5 months into the study
- Public charette in May delivered array of alternatives
- Alternatives identified for advanced analysis
 - USACE Scoping Milestone complete
 - Evaluated all suggested alternatives
 - Vertical approval
- Receiving community feedback, ideas, and solutions

Status Check

Planning Phase

- Array of Alternatives in Review
 - USACE evaluation process of the presented alternatives at a Design Charette held May 15-19
 - ~8 months remaining for analysis
 - Data collection underway
- Community outreach and engagement ongoing
 - Managing feedback received
 - Promoting opportunities for public input and project status updates
 - Website continuously updated (Homerharboorexpan.com)
 - Environmental Stakeholder Working Group regular meetings (led by USACE)
- Continued Development Baseline Conditions (Coastal Modeling Work)
 - One month of in-water data collection performed



Environment is a Foundation



- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a key driver in the study**
 - Right-sized solution
 - Committed to protecting the environment and preserving the natural beauty



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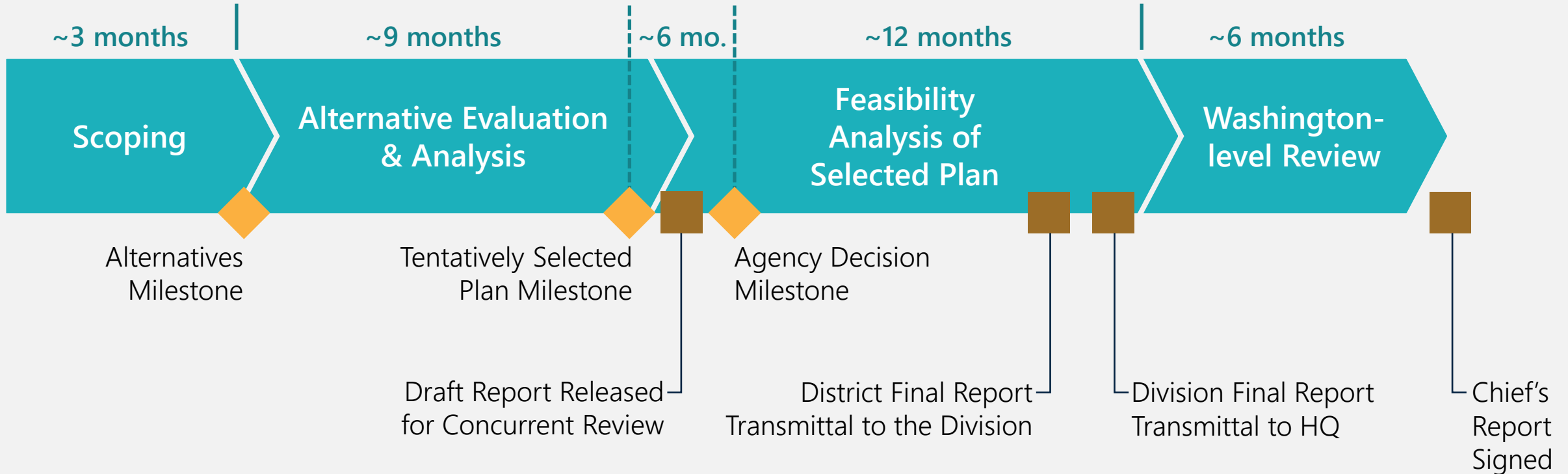
Process & Screening Criteria

USACE Phases

Legend

◆ Decision Milestone

■ Product Milestone



← Focus on alternatives identification and evaluation to identify a recommended plan for more detailed design

→ Focus on scaling the measures and features for the recommended plan



Alternative Analysis Phase

Road to a Tentative Plan/Draft Report

- Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment are Advanced, as follows:
 - Alternatives are advanced to conceptual-design level based on functionality and other influences (e.g., reducing environmental and cultural impact).
 - Study reviews alternatives and compares them to the “without project” condition to determine the most advantageous alternative (including no action) that provides the most local, regional, and national benefits.
 - The Environmental Assessment (EA) runs parallel to the study and is integrated within the feasibility report. This effort coordinates the Tentatively Selected Plan with all of the regulatory agencies to determine viability of the concept and any measures that need to take place.
 - USACE environmental working group, comprised of Homer community members, is actively informing this process.

Getting to detailed alternatives

Drawings available to public when complete

- Geophysical Investigation
 - Depths, contours of area
 - Characterization of foundation materials
 - Helps determine the size and cost of the breakwater
- Projecting the fleet spectrum (survey)
 - How many potential harbor users
 - Size of vessels
- Once we have that, we'll develop detailed designs for the City to share with the public





Preliminary Alternative Evaluation Process

How Did We Get Here?









- USACE determined 14 alternatives from the Design Charette
- Criteria used to evaluate each proposed alternative
 1. Completeness
 2. Effectiveness
 3. Efficiency
 4. Acceptability (implementability, satisfaction)
- Future without project is an alternative and the basis for all comparisons
- Alternatives scoring favorably in each category were carried forward for USACE alignment and approval

Alternatives Approved by USACE

- ALT 1a**  A single enclosed basin where the outer breakwaters of the enclosure create no additional room for local service facilities on the top surface area.
- ALT 1b**  A single enclosed basin where the outer breakwaters of the enclosure create some room for local service facilities on the top surface area.
- ALT 1c**  An enclosed basin where the outer breakwaters of the enclosure create some room for local service facilities on the top surface area.
- ALT 1d**  A crescent-shaped breakwater that creates the outer breakwaters of the enclosure have facilities on the top surface area to base existing vessels.
- ALT 2**  A basin protected by a breakwater that is detached from the shore, creating a tranquil harbor space.

5 alternatives plus a No Action alternative were carried forward



- ALT 3a**  An enclosed harbor where the outer breakwaters of the enclosure are floating breakwater structures. Creates minimal room for local service facilities on the top surface area.
- ALT 3b**  An enclosed harbor where the outer breakwaters of the enclosure are a combination of floating and non-floating breakwater structures; creates some room for local services facilities on the top surface area.
- ALT 4**  Excavation of some of the uplands around the existing harbor to make more room for boats.
- ALT 5a**  Creating a new harbor at Diamond Creek.
- ALT 5b**  Creating a new harbor at Homer Airport.
- ALT 5c**  Creating a new harbor at Homer Airport.
- ALT 6**  Reconfigure existing harbor facilities for larger vessels; build new harbor facilities for smaller boats on outside of existing harbor.
- ALT 7**  Rearranging the dock floats inside the harbor.

7 alternative variations were NOT carried forward due to inability to meet a number of project requirements





Array of Alternatives

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Carried Forward:

Alternative 1a



Location	Accommodating Current Needs / Future Fleets	Completeness	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Acceptability	Implementability	Satisfaction
		Necessary actions accounted for	How well does it meet the goals and objectives	What is the cost benefit	Does it meet the regulations and requirements	Is implementation practical	How satisfied will the stakeholders be
East side of Spit adjacent to existing harbor	Current + Future Needs	High	Medium	Medium	High	Yes	High

A single enclosed basin where the outer breakwaters of the enclosure create no additional room for local service facilities on the top surface area.

Carried Forward:

Alternative 1b



Location	Accommodating Current Needs / Future Fleets	Completeness	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Acceptability	Implementability	Satisfaction
		Necessary actions accounted for	How well does it meet the goals and objectives	What is the cost benefit	Does it meet the regulations and requirements	Is implementation practical	How satisfied will the stakeholders be
East side of Spit adjacent to existing harbor	Current Needs + Future Fleet	High	High	Medium	High	Yes	High

A single enclosed basin where the outer breakwaters of the enclosure creates additional room for local service facilities on the top surface area.

Carried Forward:

Alternative 1c



Location	Accommodating Current Needs / Future Fleets	Completeness	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Acceptability	Implementability	Satisfaction
		Necessary actions accounted for	How well does it meet the goals and objectives	What is the cost benefit	Does it meet the regulations and requirements	Is implementation practical	How satisfied will the stakeholders be
East side of Spit adjacent to existing harbor	Current Needs + Future Fleet	High	High	Medium	Medium	Yes	High

An enclosed T-shape harbor where the outer breakwater of the enclosure have some room for local service facilities on the top surface area.

Carried Forward:

Alternative 1d



Location	Accommodating Current Needs / Future Fleets	Completeness	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Acceptability	Implementability	Satisfaction
		Necessary actions accounted for	How well does it meet the goals and objectives	What is the cost benefit	Does it meet the regulations and requirements	Is implementation practical	How satisfied will the stakeholders be
East side of Spit adjacent to existing harbor	Current Needs + Future Fleet	High	High	Low	Low	No	Medium

A crescent shape enclosed basin where the outer breakwaters of the enclosure have maximum room for local service facilities on the top surface area. Access to basin connects to the Spit away from the existing harbor.

Carried Forward

Alternative 2



Location	Accommodating Current Needs / Future Fleets	Completeness	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Acceptability	Implementability	Satisfaction
		Necessary actions accounted for	How well does it meet the goals and objectives	What is the cost benefit	Does it meet the regulations and requirements	Is implementation practical	How satisfied will the stakeholders be
East side of Spit adjacent to existing harbor	Current + Future Needs	High	Medium	Medium	High	Yes	High

A basin protected by a breakwater that is detached from the shore, creating a tranquil harbor space.

Carried Forward

No Action



The harbor remains the same.

An aerial photograph of Homer Harbor, Alaska, showing a large marina filled with numerous sailboats and fishing vessels. In the foreground, there are several large, multi-story buildings with green roofs, likely part of the harbor's infrastructure. The harbor is bordered by a road and a beach on the left, and hills are visible in the background under a cloudy sky.

Workshop

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Workshop: Breakout Session

Table Topics

Focus on Surface Facilities*

1. Uplands Considerations & Aesthetics
2. Resiliency & Sustainability
3. Reduced Environmental Impact
4. Balanced Harbor Design
5. Business/Economic Opportunities

* Upland Facilities: Facilities on the uplands and not part of the USACE project. Facilities that the City of Homer will construct and maintain with non-federal funding (e.g., fuel, water, potable water, electricity, sewage disposal, dock facilities, road, parking, buildings, storage).

Workshop Goals

1. Reflect on needs and/or opportunities - with a surface facilities focus
2. Identify possible solutions
 - Bonus Points: Identify actions to advance solutions
3. Share ideas and collect input
 - The City and HDR (and the USACE where appropriate) will use your feedback!

Thanks for your time!



Workshop: Breakout Session

Instructions

- 60 minutes
- 5 tables
- 1 facilitator / 1 notetaker per table
- Choose a table/topic
- Reflect on Corvus outcomes related to your table topic and identify any additional needs to add to the list (*10 mins*)
- Brainstorm reasonable solutions and ways to advance the solutions (*30 mins*)
- Select the top 2 highlights from your discussion and prepare to report back to the larger group (*10 mins*)
- Ask questions (if we can't answer, we'll get back to you)
- If you would like to visit more than one table, you are welcome
- Comment forms available
- After 60 minutes, there will be 15 minutes for reporting out, 15 minutes for Q/A and 10 minutes for closing remarks



Table Hosts

- **Table 1: Uplands Considerations & Aesthetics**
KC Kent, HDR
- **Table 2: Resilience & Sustainability**
Angela Schedel, HDR
- **Table 3: Reduced Environmental Impact**
Ronald McPherson, HDR
- **Table 4: Balanced Harbor Design**
Bryan Hawkins, City of Homer
- **Table 5: Business & Economic Opportunities**
Matt Clarke, City of Homer

Thanks to the Port & Harbor Commission members helping us out today!





Report Out

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- Questions & Answers
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Questions & Answers

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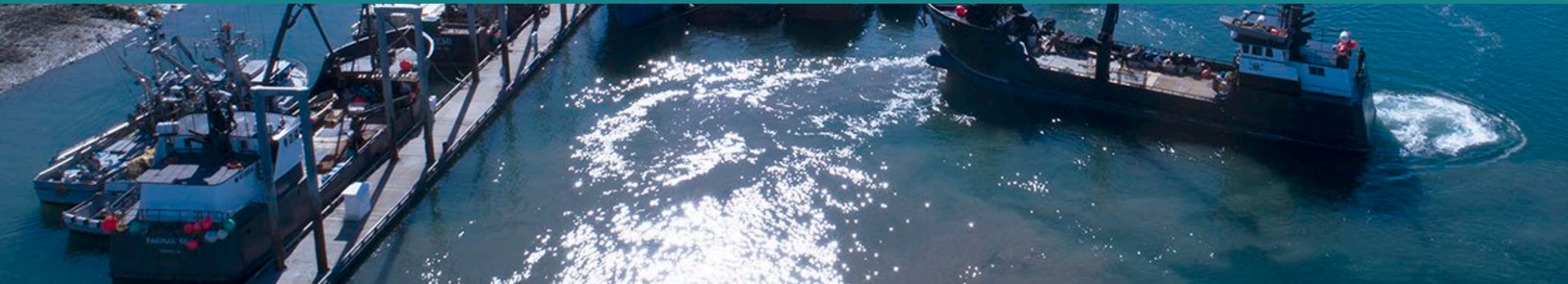
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Questions?



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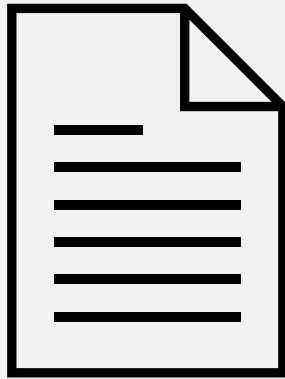
Public Input Opportunities

- Second Public Meeting
 - September 23, 2023 (today!)
- Third Public Meeting
 - At delivery of detailed alternatives
- Public Meeting & Comment Period
 - At delivery of draft report
- Public Engagement
 - Ongoing – stay tuned
- Input Encouraged
 - Throughout!



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