COMMISSION

AGENDA MEMORANDUM   **Item No.**   6c

        ACTION ITEM   **Date of Meeting**   December 10, 2019

DATE: November 14, 2019

TO: Stephen P. Metruck, Executive Director

FROM: Stephanie Jones Stebbins, Managing Director Maritime Division
              Sandra Kilroy, Director Maritime Environment & Sustainability
              Mike DeSota, Sr. Environmental Program Manager

SUBJECT: Request for authorization of funds for the disposal of the Motor Vessel (M/V) Fire Boat Alki (Short Form)

Amount of this request: $329,000

ACTION REQUESTED

Request Commission authorization for the Executive Director to execute a contract totaling $329,000 for disposal for the Motor Vessel Fire Boat Alki.

SUMMARY

The M/V Fire Boat Alki a 118-foot fire response vessel served as a City of Seattle Fire Boat from 1927 until 2013 when the City of Seattle sold it. The M/V Fire Boat Alki has transitioned ownership several times and ultimately was abandoned at Fishermen's Terminal in March of 2017 after a brief stay in a local shipyard facility. The Port of Seattle acting under RCW 79.100 obtained custody of the vessel in February of 2018. The Port of Seattle made significant efforts to dispose or sell the boat and entertained several inquiries of interest from private parties including a faith-based ministry in the Marshall Islands, a Dentist from Alaska, a foreign vessel broker, and a local yacht broker. Unfortunately, none of the inquiries of interest presented a viable option for the disposal or sale of M/V Fire Boat Alki. Requirements in RCW 79.100 for selling a vessel of this size and age would likely create a significant financial burden to make the M/V Fire Boat Alki seaworthy with little to no reduction in risk for future re-abandonment.

The M/V Fire Boat Alki presents a unique situation due to its age and build style that, if sold to another party, makes it a high risk for re-abandonment. Future abandonment or possible sinking could lead to deleterious environmental impacts as the vessel contains a high percentage of lead paint on all surfaces and PCB's in most of its electronic equipment. The Port has solicited bids from the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services Derelict Vessel and Emergency Response Contract for disposal of the vessel. The Port of Seattle received one bid under the contract for $329,000 for the vessel disposal.

The M/V Fire Boat Alki will be towed to a fully permitted NPDES facility in Tacoma for dismantling and disposal. Prior to towing all loose hazardous materials and petroleum product will be removed from the vessel. Upon arrival at the yard abatement contractors will make initial cut lines in the lead containing coatings only to allow for the complete removal of all Asbestos and Polychlorinated Bi-Phenyl containing materials. Once the M/V Fire Boat Alki has been fully abated the remaining hull will be mechanically deconstructed with a hydraulic shear. Metals will be recycled locally to limit transportation and all non-recyclable products will be handled by local licensed waste handlers.

The disposal of M/V Fire Boat Alki is recommended to prevent the vessel from being abandoned in the future. The disposal of the M/V Fire Boat Alki will free up moorage space for fishermen and eliminates the ongoing pollution threat. The Port of Seattle will apply for and anticipates the potential for 100 percent reimbursement from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Derelict Vessel Fund after completion of the disposal process. Port staff met with maritime museum collectors to identify smaller removable items for salvage including any unique/historical pieces of the boat to be preserved in museum or private collections. The port plans to have a contractor remove as many of the small attractive assets for cataloguing and sale at an online public auction. This salvage process will be completed just prior to the removal of the vessel from the terminal. Proceeds of the online auction will offset the removal costs and port charges owed by the vessel owner.