

RESOLUTION 19-18 AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AUTHORITY AND THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ENHANCEMENT, MANAGEMENT, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE DELAWARE MEMORIAL BRIDGE AIR GAP MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Delaware River and Bay Authority is the owner and operator of the Delaware Memorial Bridge crossing facility which provides crossing of the Delaware River for the purpose of enhancing transportation and commerce between the State of Delaware and the State of New Jersey, and the region; and

WHEREAS, since 1998 the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has operated a Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) for the Delaware River and Bay Authority for the purpose of promoting navigation safety, improving the efficiency of US ports and harbors and ensuring the protection of coastal marine resources; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware River and Bay PORTS has monitoring stations from Lewes, Delaware to Newbold, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the safe navigation and operation of vessels in the regional port system is vital to the economic growth and stability of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has seen an increase in large ship traffic over the past eighteen (18) months, and

WHEREAS, in April 2019 an Air-Gap system was installed on the Delaware Memorial Bridge to provide real-time air-gap information required for safe transit of large vessels under the Delaware Memorial Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Authority wishes to enter into an agreement with NOAA, and the National Ocean Services (NOS_ through the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) to allow CO-OPS to enhance, manage, operate, maintain and repair a microwave air-gap measurement system on the Delaware Memorial Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Air-Gap information from the Delaware Memorial Bridge will be incorporated into the Delaware River and Bay Authority's PORTS; and

WHEREAS, the Authority's cost for CO-OPS services will be capped at \$20,000.00 per year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Director is hereby authorized with the advice and consent of counsel to finalize and execute a Reimbursable Agreement for the enhancement, management, operation, maintenance, and repair of the Delaware Memorial Bridge air-gap measurement system with the US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and National Ocean Service for a period of no more than five years beginning in 2019 at a maximum cost of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) per year, subject to the review and consent of the Budget and Finance Committee in years two through five.

Resolution 19-18 Executive Summary Sheet

Resolution: Authorizes the Execution of Agreement between the Authority and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the enhancement, management, operation, maintenance, and repair of the Delaware Memorial Bridge air-gap measurement system

Committee: Budget and Finance

Committee Date: May 21, 2019

Board Date: May 21, 2019

Purpose and Background for Resolution: Since 1998, PORTS has been operating on the Delaware River and Bay for the purpose of promoting navigation safety, improving the efficiency of ports and harbors and ensuring the protection of coastal marine resources.

In April 2019, an Air-Gap system was installed on the Delaware Memorial Bridge to provide real-time air-gap information required for safe transit of large vessels under the Delaware Memorial Bridge.

The safe navigation and operation of vessels in the regional port system is vital to the economic growth and stability of the region.