

11009. RESOLUTION 15-31 – AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTION OF A PROJECT COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AUTHORITY AND THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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, the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay has submitted a request to the Delaware River and Bay Authority to act as a Cooperating Agency to facilitate the continued operation and maintenance of the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) which provides vessel navigation and tracking services along the Delaware River; and

WHEREAS, PORTS has been operational since 1998 and improves the safety and efficiency of maritime commerce through the integration of real-time observations; and

WHEREAS, PORTS was became operational through funding provided by the Delaware River Port Authority (“DRPA”) and

WHEREAS, the annual operating maintenance costs are currently funded by the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (“PRPA”), the South Jersey Port Corporation (“SJPC”), the Port of Wilmington (“Wilmington”); and

WHEREAS, the Maritime Exchange is requesting the Authority to participate in a joint initiative along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”), DRPA, PRPA, SJPC, and Wilmington to share the annual operation and maintenance costs related to PORTS with the parties’ costs capped at \$60,000 each; 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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Executive Director is hereby authorized with the advice and consent of counsel to finalize and execute a Project Cooperation Agreement with NOAA, PRPA, SJPC, Wilmington and DRPA for a period of no more than three years beginning in 2016 at a maximum cost of Sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) per year. Any such agreement shall provide that years two and three are subject to the review and consent of the Budget and Finance Committee.

A motion to approve Resolution 15-31 was made by Commissioner Downes, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and approved by a roll call vote of 9-0.

Resolution 15-31 Executive Summary Sheet

Resolution: Authorizes the Execution of a Project Cooperation Agreement between the Authority and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Committee: Budget and Finance

Committee Date: September 15, 2015

Board Date: September 15, 2015

Purpose and Background for Resolution: In 1998, PORTS became operational on the Delaware River and Bay at a cost of \$1.5 million, paid by the DPRA. Since that time, PRPA, SJPC and Wilmington have shared the \$300,000 cost of an annual operation and maintenance agreement with NOAA.

PORTS is a decision support tool that provides real-time information on both environmental and vessel traffic. PORTS is relied upon by commercial vessel to ensure navigational safety and incident prevention.

The safe and secure operation of vessels on the Delaware River is crucial to economic development of the region.