



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

00-098

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

Conceptual Design Services Agreement for storm sewer design improvements in the Upper Union Park Watershed.

MARCH 20, 2000

FISCAL IMPACT -

SUBJECT:

Conceptual Design Services Agreement for Storm Sewer Improvements in the Upper Union Park Watershed.

The funding for this agreement, \$115,740, is included in 99/00 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) page 239, Index Code 378661, Fund EN104, Organization ENG990000, Project/Grant SAE086 (Grandview Avenue Area Intake Removal). The title has been changed in the FY2000/01 CIP to better describe the project.

RECOMMENDATION -

TYPE:

Approval.

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

BACKGROUND -

SUBMITTED BY:

FLOYD BENTZ, P.E.
CITY ENGINEER

The Upper Union Park Watershed is located in the north central portion of Des Moines along the east bank of the Des Moines River. The area is bounded by Mattern Avenue and Union Park on the south, East 14th Street on the east, Ovid Avenue on the north, and Columbia Avenue on the west. The area covers approximately 300 acres of intense residential development. It includes portions of the Union Park and Highland Park Neighborhoods.

Several houses in this area have experienced sewer backups and flooding over the years. The most recent was in June 1998 during a heavy rain event. During this storm, flood waters and sewer backups damaged several houses in the area. Through a cooperative effort with the property owners, the City was able to purchase five of these houses thereby preventing further

damage to the structures. In addition to eliminating the flood hazard to these properties, the property purchases will make it easier and less costly to complete the needed sewer improvements.

The rainfall runoff from the area is currently handled by a combined sanitary/storm sewer and an old and undersized storm sewer. The limited capacity of these facilities leads to flooding and sanitary sewer backups. The existing facilities do not provide an adequate level of service to the area.

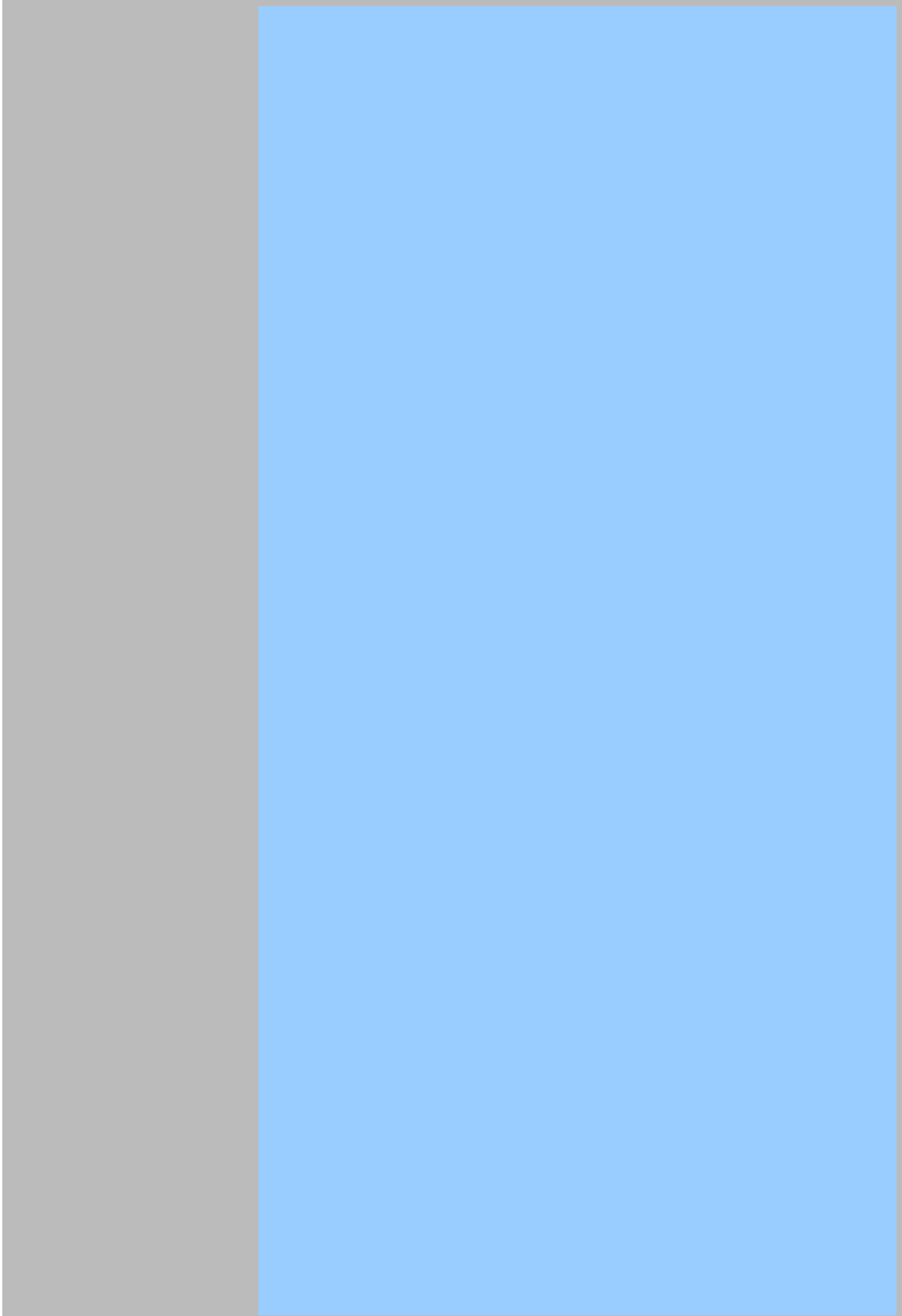
In response to this history of flooding, the Engineering Department has been exploring possibilities for improving the drainage system and separating the sewers. This analysis involves detailed analysis of the drainage area and specialized flood modeling for the watershed. In addition, several alternative improvements will be looked at, including combinations of piping, overland conveyance, and detention. A final recommended alternative and route will be selected. To provide the expertise in modeling, a consultant will be hired to provide the conceptual design.

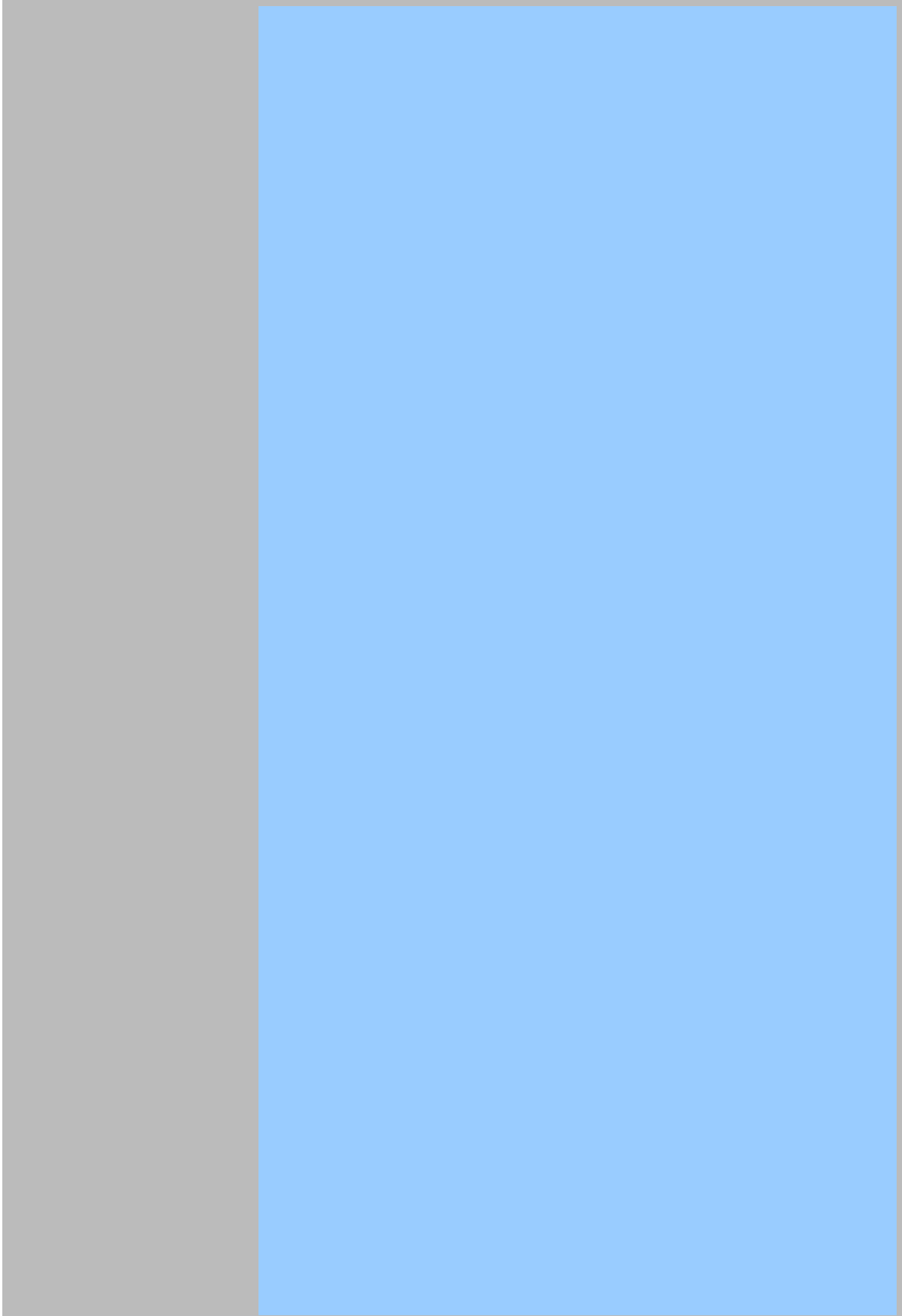
A major portion of this conceptual design will be the coordination and informational meetings with the neighborhoods. Therefore, Requests for Proposals (RFPs) were sent to four Des Moines area consulting firms. The RFPs were received on January 27, 2000. A team of Engineering and Public Works staff was established to select the best-qualified consultant for the project. Of the four consultants receiving RFPs, one did not submit a proposal as they informed us their workload would not permit them to complete the work in the required timeframe. The consultant selected for the conceptual design was Veenstra and Kimm, Inc. Their proposal provided the best combination of technical knowledge, knowledge of the area, and public information plan. Their proposal was the highest cost proposal; however, the selection team was unanimous in its evaluation that Veenstra and Kimm's proposal described the best grasp of the area's needs and understanding of project.

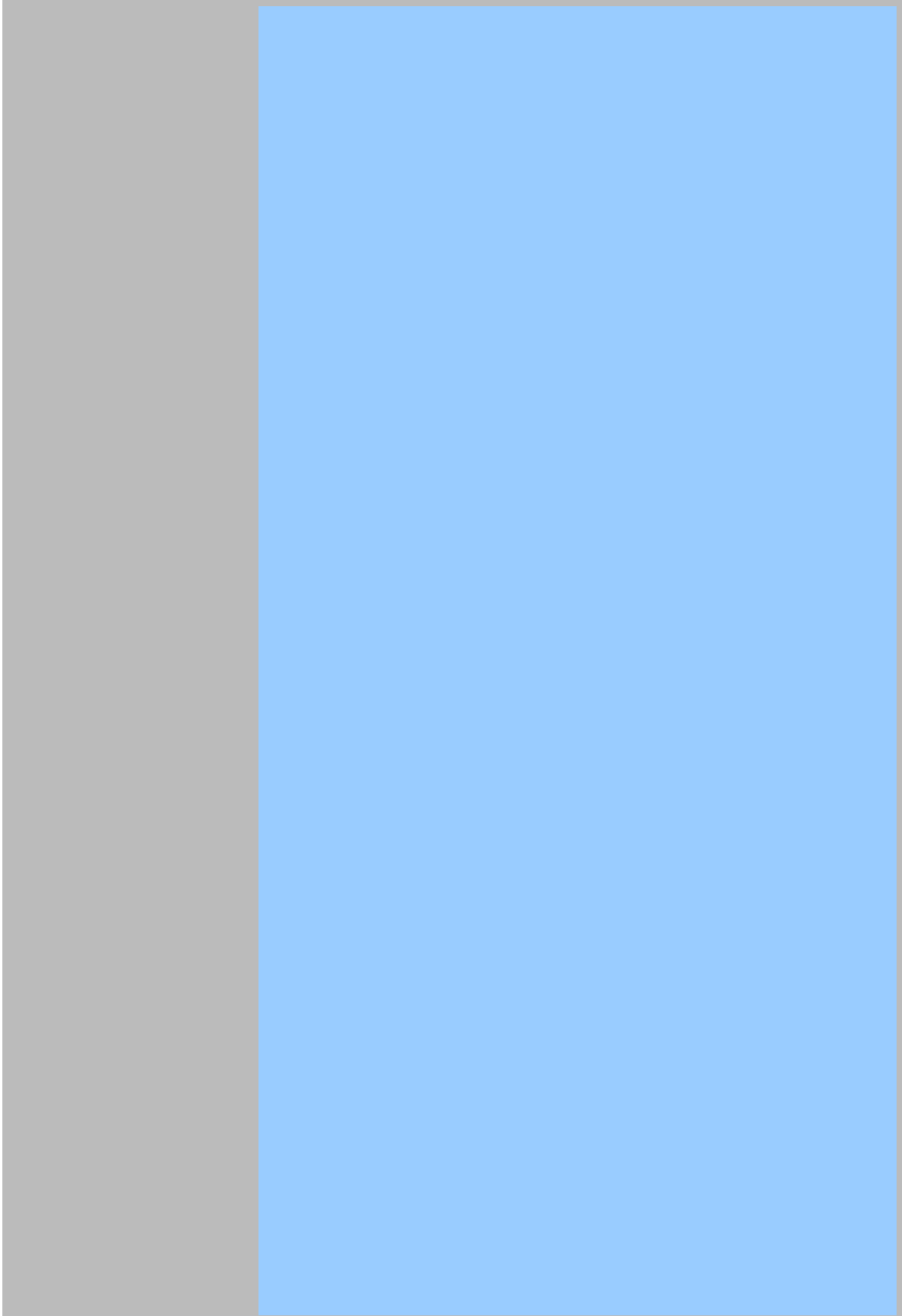
The engineering services agreement provides for the analysis and conceptual design services to establish the selected alternative and right-of-way needs for the project. Performing a conceptual design is a relatively new step in project design, which allows affected property owners to have input into

project alternative development early in the process prior to selection of the final alternative. Through this process, ongoing coordinating with the neighborhoods will occur. This agreement will provide for approximately 30 percent of the design effort to prepare the project for construction. The schedule for completion of the conceptual design is November 2000.

The preliminary estimate for the improvements is \$5,600,000. Once an alternative is selected, a decision will be made on completing the project plans and specifications either in-house or by a consultant. It is anticipated construction will begin in the summer of 2001 and continue through 2003. The interval between the completion of the conceptual design and the construction will be utilized for design and right-of-way acquisition. The current CIP reflects this anticipated project schedule.









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