

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**00-534**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**  
NOVEMBER 20, 2000

On the November 20, 2000 Council agenda is an application for a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) for storm sewer improvements in the proposed Des Moines Agribusiness Park. The project involves installing a storm water pump station adjacent to the Burlington-Northern Railroad right-of-way in the vicinity of SE 36th Street and storm sewer lines in Vandalia Road and adjoining areas from approximately the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility to SE 43rd Street (City limits). The City of Des Moines currently owns a total of 194 acres in the Park. A significant barrier to redeveloping this land will be removed and investor confidence will be promoted by installing the necessary infrastructure. Ellen Walkowiak with the City's Office of Economic Development is coordinating the City activities relative to this project.

**SUBJECT:**  
  
GRANT  
APPLICATION FOR  
STORM SEWER  
IMPROVEMENTS IN  
THE PROPOSED  
DES MOINES  
AGRIBUSINESS  
PARK

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

**TYPE:**

The total project cost is estimated at \$3 million. EDA will provide up to a maximum of 50 percent of the project cost, which is \$1.5 million. The City will contribute up to \$1.5 million from future General Obligation Bonds.

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**  
  
ERIC A. ANDERSON  
CITY MANAGER

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND -**

In October 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated the City of Des Moines a national Brownfields Showcase Community, which accords the City priority for federal funding. The City has an immediate opportunity to obtain federal assistance from EDA for storm sewer improvements in the proposed Des Moines

Agribusiness Park. The area is well served by water, sanitary sewer, highway, and other infrastructure. However, there is no storm water distribution and collection system. In July 1993, the area was significantly flooded. Without the proposed storm sewer improvements, dense quality development will not occur despite the area's locational advantages.

Engineering design and right-of-way acquisition activities are proposed to start in spring/summer 2001. Construction would begin in spring 2002 and be completed approximately one year later.

Installation of a storm water distribution and collection system will enable development of the proposed Agribusiness Park. Redevelopment in this area will alleviate poverty, deter deterioration, and offer alternative industrial development opportunities to businesses. The return on investment is significant. When completed, the Park project alone is expected to add \$250 million to the tax base and create about 7,000 jobs.