

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**02-578**

**AGENDA:**

NOVEMBER 18, 2002

**SUBJECT:**

APPLICATION FOR  
FEDERAL FUNDS  
RELATED TO  
DES MOINES  
BROWNFIELDS  
REVITALIZATION  
EFFORTS

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
**ORDINANCE**  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

ERIC A. ANDERSON  
CITY MANAGER

**ITEM 60**

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

**SYNOPSIS —**

On the November 18, 2002 Council agenda is a roll call to authorize staff to prepare and submit draft and final Initial Proposals to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to secure \$2,000,000 in federal funds. The proposals request \$200,000 for environmental site assessments in the Des Moines Agribusiness Enterprise Zone, \$1,000,000 to establish a revolving loan fund for final cleanup activities in Riverpoint West, and \$800,000 to clean up four sites in the Guthrie Avenue Business Park. The City is competing for \$100 million nationally in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003. Ellen Walkowiak and Robin Paul with the City's Office of Economic Development are coordinating the City activities for this project.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

A 20 percent cost share is required for both revolving loan fund and cleanup activities. Potential revolving loan fund recipients will contribute the required \$200,000 cost share for the revolving loan fund grant. In addition, the City will provide approximately \$20,000 in labor, material, and other services. For the cleanup grant, the City will provide \$160,000 in labor, material, and other services for eligible and allowable expenses related to remediation on all four sites. Funds are available from the Guthrie Avenue Business Park account.

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND —**

On October 11, 2000, EPA designated the City of Des Moines a Brownfields Showcase Community. On January 11, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. The Brownfields Law expands potential federal financial assistance for brownfields redevelopment. It also limits the liability of certain contiguous property owners and prospective purchasers of brownfield sites and clarifies innocent landowner defenses to encourage brownfield revitalization and re-use. EPA has made available up to \$100 million nationally in

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FY2003. In order to compete for this funding, draft Initial Proposals must be submitted to the EPA by November 27, 2002, for comment and clarification and final Initial Proposals, by December 16, 2002. The City will learn the outcome of its proposal in late January 2003. After competing successfully in the first round, the City will be requested to submit Final Proposals by March 5, 2003.

Federal funds are proposed to be used to: (1) conduct environmental site assessments in the Des Moines Agribusiness Enterprise Zone for business expansion and investment, (2) establish a revolving loan fund to enable final cleanup activities in Riverpoint West to facilitate redevelopment, and (3) clean up four sites in the Guthrie Avenue Business Park contaminated with hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum to attract new development.

