



Agenda Item:

42

## **COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Agenda Date: 07/18/05  
Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Communication No.: 05-400  
Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Richard A. Clark, Acting City Manager

### **SUBJECT—**

Resolution to Authorize Execution of Federal Documents to Fund Community-Wide Petroleum Assessment of Des Moines Brownfields

### **SYNOPSIS—**

Authorizes the Mayor to execute federal documents to access a \$200,000 EPA grant to conduct exploratory soil and groundwater testing on former gas station sites throughout the community in order to generate reinvestment in them and address environmental issues. The City anticipates performing petroleum assessments initially in the Capitol East and Fairground neighborhoods, which represent areas with outstanding redevelopment potential.

### **FISCAL IMPACT—**

None. No matching funds are required. The City intends to use EPA funds to leverage part of the \$26.3 million Iowa Underground Storage Tank Program, Innocent Landowner Fund that can pay a majority of cleanup costs for eligible sites/property owners.

### **RECOMMENDATION—**

Approval

### **BACKGROUND—**

On November 8, 2004 by Roll Call No. 04-2457, the City of Des Moines submitted a \$200,000 community-wide petroleum assessment grant to the EPA to address potential redevelopment challenges associated with an estimated 350 former gas station sites in Des Moines. On May 10, 2005, the EPA awarded the City \$200,000 in petroleum assessment grant funds and invited the City to submit an

application, including a Cooperative Agreement, to access them. The City must execute and send the documents to the EPA by the end of July 2005 so that funds will be available on October 1, 2005.

The City has been very successful in obtaining EPA grants. With this grant, it has secured nearly \$3 million. The City intends to use EPA funds to identify and resolve environmental issues. The City will work closely with the Capitol East Neighborhood Association, Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement and Des Moines Neighbors. Work will commence in fall/winter 2005.