

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	February 14, 2011
	Agenda Item No. Roll Call No. Communication No. Submitted by:	21 <u>11-0185</u> <u>11-087</u> Phillip M. Delafield, Community Development Director and Jeb E. Brewer, P.E., City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorization to submit a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a proposed voluntary hazard mitigation acquisition buyout project.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend authorization to submit a HMGP application to the FEMA for a proposed voluntary hazard mitigation acquisition project for eligible flood damaged properties in the Four Mile and other floodplain areas. If authorized, the City will apply for funds for a voluntary buyout program for flood-damaged residential properties.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$7.5 million estimated for acquisition, relocation, demolition, closing, and labor.

Funding Source: 75% by FEMA, 25% by State of Iowa. However, it is likely that a 15% allocation by the City will be required, lowering the State allocation to 10%. The likely City funding source will be general obligation bonds or storm water revenue.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

City staff has completed assessments of structures in the Four Mile Creek and other areas of the City that were impacted by the August 2010 flooding. Staff has contacted property owners, sent press releases, and held public meetings to determine the willingness of property owners to participate in a buyout program. As a result, 60 properties have been identified that are eligible under the program requirements, and the property owners have shown interest in project participation. These properties are zoned “U-1” Floodplain District or “FW” Floodway District. These zoning districts were developed to protect the health and welfare of the public from the impacts of frequent flooding. Development in these districts is severely limited, therefore if purchased, these 60 properties would be deed restricted to prohibit reconstruction under the City’s Zoning and Flood Plain Management Ordinance. Staff believes a buyout program would prevent future losses due to frequent flooding in the area. Acquired properties would be cleared of all structures, and include a deed restriction limiting their use to green space only. This will allow the land to return to its natural state and restore its floodplain functions.

Chronology of Events

On July 29, 2010, there was a Presidential declaration of major disaster for the State of Iowa. On August 15, 2010, Polk County was added to the Federal Disaster Declaration. The HMGP provides grants to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures following a Federal Disaster Declaration. On October 28, 2010, the City submitted a Notice of Interest (NOI) to the Iowa Homeland Security & Management Division in order to be eligible for consideration to apply for HMGP funds. This allows measures to be implemented during recovery that will limit damages in the future. The City was formally invited to submit an application by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division. City staff completed many of the required steps of the application process, including damage assessments, public meetings, and certification of the list of 60 qualified properties that are eligible for participation in the buyout program. The process is now entering the final stages, which is expected to be completed in approximately 60 days.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Acceptance of grant and authorization to proceed.

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