

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: June 8, 2015
	Agenda Item No. 15 Roll Call No. <u>15-903</u> Communication No. <u>15-300</u> Submitted by: Pamela S. Cooksey, P.E., City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

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

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend authorization to submit a HMGP Application to FEMA for a proposed voluntary hazard mitigation acquisition project for 12 eligible properties in the Four Mile Creek 100-year floodplain. If authorized, the City will apply for funds for a voluntary buyout program that will help reduce or eliminate the potential for harm to people and property from future hazard occurrences.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$1,500,000 estimated funding for acquisition, relocation, demolition, closing and labor.

Funding Source: 2015-2016 Operating Budget, Page 82, Engineering Department, Special Revenue and Other Funds, Storms Mitigation/Recovery, S854:

- FEMA 75% - \$1,125,000
- State of Iowa 10% - \$150,000
- City of Des Moines 15% - \$225,000

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The State of Iowa will receive FEMA funding under the HMGP Program as part of Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4187-1A (August 5, 2014) as a result of severe storms, tornadoes and straight-line winds and flooding that occurred in Iowa during the summer of 2014. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires a FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plan prior to FEMA awarding HMGP project funds. On July 28, 2014, by Roll Call No. 14-1144, City Council approved and adopted the Polk County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The State is making available HMGP funds for those eligible hazard mitigation project types that will reduce or eliminate the potential for harm to people and property from future hazard occurrences.

The City is eligible to apply for HMGP funds for a proposed FEMA Voluntary Flood Buyout Program to purchase residential properties that are currently located in the 100-year floodplain. The estimated maximum amount of funding available to the City under this program is expected to be \$1.5 million. On October 31, 2014, the City submitted a Notice of Interest to the Iowa Homeland Security and

Emergency Management Division in order to be eligible for consideration to apply for HMGP funds, and on November 5, 2014, the City received a formal invitation to complete and submit an application.

In consultation with Polk County and Snyder & Associates, Inc., the City has identified 12 single-family homes that are a priority for voluntary acquisition in the Four Mile Creek Floodplain. These properties meet the eligibility requirements and funding availability for application to the State of Iowa for HMGP funds. Over the past several months, the City has been working with these property owners to confirm their interest in participating in the voluntary buyout program, and to determine the current appraised value of their properties and any additional relocation payments they will be eligible to receive.

If City Council authorizes the submittal of the HMGP Application to the State of Iowa, the grant review and approval process is expected to be completed by September 30, 2015. If an HMGP grant is approved by the State of Iowa, it will be submitted to City Council for final approval and authorization for City staff to proceed with the voluntary buyout project. If approved, it is estimated that property acquisition would begin by October 2015. 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.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: July 28, 2014

Roll Call Number: [14-1144](#)

Action: [Adopting](#) the Polk County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. ([Council Communication No. 14-350](#)) Moved by Mahaffey to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: July 13, 2009

Roll Call Number: [09-1284](#)

Action: [Polk](#) County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan as required by the FEMA HMGP. ([Council Communication No. 09-488](#)) Moved by Mahaffey to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Acceptance of grant and authorization to proceed with the acquisition and demolition process.

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