

 <div style="text-align: center;"> <h1 style="margin: 0;">Council</h1> <h1 style="margin: 0;">Communication</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Office of the City Manager</p> </div>	Date: July 27, 2015
	Agenda Item No. 25 Roll Call No. <u>15-1249</u> Communication No. <u>15-426</u> Submitted by: Pamela S. Cooksey, P.E., City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorization to submit a Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Application and request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for proposed voluntary hazard mitigation buyout and demolition projects.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend authorization to submit a FMA Application to FEMA for a proposed voluntary hazard mitigation acquisition project for eligible properties in the 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 flood hazard occurrences.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$1,500,000 estimated 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 (Storm Water Utility Fees)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FEMA has announced the Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, which includes FMA. The HMA grant program will provide funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, and communities for hazard mitigation planning and mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. Funding amounts are based on Congressional appropriation.

Projects submitted for consideration must be consistent with the goals and objectives identified in Iowa's State Hazard Mitigation Plan and local mitigation plan for the jurisdiction in which the activity is located. The FMA grant provides an excellent opportunity for communities to initiate mitigation projects that provide protection against natural hazards. Eligible mitigation project activities include property acquisition and structural demolition and relocation for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) insured properties.

The City is eligible to apply for FMA funds for a proposed FEMA Voluntary Flood Buyout Program to purchase residential properties that are currently located in the 100-year floodplain and are NFIP

insured. On June 1, 2015, the City received an invitation from the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division to complete and submit an application. They also supplied the City with a list of eligible NFIP insured properties.

City staff contacted several eligible property owners in the Four Mile Creek floodplain area that previously have been identified as a priority for acquisition and demolition. Seven (7) owners have expressed interest in voluntary participation in the program and the properties have been appraised by an independent appraiser, which is a requirement for the application process. If the grant application is approved, it is estimated that property acquisition would begin by December 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 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (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: NONE

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