

Date March 22, 2010

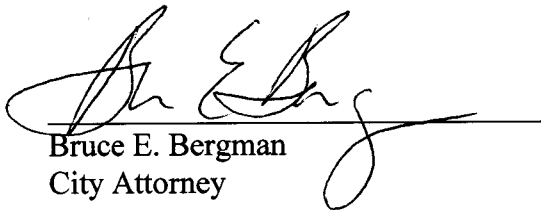
APPROVING COMMUNICATION TO THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa:

That the attached communication to the Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is approved and the Mayor is authorized to execute the communication on behalf of the City Council.

Moved by _____ to adopt.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Bruce E. Bergman
City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GRIESS				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
MOORE				
TOTAL				

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

City Clerk



T. M. Franklin Cownie
Mayor

March 22, 2010

Mr. Richard Leopold, Director
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Re: City of Des Moines Long Term Control Plan

Dear Mr. Leopold:

On March 22, 2010, the Des Moines City Council approved a Consent Decree with the Attorney General of Iowa aimed at promoting compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act. The Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) underpinning this agreement requires significant financial commitments both of the City of Des Moines and the Des Moines Regional Wastewater Reclamation Authority (WRA), of which the City of Des Moines is the largest contributor. In short, by its actions in approving the terms of the Consent Decree, the City of Des Moines is committing to contributing the majority of over \$200 million in capital improvements over the term of the Decree—with significant rate impacts upon Des Moines' sanitary and stormwater utility ratepayers. While we recognize the importance of improving Iowa's water quality, we underscore the financial impact this will have on our residents and respectfully ask that IDNR continue to work with City staff to reduce additional financial impacts on our ratepayers and to provide workable administration of both the LTCP and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the WRA. Moreover, we are aware that other cities in Iowa will be asked to enter into consent decrees as well. As these are finalized, we ask that IDNR strive to achieve consistency in the enforcement and relative level of investment among all cities including Des Moines.

We would welcome further discussions to communicate more fully our concerns for ratepayers as you or your staff may find helpful.

Best regards,

T. M. Franklin Cownie
Mayor

City Hall

400 Robert D. Ray Drive

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Phone (515) 283-4944

Fax (515) 237-1806

www.dmgov.org

/lf

cc: Mark Miller, Chair, WRA Board