


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	19-291	Meeting:	June 24, 2019
	Agenda Item:	40	Roll Call:	19-1015
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, 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 28 identified eligible properties in the Fourmile 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: \$5,084,700 eligible funding for acquisition, relocation, demolition, closing and labor.

Funding Source: 2019-2020 Operating Budget, Page 85, Engineering Department, Special Revenue and Other Funds, Storms Mitigation/Recovery, S854;

- FEMA 75% - \$3,813,525
- State of Iowa 10% - \$508,470
- City of Des Moines 15% - \$762,705

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The State of Iowa will receive FEMA funding under the HMGP Program as part of Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4386-IA (August 20, 2018) and DR-4421-1A (March 23, 2019) as a result of severe storms, tornadoes and straight-line winds and flooding that occurred in Iowa. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires a FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plan prior to FEMA awarding HMGP project funds. On April 22, 2019, by Roll Call No. 19-0649, 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 \$5,247,100. On May 23, 2019, 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 that day, the City received a formal invitation to complete and submit an application.
- In consultation with Polk County, the City has identified 28 single-family homes and vacant lots that are a priority for voluntary acquisition in the Fourmile 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.
- If City Council authorizes the submittal of the HMGP Application to the State of Iowa, City staff will proceed with property appraisals which are required as part of the grant application submittal. The grant application, review and approval process is expected to be completed by December 31, 2019. If an HMGP grant is approved by FEMA and the State of Iowa, it will be submitted to City Council for final approval and authorization for City staff to proceed with the property acquisition process. If approved, it is estimated that the property acquisition process would begin in early 2020 and the acquired properties would be cleared of all structures within 90 days of closing. All acquired properties will include a deed restriction limiting their use to green space only and the land will be returned to its natural floodplain function.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: April 22, 2019

Roll Call Number: [19-0649](#)

Action: [Adopting](#) the Polk County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. ([Council Communication No. 19-174](#)) Moved by Gatto 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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