

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

02-435

AGENDA:

AUGUST 19, 2002

SUBJECT:

COOPERATIVE
AGREEMENT TO
ACCESS FEDERAL
FUNDS RELATED
TO THE DES
MOINES
AGRIMERGENT
TECHNOLOGY
PARK

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

SYNOPSIS -

On the August 19, 2002 Council agenda is a roll call to authorize the Mayor to enter into the Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to access \$45,000 in federal funds. Funds are related to incorporating smart growth and brownfields revitalization in the Des Moines Agrimergent Technology Park. Ellen Walkowiak with the City's Office of Economic Development is coordinating the City activities relative to this project.

FISCAL IMPACT -

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded \$45,000 to the City under the Smart Growth: Saving Open Space, Revitalizing Brownfields Program. No matching funds are required. The City will seek additional funding and in-kind contributions of approximately \$75,000 to apply project findings to the Agrimergent Technology Park.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

On October 11, 2002, EPA designated the City of Des Moines a Brownfields Showcase Community. On June 17, 2002, the City submitted a grant application to the EPA to incorporate smart growth and brownfields revitalization in redeveloping the Des Moines Agrimergent Technology Park.

SUBMITTED BY:

ERIC A. ANDERSON
CITY MANAGER

On July 24, 2002, the EPA Deputy Administrator awarded the \$45,000 grant to the City of Des Moines. This award is significant because it is among the first ones in the nation to be provided under a new EPA initiative. Des Moines is one of only nine communities throughout the country to receive this funding. The award also recognizes Des Moines as an innovator and a leader in brownfields redevelopment.

Federal funds are proposed to be used to develop a user-friendly interactive, quantitative model that will demonstrate the cost, cost savings, and other benefits of implementing smart growth and environmental stewardship strategies in site and building design on brownfields for industrial reuse. Businesses will be able to use the model to understand how specific design aspects of their new developments can save them money while enhancing the environment.

Several other objectives are proposed to be met as additional funds are identified. They include:

- Apply the model by developing design guidelines for the Agrimergent Technology Park that will focus on reducing land consumption and creating sustainable industrial sites.
- Specify the type and extent of incentives businesses need to implement smart growth and environmental protection approaches on brownfields for industrial reuse.
- Provide recommendations to incorporate smart growth and environmental protection guidelines into City land use policies for industrial development and to create incentives so that brownfields will become more viable investment choices.

This Smart Growth Initiative award will help the City to achieve what the community wants. It will assist in encouraging new business investment and protecting the environment.