



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 11/8/04

Communication

No.: 04-560

Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Roll Call

No.:

Submitted by: Richard A. Clark, Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT—

Resolution to Authorize Submission of \$200,000 EPA Grant Proposal for Petroleum Assessment of Des Moines Brownfields

SYNOPSIS—

Council is requested to authorize City staff to submit a \$200,000 EPA grant proposal to conduct exploratory soil and groundwater testing on former gas station sites throughout the community in order to generate reinvestment in them and address environmental issues. The City anticipates performing petroleum assessments initially in the Capitol East and Fairground neighborhoods, which represent areas with outstanding redevelopment potential.

FISCAL IMPACT—

Not Applicable. No matching funds are required. The City intends to use EPA funds to leverage part of the \$26.3 million Iowa Underground Storage Tank Program, Innocent Landowner Fund that can pay a majority of cleanup costs for eligible sites and property owners.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval.

BACKGROUND—

In September 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its annual national competition to access Federal funds for assessment, revolving loan fund and cleanup activities. The City has been very successful in obtaining EPA grants. To date, it has secured \$2.7 million. During the FY05 competition, EPA anticipates awarding 200 grants to

communities throughout the U.S. valued at approximately \$100 million, pending Congressional approval.

Council is requested to submit a \$200,000 community-wide petroleum assessment grant to the EPA to address potential redevelopment challenges associated with an estimated 350 former gas station sites in Des Moines. The City discussed the project with the Fairground Neighbors for Community Improvement on October 26, 2004, the Capitol East Neighborhood Association on October 27, 2004 and Des Moines Neighbors on October 28, 2004. Residents were very supportive.

In order to compete for these funds, the City must submit its grant proposal to the EPA by November 12, 2004. The City will learn the outcome of its efforts in April 2005. Upon award, the City will negotiate a Cooperative Agreement with the EPA, and work will commence in fall 2005.