

# Mayor and Council Communication

**DATE:** 11/28/23

**M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 23-0992

**LOG NAME:** 22ENV EPA ASSESSMENT GRANT FY24

## **SUBJECT**

(ALL) Ratify Application for and, if Awarded, Acceptance of a Grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in an Amount Up to \$500,000.00 for Conducting Environmental Site Assessments and Developing Cleanup Plans throughout the City with a Special Focus on the Neighborhoods Included Within the Boundaries of US-287/IH-30, IH-35 W, East Berry Street, and IH-820 in Fort Worth

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Ratify application for, and acceptance of, if awarded, a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in an amount up to \$500,000.00 for conducting environmental site assessments and developing cleanup plans for brownfields throughout the City with a special focus on the neighborhoods included within the boundaries of US-287/IH-30, IH-35 W, East Berry Street, and IH-820 in Fort Worth;
  2. Authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable grant contracts including renewals and amendments; and
  3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund in an amount up to \$500,000.00 upon receipt of the grants.
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## **DISCUSSION:**

The City of Fort Worth's Brownfields Program promotes redevelopment of qualifying brownfields sites through identification of environmental hazards through environmental site assessment and cleanup of environmental contaminants, where possible. A brownfield is an abandoned or underutilized building/structure or vacant land that has real or perceived environmental contamination which prevents redevelopment. In Fiscal Year 2024, the City of Fort Worth is eligible to apply for funding under the subject grant program known as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment Grant Program. Indirect costs are not associated with these grant opportunities.

If awarded, the 2024 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant would provide up to the maximum award of \$500,000.00 in funding under the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfield Revitalization Act and under §104(k)(2) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). This type of grant allows the City to provide direct service to support various public and private land development projects by providing environmental site assessment services, typically before land transactions occur. These assessments can directly save on necessary environmental due diligence costs and be used to inform cleanup plans or to facilitate remediation and subsequent reuse and redevelopment. If awarded, grant funds for eligible environmental assessment activities may be used citywide within all council districts. The FY2024 application also supports focused support for any site assessment needs within the boundaries of US-287/IH-30, IH-35 W, East Berry Street, and IH-820 in Fort Worth. If awarded to the City of Fort Worth, the grant period for this grant is 3 years.

Because no City salaries will be charged, indirect cost recovery does not apply.

To learn more about the City of Fort Worth Brownfields Program, visit: [www.fortworthtexas.gov/brownfields](http://www.fortworthtexas.gov/brownfields)

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

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## **FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:**

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Operating Federal Fund. The Environmental Services Department and Financial Management Services will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Environmental Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is an advance grant.

**Submitted for City Manager's Office by:** Valerie Washington 6199

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**Additional Information Contact:**

