

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 12/12/23

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 23-1072

LOG NAME: 60BRIC GRANT APPLICATION

SUBJECT

(CD 5) Authorize Application for a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in an Amount Up to \$6,000,000.00 for the Village Creek Biosolids Facility Bank Restoration and Levee Resiliency Project for the Water Department

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the application to Federal Emergency Management Agency for a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant in an amount up to \$6,000,000.00 for the Village Creek Biosolids Facility Bank Restoration and Levee Resiliency project with a cash and in-kind services match in an amount up to \$2,000,000.00 for a total project cost of up to \$8,000,000.00.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize the Water Department to apply for a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in an amount up to \$6,000,000.00 for the Village Creek Biosolids Facility Bank Restoration and Levee Resiliency project. The BRIC grant program provides funding for hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks faced from disasters and natural hazards to create more resilient communities. The grant is a competitive selection grant and the City will be required to provide a local, non-federal match of 25 percent in cash or in-kind services in an amount up to \$2,000,000.00, for a total project cost of \$8,000,000.00. Additionally, the grant is reimbursable, meaning that the Water Department will front the initial costs and will submit for reimbursement in a timely manner after costs are incurred. Staff has identified pay-go funding and in-kind services for the City's cost participation and any additional costs not covered by the grant, if awarded.

Funding is currently available in the Water Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Pay-Go budget for the City's cost participation. Due to changing project needs between the time of application for the grant and potential award of the grant, a future M&C will be written to accept the grant, if awarded, and appropriate funding for the City's cost participation. The funding source in the future M&C may be different than the aforementioned funding source.

Frequent periods of drought followed by record rainfall and flooding over the last several years have resulted in substantial streambank destabilization and erosion along the Trinity River where it borders the levee protecting the newly operational biosolids facility against floodwaters. If allowed to continue, the left bank will widen and erode towards the floodplain levee resulting in failure. If the levee were to fail, it would leave the treatment facility vulnerable to flooding which would have negative effects on the infrastructure and the environment.

In 2021, the City contracted with Freese and Nichols, Inc. (FNI) to perform engineering design for the streambank protection (CSC No. 55399, M&C 21-0128). FNI developed a plan to realign the centerline of the river itself, changing a sharp 90-degree bend to a sweeping curve to reduce the potential for damaging erosion to the riverbank protecting the levee system. FNI's plan also reinforces the outside meander of the riverbank and calls for in-stream structures to create pools, reducing the river velocity while providing an improved ecological environment for fish, birds, and other native wildlife. This BRIC grant will provide funding for the construction of these improvements.

Upon award, a Mayor and Council Communication will be presented for consideration which establishes and approves the City's match and appropriations for this grant.

This project is located in COUNCIL DISTRICT 5.

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

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that approval of this recommendation will have no material effect on City funds.

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