

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION OF SUBMISSION OF A
REQUEST TO THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FOR THE
JUNE 2006 FLOOD DAMAGES

ISSUE: City Council consideration of authorization of submission to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the June 2006 flood damages.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize the reimbursement submission to FHWA for the June 2006 flood; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents for the recovery effort.

BACKGROUND: The City experienced severe thunderstorms and flooding from June 25 through July 6, 2006. The President declared a major disaster on July 13th for these storms. Most of the damage the City sustained occurred within the water channels: Cameron Run, Holmes Run, and Backlick Run. The storms left an estimated 95,000 cubic yards of debris, sediment, silt, mud, and rocks within these water channels.

By law, federal assistance cannot duplicate the benefits provided by another source. In order to avoid the duplication of benefits, federal agencies have guidelines to outline which agencies handle the various aspects of the damage relief effort. Water channels and permanent structures within the water channels involve numerous federal agencies for reimbursement, so City staff are actively pursuing federal assistance from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE.)

DISCUSSION: Under the Emergency Relief program, FHWA should reimburse the City for expenses incurred for removing debris from sites that are incorporated into the federal-aid roadways. The City submitted three sites: N. Van Dorn St. over Holmes Run; Beauregard St.

over Holmes Run; and S. Van Dorn St. over Backlick Run. The clean-up work was completed for these three sites, and the total cost was \$78,415.

FISCAL IMPACT: FHWA reimburses 100 percent of the approved, eligible expenses. The City submitted \$78,415 worth of expenditures for the debris removal of the three minor arterial roadways.

The FHWA submission for funding requires staff time from members of the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services, Finance Department, Office of Management and Budget, and the Grants Coordinator.

The necessary paperwork was submitted, in order to meet the 30 day deadline from the date of the Presidential declaration, with the understanding that subsequent City Council approval would be required to accept any funds.

STAFF:

Doug McCobb, Deputy Director of Operations, T&ES
Laura Pettus, Grants Coordinator, City Manager's Office
Rich Baier, Director, T&ES
Elisabeth Wheel, Budget Analyst, OMB