

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *ps*

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FOR LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT AND STORM WATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) PROJECTS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

ISSUE: City Council consideration of submission of a grant application to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for low impact development and storm water BMP projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Submit a grant application to the DCR for FY 2005 funding for Water Quality Grant Program matching funds, in the amount of \$71,600, for construction of a "green roof" atop the new City of Alexandria Health Department Community Services building at 4480 King Street; and
- (2) Execute all necessary documents that may be required.

DISCUSSION: The DCR sponsors the Water Quality Grant Program to reduce nonpoint source pollution impacting the Chesapeake Bay. The program intends to fund low impact development and storm water best management practice (BMP) demonstration projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which are innovative in design and go above and beyond what is required by state and local laws. The Department of Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES), Division of Environmental Quality and the General Services Department (GS), Capital Projects Division, are working together to retrofit the new Health Department Community Services building with an innovative form of low impact development and storm water management known as a green roof. The six story 60,000 square foot office building, which was built in 1986 was acquired by the City. When building renovations were completed in mid-August, the Health Department operations from St. Asaph Street, and the Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Day Treatment and Clubhouse programs were relocated to the facility at 4480 King Street.

Green roofs provide environmental benefits and energy efficiency to the City of Alexandria. The green roof system relies on soil media and vegetation to improve water quality and help reduce the volume of storm water that enters the City's sewers and streams. Green roofs also reduce the temperature of air emanating from the tops of buildings (urban heat islands) as well as reduce the temperature and associated thermal stress of storm water runoff entering our streams and stressing aquatic life. Finally, green roofs help insulate buildings, enabling them to be more energy efficient.

The newly renovated Health Department/Community Services building is ideally suited to support a green roof and such a roof could be used to help educate developers and citizens on the benefits of green roof technology in the context of low impact development and storm water management.

FISCAL IMPACT: The City seeks \$40,000 in grant funding from DCR for the green roof project and intends to match it with \$71,600 for a total project budget of \$111,600. Grant awards for DCR's Water Quality Program are typically between \$10,000 and \$40,000 and must be matched with direct project funding from non-federal sources or in-kind contributions or services. T&ES and General Services submitted this grant to DCR in order to meet the deadline of August 20, 2004, with the understanding that subsequent City Council authorization would be required to accept this award. T&ES and General Services intend to use the adopted FY 2005 operating funds, in the amount of \$7,200, to be split evenly between the two departments to cover personnel services required to execute the project and Capital Improvement Program funds in the amount of \$64,400 (\$49,400 from the Energy Conservation project and \$15,000 from the Environmental Restoration project) to meet the match requirements and do not seek additional funding sources.

ATTACHMENTS: None. The grant application may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal office hours.

STAFF:

Edward Mandley, Director, GS

Rich Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

William J. Skrabak, Division Chief, Environmental Quality

Alfred Coleman, Budget/Management Analyst, OMB