


City of Alexandria, Virginia

9-26-06

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF DESIGNATION OF CITY MANAGER AS THE CITY'S AGENT AND AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY FOR THE JUNE 2006 FLOOD DAMAGES

ISSUE: City Council consideration of designation of City Manager as the City's Agent and authorization to submit application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the June 2006 flood damages.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council:

- (1) Designate James K. Hartmann, City Manager, as the designated agent on behalf of the City for the purpose of filing application with federal agencies;
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to sign the FEMA Application for Federal Assistance for the June 2006 Flood; and
- (3) 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 channels of 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 runs.

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 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE.)

DISCUSSION: City staff have been actively meeting with Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) and FEMA to develop and prepare project worksheets for the costs associated with the June 2006 flood. Under the Public Assistance program, FEMA should reimburse the City for expenses incurred for the emergency response operations during the event and immediately following the event. With respect to the water channels, FEMA should reimburse the City for costs to remove debris 100 feet upstream and downstream from the permanent structures, such as the weirs, barrels, bridges, etc. To date, the FEMA public assistance officer has written project worksheets in the amount of \$570,819, which are working through the approval process.

FISCAL IMPACT: The City will receive reimbursement for 86 percent of the total eligible expenses, of which FEMA covers 75 percent of the reimbursement and VDEM covers 11 percent of the reimbursement. The City will have a 14 percent match on the FEMA eligible expenses.

The FEMA submissions require staff time from members of the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs, Office of Emergency Management, Fire Department, Police Department, Office of the Sheriff, 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:

Mark Penn, Emergency Management Coordinator, Fire Department
Rich Baier, Director, T&ES
Kirk Kincannon, Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs
Laura Pettus, Grants Coordinator, City Manager's Office
Elisabeth Wheel, Budget Analyst, OMB