

# Memorandum

**To:** Projects, Programs, and Operations Subcommittee  
**From:** Lori Ann Laster, Stormwater Management Engineer  
**Date:** August 2, 2019  
**Re:** Review and Recommendation on Interlocal Agreement with City of Bellevue for the Sarpy County Floodplain Buyout Program

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After the flooding in March 2019 the City of Bellevue has requested assistance from the District to purchase properties that were damaged along the Missouri River. The District has been purchasing properties in this area since 1993. To date the District has purchased more than 130 properties on the river side of the Missouri River Levees in Sarpy County. Several property owners have indicated interest in a buyout program.

Currently, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds are available from FEMA for buyout projects. The HMGP program would provide 75% of the funds required for purchase of the land and structures, as well as demolition costs.

The proposed agreement between the District and the City calls for the District to apply for HMGP funds for the purposes of acquisition and demolition of structures. The District will act as the applicant for the purposes of the grant application and will coordinate the necessary actions to complete purchase and demolition. The District and the City will evenly split the local share of the project costs for those properties located along the Missouri River. The City will reimburse the District for funds expended during the project. If the application for HMGP funds is not approved by FEMA, the project will not move forward.

The HMGP Program is a voluntary program and requires a willing seller and a willing buyer. Eminent Domain cannot be exercised under this program. There are currently seven structures included in the application. Six of those structures are part of the interlocal with the City of Bellevue. The total project cost would be approximately \$875,000. Federal funds would cover 75% leaving approximately \$219,000 as the local share. Of the local share, Bellevue would be responsible for approximately \$94,000 and the District approximately \$125,000.

**Management recommends that the General Manager be authorized to execute for and on behalf of the District the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Bellevue and to initiate the application process to obtain federal funding for the Sarpy County Floodplain Buyout Program, subject to changes deemed necessary by the General Manager and approved as to form by District Legal Counsel.**