

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 Village of Arlington for the Arlington Floodplain Buyout Program

After the flooding in March 2019 the Village of Arlington has requested assistance from the District to purchase two properties that were damaged. The Bell Creek floodplain affects structures on the eastern edge of the Village of Arlington. Several properties have been repeatedly flooded over the last several years and the 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 Village 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 Village will evenly split the local share of the project costs. The Village will reimburse the District for funds expended during the project and will take ultimate ownership and maintenance of the properties. 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. Currently, there are five structures included in the application. The total project cost would be approximately \$625,000. Federal funds would cover 75% leaving \$156,250 as the approximate local share to be split equally by the Village of Arlington and the District.

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