

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: SQUAW CREEK WATER MAIN PROTECTION PROJECT  
(HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM FLOOD  
MITIGATION)**

**BACKGROUND:**

Following flooding in 2010, Public Works staff submitted 11 projects for consideration under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Nine of the projects were denied federal funding due to failure to achieve a benefit cost analysis greater than 1.0. **On June 26, 2012, City Council directed staff to continue pursuing federal funding for the Stuart Smith Park Bank Stabilization project, which has been named the Squaw Creek Water Main Protection project** by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD). Municipal Engineer Tracy Warner was designated as the City's authorized representative for the project, and a local match was approved up to \$120,000.

Included in the FY 2012-2017 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) was a program entitled Flood Response and Mitigation Projects that included \$820,000 in General Obligation Bonds and \$325,000 in Storm Sewer Utility Funds. The City hired an engineering consultant to complete the HMGP Drainage Project Application, which was completed and submitted for consideration in July 2012. **The proposed construction project included sheet pile walls and riprap infill for bank stabilization to protect the existing 24-inch water main under Squaw Creek on the south side of Lincoln Way.** In September 2012, the City was notified that this project was considered stacked, which meant that the funding cap was reached by other projects for the certain disaster covering this project.

On May 26, 2015, Council approved the grant agreement for Phase I that funds further analysis of the problem and the best proposed solution, including consideration of whether the existing low-head dam should be removed as part of the project. Through this agreement, FEMA funds 75%, the State funds 10%, and the City funds 15% of the cost of Phase I.

The original contract includes a completion date of September 30, 2015. As part of the project, field data needs to be gathered including on the existing low-head dam and Lincoln Way bridge. **Ames has been experiencing higher than normal rainfalls this summer resulting in the water elevations on Squaw Creek being too high to obtain this data. This amendment to the Grant Agreement provides a time extension for the preliminary design analysis through November 30, 2015.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve Grant Agreement Amendment with FEMA/Iowa Homeland Security for Phase I of the City of Ames, Squaw Creek Water Main Protection Project. **Under this amendment FEMA, and the Iowa Homeland Security will grant a time extension for the preliminary design analysis through November 30, 2015.**
2. Direct staff to pursue alternative schedules for this project.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

With the approval of this amendment, the City of Ames can continue pursuing federal and state funding to aid in protecting the existing 24-inch water main at Squaw Creek/Lincoln Way. Phase I will continue engineering analysis to develop the best solution for stabilizing this area with consideration by FEMA.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above. **Under this amendment, FEMA and the Iowa Homeland Security will grant a time extension for the preliminary design analysis through November 30, 2015.**