



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Office of Emergency Management

Date: September 22, 2014

To: Council Member Blong Yang, Chair - Public Safety, Civil Rights and Emergency Management Committee

Referral to: Council Member John Quincy, Chair - Ways and Means Committee

Subject: Advising of Administrative Withdrawal of Application for Aid under FEMA's Public Assistance Program (June and July, 2014 Storm Damage)
FEMA Disaster No.: DR-4182
OEM Incident No.: 140614A

Recommendation: Receive and File

Previous Directives: None

Department Information:

Prepared by: Barret W.S. Lane

Approved by:

Barret W.S. Lane, Director -- Office of Emergency Management

Presenters in Committee: Barret W.S. Lane

Financial Impact

- Other financial impact - Waiver of potential claim for \$6,500 in FEMA assistance.

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification (None)
- City Goals A City that Works
- Comprehensive Plan Not Applicable
- Zoning Code Not Applicable
- Other Not Applicable

Supporting Information

On June 11, 2014 an extended series of high-precipitation storms began to track across the region; a storm pattern that persisted through the first weeks of July. Statewide, this extended precipitation pattern resulted in flooding, mudslides, landslides and wind damage.

Within the City of Minneapolis, soils became saturated, trees fell, sidewalks and private property were damaged and lakes, the Minnehaha Creek and the Mississippi River sustained significant and sustained rises. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board property along the Creek (including parkways, golf course property and recreation facilities) as well as city streets flooded over a period of several weeks. City staff assessed damage on an ongoing basis as storm systems continued to move through the area.

On June 19, 2014, Governor Dayton declared a state of peacetime emergency in thirty-five Minnesota counties, not including Hennepin County. That evening, a mudslide occurred on Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Property above West River Parkway. The slide closed the road and impacted operations and facilities of Fairview Health Services' University of Minnesota Medical Center.

Throughout the month of July, city, county, state and federal officials met to assess the overall damage in Hennepin County in order to determine whether the county met the damage threshold to qualify for federal assistance under the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.*

On July 9, 2014, Governor Dayton extended the state of emergency to sixteen additional counties, including Hennepin County. On July 21, 2014, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the President's declaration of a major disaster and the availability of "Public Assistance" aid for eight Minnesota counties, not including Hennepin County. On July 31, 2014, twenty-four additional counties (again excluding Hennepin) were added. Hennepin County was added to the list of declared counties on August 21, 2014.

Throughout this time, ongoing flooding and high water hampered City damage-assessment efforts. City-owned bridges, outfalls and tunnels related to both the Creek and the River remained inaccessible due to high water levels. Preliminary assessments in place by the end of August suggested that there was minimal damage to this infrastructure. However, as of the FEMA assistance application deadline on September 3, 2014, Public Works did not have sufficient access to make the final determination. After consulting with FEMA officials, OEM and Finance Staff filed an application for assistance in order to preserve City options as the final assessment was completed.

Shortly thereafter, Public Works confirmed that there was no significant damage to any of the flooded bridges, tunnels or outfalls. Potentially qualifying City damage (exclusive of the Park Board and Medical Center claims) amounted to \$6,500 in damaged sidewalks due to trees blown over by high winds.

Staff Action

Finance Staff, Public Works and OEM have considered the cost/benefit of pursuing this claim through the FEMA reimbursement process. We conclude that the costs of pursuing this relatively small claim will quickly erode the benefit of any eventual recovery.

For this reason, OEM will file the necessary document withdrawing the City's application for FEMA assistance and exit the reimbursement process.

This decision will not impact the ability of the Park Board, Fairview Health Services or any other applicant from continuing to pursue their claims.

BWSL