

E Environment Committee

Business Item

Item: 2008 – 57

Meeting date: February 26, 2008

For the Metropolitan Council Meeting of March 12, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

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| Date: | February 21, 2008 |
| Subject: | Authorization to Execute a Grant Agreement with Dakota County for Groundwater Contaminant Mapping |
| District(s), Member(s): | 13-Richard Aguilar, 15-Daniel Wolter, 16-Brian McDaniel |
| Policy/Legal Reference: | Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures, Minnesota Statute 473.1565 |
| Staff Prepared/Presented: | Keith Buttleman (651) 602-1015, Chris Elvrum (651) 602-1066 |
| Division/Department: | MCES c/o William G. Moore (651) 602-1162 |

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to execute an agreement to provide Dakota County a grant in the amount of \$25,000 for digital mapping of groundwater contamination in support of the development of the master water supply plan.

Background

This project is part of the Council's water supply master planning initiative prescribed by the State legislature in the 2005 special session. The overall objective of this project is to assess matters related to water supply for the Twin Cities metropolitan area and to develop a master plan to guide regional water supply development. A report to the legislature was submitted in January 2007 as required by the legislation. This report outlined several next steps including mapping of groundwater contamination in the region and supporting efforts to identify and address contaminants in the region.

Rationale

The proposed grant is designed to result in a more thorough understanding of the geographic location of known groundwater contamination in Dakota County. This will assist in the planning for future supplies in that county and will be used as a pilot study for expansion to the rest of the metro area.

Funding

Funding for this project comes from the approximately \$2 million in Council funds authorized for use in the Council's water supply planning initiative by the legislature in the 2005 special session. Through the end of 2007 approximately \$1,000,000 has been spent, leaving \$1,000,000 for continued efforts. The master water supply plan is expected to be completed in late 2008.

Known Support / Opposition

The Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency support this project and are have expressed an interest in expanding it to the rest of the metro area and eventually statewide.