

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 8, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Upcoming Agenda Item for Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant**

The following Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability item will be considered by the City Council on the January 13, 2021 Agenda:

Item 20-2497: Authorize **(1)** the application for and acceptance of a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the FY2020 Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant via Cooperative Agreement (Grant No. 01F87501, CFDA No. 66.818) in the amount of \$600,000.00 to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct cleanup planning and community involvement related activities for brownfield sites primarily in the South Dallas/Fair Park area, for the period October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2023; **(2)** the establishment of appropriations in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.00 in the Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant Fund; **(3)** the receipt and deposit of funds in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.00 in the Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant Fund; **(4)** a contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in the amount of \$587,400.00 for environmental consulting services to assist the City with implementing the Brownfields Program; **(5)** execution of the Coalition Member Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Dallas and the Coalition Partners including The Real Estate Council Foundation, St. Philip's School and Community Center, and Lone Star Justice Alliance; and **(6)** execution of the FY2020 Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant and all terms, conditions, and documents required by the agreement - Not to exceed \$600,000.00 – Financing: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Grant Funds

## Background

A brownfield is a property that may have its expansion, redevelopment, or reuse complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. EPA's Brownfields Program provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, tribes and others to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties.

In 2019, the City used a qualifications-based process to contract a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) consultant team to assist with preparing the FY2020 Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant application and to support grant implementation activities if the City was awarded the EPA grant. Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. was the vendor selected to provide these services.

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In May 2020, the EPA selected the City of Dallas (City) for the Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant. The City was awarded a \$600,000 grant for use over a three-year grant term for FY2021-23. Funds will primarily focus on revitalizing priority brownfield sites in the South Dallas/Fair Park target area. Three priority focus areas have been identified within the target area: Fair Park focus area, Martin Luther King Corridor focus area, and St. Philip's focus area.

To combat conditions of economic and educational disparities, the City has formed a Coalition with The Real Estate Council Foundation, St. Philip's School and Community Center, and the Lone Star Justice Alliance. These local non-profit organizations are dedicated to reducing poverty and increasing public safety, improving education, and providing better housing and social services within the community. The Coalition will engage stakeholders in a dynamic process that is inclusive of the greater interests of the community to revitalize priority brownfields that will help address the socioeconomic challenges facing the community.

The Memorandum of Agreement with the Coalition Partners documents roles and responsibilities of each partner. The Coalition will use a collective governance structure to ensure the interests of each are represented throughout the project. A Brownfield Advisory Committee has also been established that includes each Coalition Partner and other project partners that will guide the site prioritization process, inform cleanup/reuse planning, and assist with community engagement.

The City will manage all aspects of the project, including coordination with EPA, Coalition Partners, and the QEP. The contract for environmental consulting services is being awarded to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in the amount of \$587,400. The remaining \$12,600 from the grant is designated for supplies and training/travel.

The EPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant will significantly benefit the City by enhancing the local economy, increasing the tax base and improving the environment.

The Environment and Sustainability Committee was briefed regarding this matter on August 3, 2020.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sheila Delgado, Interim Director of the Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability at (214) 670-1642.

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Liz Cedillo-Pereira  
Chief of Equity and Inclusion

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
Directors and Assistant Directors