

Environment Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 13, 2013

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: January 23, 2013

Subject: Approval of 2012 Municipal Infiltration/Inflow Grant Guideline Changes

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council approves changes to the 2012 Municipal Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) grant program guidelines.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Staff reviewed current status of 2012 I&I grant agreements and allocations, including the 2010 I&I grant final expenditures, prior to presenting proposal to both extend deadline for eligible expenses to September 30, 2014 and to allow for minor changes to projects upon appeal.

Council Member Van Eyll inquired as to whether the request to extend the deadline had been made previously. Staff responded that the same request was made with the 2010 I&I grant program and was approved. In addition, in spite of several meetings with eligible cities over this past summer to discuss guidelines, this issue had not been raised for this grant cycle until recently.

Chairwoman Rummel inquired as to where the currently approved June 30 deadline originated. Staff clarified the deadline was part of Council approved guidelines, not arising from legislative requirements.

Motion to approve proposed action was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Environment Committee

Meeting date: January 22, 2013

For the Council Meeting of February 12, 2013

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	January 4, 2013
Subject:	Approval of 2012 Municipal Infiltration/Inflow Grant Guideline Changes
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Water Resource Management Plan: Wastewater Service, Inflow and Infiltration; Council Admin. Policy 3-3-1 2012 MN Law C 293 S17
Staff Prepared/Presented:	John Atkins, 651-602-1020
Division/Department:	MCES c/o Leisa Thompson 651-602-8101

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approves changes to the 2012 Municipal Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) grant program guidelines.

Background

Metro Cities championed inclusion of a \$4 million grant program in the 2012 bonding bill for the purpose of providing grants to cities for capital improvements to public infrastructure to reduce I&I.

The Metropolitan Council approved guidelines for the 2012 Municipal Grant program at its August 8, 2012 meeting. Thirty eligible cities submitted grant applications and were awarded a Preliminary Minimum Award (PMA) by November 21, 2012. Cities were provided the right to withdraw or modify their proposal through December 21, 2012. Toward the end of this withdrawal period, one city reported it could not meet the June 30, 2014 deadline for eligible project expenses and requested either an extension to the fall of 2012 (September 30, 2014) or the ability to substitute other projects in lieu of withdrawal from the grant program.

The motion proposes that the end date for eligible expenditures be extended for all grant awardees. And also under appeal with a reasonable rationale, proposes allowing minor changes subsequent to a city's bid process. We would require the total grant amount to remain unchanged and compliance with all other grant requirements. This appeal process is intended to allow MCES staff flexibility to approve minor changes (such as a change in specific manholes to be improved) and to protect the integrity of the grant award process, not to assume all requests would be automatically approved.

Rationale

The state appropriation requires that the Council adopt the program guidelines, which explicitly include the June 30, 2014 deadline for eligible expenses and provides no allowance for minor changes to projects or substitutions. MCES staff see no reason not to provide this additional flexibility. Further, we have asked Metro Cities and they support these changes (see attachment).

Funding

The 2012 I&I grant program is fully funded through 2012 state appropriations and some remaining funds from 2010 state appropriations. The state funds are part of state bonding and the Council is forwarded funds for all grant expenditures on a reimbursement basis.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the proposed guideline changes. Supporting communications are attached.



December 27, 2012

Mr. Jason Willett
Finance Director
Metropolitan Council Environment Services
390 North Robert Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Jason,

This letter is a follow up to our conversation regarding the request by the city of Maplewood to MCES for an amendment to the guidelines for inflow and infiltration grants, to extend the timeline for eligible expenditures for the 2012 grant program.

Metro Cities supports an amendment to extend the currently approved timeline from June 30, 2014 to September 30, 2014. This would add flexibility for cities in completing I/I mitigation work by allowing for a fuller utilization of the 2014 construction season. As I understand it, this change would remain consistent with state bonding guidelines and requirements.

As always, we appreciate your work with us on this important program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia Nauman
Executive Director

Cc: John Atkins, MCES



MAPLEWOOD

Together We Can

December 19, 2012

Mr. John Atkins
MCES Budget Manager
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street N
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: 2012 Inflow/Infiltration Grant - Project Deadline Extension Request

Dear Mr. Atkins,

The City of Maplewood is happy to have received notice from the MCES determining the total eligible project amount to be \$118,284. According to the notification received from the MCES the PMA is calculated at \$58,017 for the City of Maplewood. Our grant application includes the lining of streets associated with our current 2012 neighborhood street reconstruction projects and two of our proposed projects for 2013. The first proposed project is the English and Highway 36 Interchange project, which includes bridge and area improvements. The second proposed project is the 2013 Neighborhood Street Reconstruction project. Over the last several years, the City of Maplewood has included sewer lining as part of our annual neighborhood reconstruction projects for both on and off project sewer mains in need of repair.

For the English and Highway 36 Interchange project, the City of Maplewood is currently in the process of awarding the construction contract for work beginning in 2013. The City of Maplewood has started the preliminary design for the 2013 Neighborhood Reconstruction project, which includes a large amount of lining as laid out by our grant application. A decision has been recently made to delay the start of construction for the 2013 neighborhood reconstruction project until the spring of 2014. This is due to the size, scope, and financial impacts of the English and Highway 36 Interchange project. Our neighborhood reconstruction projects are setup to start construction in the spring with construction completed in the fall of the same year. For the 2013 Neighborhood Reconstruction project, this means that construction would begin during the spring of 2014 and concluding in the fall of 2014. Currently the I & I grant program requires spending on approved projects to occur between May 12, 2012 and June 30, 2014.

To ensure the best possible lining results generally this work is one of the items done as part of the project to ensure the newly lined pipe is not cut into for random repairs, damage due to construction, or for installation of new sanitary services. The City of Maplewood would like to request to have the deadline for spending on approved projects to be extended from June 30, 2014 to October 31 2014.

I appreciate MCES's consideration of the deadline for spending extension request. Please let me know if you have any questions or need further clarification on our request.

Thank you,

Steven W. Love P.E., P.L.S.
Assistant City Engineer
City of Maplewood

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