



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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TO: Martha Kern, Chair
Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Rebecca A. Head, Director
Department of Environment & Infrastructure Services

DATE: May 16, 2001

SUBJECT: Authorization for the County Administrator to accept a grant award from
the United States Environmental Protection Agency

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Department of Environment and Infrastructure Services (DEIS) requests that the Board of Commissioners authorize the County Administrator to accept a grant award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for \$200,000 during a two year period from 2001 to 2003

BACKGROUND:

The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approved the creation of the Washtenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (WCBRA) in May 1999 (99-0110) in accordance with the Michigan Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended. The WCBRA was established to facilitate the redevelopment of environmentally contaminated and underutilized properties located in participating municipalities through the use of tax increment financing and other incentives under Act 381, as amended. Washtenaw County has been offered an EPA Brownfield Assessment Pilot Grant in the amount of \$200,000. The WCBRA wishes to use these grant monies to complete a countywide community outreach program, Environmental Real Estate Assessment (EREA), Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs), and Baseline Environmental Assessments (BEAs).

DISCUSSION:

As one of its Board Priorities, Washtenaw County has committed to collaboration with other governmental units and providing leadership for long-term county-wide sustainable development and redevelopment incorporating a diversified economy, environmental protection, and social needs. The objective of the EPA pilot project is to "link" brownfield redevelopment with local and

regional land use planning efforts to support the County's goals of encouraging sustainable growth and curbing urban sprawl. The pilot grant will enable the County to identify, prioritize, and assess potential brownfield properties within the study area and to provide community outreach throughout the process. Based on the information obtained from the initial studies and assessments, the County will coordinate with local units of government (LUGs) and the public to develop a strategy for properties showing the best potential for development. This will position LUGs and the WCBRA to market brownfield sites for redevelopment in the study area. In accomplishing the objectives of the grant, the County will build on existing mechanisms and networks established to encourage community involvement, improve coordination in land-use planning, and share information on environmental issues.

Making the initial investment in brownfield redevelopment will help create increased economic development and recreational opportunities, while strengthening community pride and leadership. In addition, activities completed under the EPA pilot will protect the natural environment and public health by eliminating contaminant pathways through due care activities. By targeting brownfields in economically depressed areas, the County will help to revitalize neighborhoods in need of investment.

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:

None.

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

The requested Board action would authorize the Administrator to accept the pilot grant award of \$200,000 in Federal funding. The grant program does not require any local match.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:

None.

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

Several local organizations have committed to participating in this project, including the City of Milan, the Ypsilanti BRA, Scio Township, the City of Ann Arbor, Sustainable Washtenaw, and others. In addition, many of the County's cities, villages, and townships, as well as University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University, support this project.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:

The Resolution conforms to County policies.

ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES:

Grant application

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD FOR THE BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT PILOT PROJECT, FUNDED BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION FIVE

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 20, 2001

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has committed to collaboration with other governmental units and providing leadership for long term county-wide sustainable development and redevelopment incorporating a diversified economy, environmental protection, and social needs; and

WHEREAS, the fragmentation of land parcels and overall loss of acreage have impacted open space and natural areas in Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, to preserve the rural character and valuable natural features of the area, the County has made it a priority to encourage more efficient use of the land that will provide for sustainable growth, protect valued natural resources, preserve important agricultural and open space lands, while also encouraging growth and economic revitalization in depressed areas; and

WHEREAS, one of the solutions to the rapid urbanization of agricultural land is to provide new opportunities for residential and commercial developments within existing urban boundaries helping to ease the pressure to develop greenfields in outlying areas, thus slowing the rate of urban sprawl; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approved the creation of the Washtenaw County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (WCBRA) in May 1999 (99-0110) in accordance with the Michigan Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended to facilitate the redevelopment of environmentally contaminated and underutilized properties located in participating municipalities; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to identify, prioritize and assess potential brownfield properties within Washtenaw County and provide community outreach throughout the process to integrate brownfield redevelopment in all local land use planning efforts.

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has been offered an EPA Brownfield Assessment Pilot Grant in the amount of \$200,000 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to fulfill these purposes.

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by the Finance Office, Corporation Counsel, the County Administrator, and the Ways and Means Committee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Administrator to accept the grant award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the Brownfield Assessment Pilot Project grant in the amount of \$200,000 for a two year period from 2001 to 2003, as on file with the County Clerk

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners takes the following actions:

1. Authorizing the Administrator to sign a cooperative agreement with the US EPA to be filed with the County Clerk

2. Amending the budget, as attached hereto and made a part hereof
3. Authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts upon review of Corporation Counsel to be filed with the County Clerk

DEIS
Brownfield Assessment Pilot Project Budget
Business Unit 1765016200

		Current Budget	Revised Budget	Variance
Revenue:				
50000	Federal Revenue	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
	TOTAL	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
Expenditure:				
70050	Personal Services	\$0	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
72600	Supplies/Other	\$0	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
80000	Other Services	\$0	\$164,000	\$164,000
	TOTAL	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000