

November 22, 1994

MEMO

TO: Kevin Cahill
FROM: Terry Briggs *TB*
RE: River des Peres Stormwater Funds
Carondelet Plant

Enclosed is information relative to the HUD funds the City of St. Louis received for flood enhancement work. As related to you on the telephone, the District would like to ensure it receives a fair share of the funds made available by HUD. The items enclosed give you a one page synopsis of the project and a two page chronology of the events leading up to this point.

Presently, we are at odds with Alderman Gruen over the allocation of the HUD funds. Since these funds would be utilized to enhance sewer work in an area serving the Monsanto Carondelet Plant, we are seeking your assistance in trying to secure an appropriate amount of the grant money.

The HUD block grant funds must pass through Alderman Aboussie's committee. A call to him, if Monsanto is in support of the District's position, would be beneficial.

Thanks for any help you can give us. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 768-6238.

enclosures

pc: John Koeper

**Lower River des Peres
Flood Enhancement Project**

The Great Mississippi River Flood of 1993 caused millions of dollars in damage to homes, businesses and industries in the greater St. Louis area. One of the areas hardest hit was the lower reaches of the River des Peres. As a tributary to the Mississippi, the channel of this urban stream filled with backwater from the flooded river for more than eight weeks.

Flood waters inundated the area from two sources; directly over the top of the River des Peres' levy constructed after the 1973 flood; and by infiltrating the stormwater sewers and streams feeding into the channel.

The existing flood control methods employed by MSD rely upon plugs and balloons to plug the stormwater outfalls to the River des Peres and prevent backwater from entering the system. Temporary pumps are set up to carry stormwater runoff which normally runs into these stormwater structures up over the top of the River des Peres levee and into the channel. This system is inadequate to protect the neighborhoods from flooding.

MSD, as part of a larger \$190 million project to upgrade the sanitary and stormwater systems along the entire stretch of the River des Peres, was planning to build some improvements which also would help reduce flooding during high water stages along the Mississippi River.

Through the use of Community Development Block Grant funds made available for flood enhancement work after the 1993 disaster, MSD is proposing to expedite construction of stormwater gate structures and pump stations designed to keep floodwaters from the River des Peres out of these facilities and thus out of homes, businesses and industries in these neighborhoods.

Community Development Block Grants

Specifically, MSD would use the \$3.1 million to construct four pump stations and three gate structures at the following St. Louis city locations:

Pump Stations

618 Marceau (Along Marceau east of Alabama)
Poepping and Carondelet
7625 Alaska (Alaska at Primm)
Tennessee at Schrimmer

Gate Structures

Poepping at Carondelet
Marceau east of Alabama
Germania and Primm

While these improvements will help prevent flooding of homes, they will also help prevent two of the largest employers in this area, Monsanto's Carondelet Plant, and the Nordyne Company facility from flooding caused by backwater carried in the stormwater systems.

**Chronology of Events
regarding the HUD Flood Enhancement
Block Grant Given to the City of St. Louis**

March 1994

Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District retains the services of Jim Brown, lobbyist, to work on federal legislative matters.

Brown notified the District the Department of Housing and Urban Development was making available \$500 million for enhancement projects designed to reduce the potential for flooding in areas. This was part of a package of legislation designed to assist California in the recovery of the earthquake earlier in the year.

Brown, who also works for the city of St. Louis, also notified the city of the availability of these funds. Had Brown not been working on behalf of MSD, it is doubtful the city would have received as much funding as it did.

On March 9, the Executive Director of the City's Community Development Agency, Janice Washington, sent a letter to HUD, requesting funding under the emergency legislation. A letter was also sent by Congressman Gephardt to HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros requesting favorable consideration of the City's request. Included in that proposal was MSD's request.

The request was specific so that HUD funds would go to the City of St. Louis, not the State of Missouri. That was done to prevent the state from controlling these funds. That is also why MSD was lumped into the city's request.

MSD entered into this arrangement with the belief the funding, whatever was made available, would be specific to projects contained in the city's proposal. The city, we were told, could only identify \$1.8 million in buy out funding under existing legislation dealing with community development block grants.

April 1994

HUD award's \$5.1 million to the City of St. Louis from the emergency funding legislation. Upon review of the award, it is discovered there are no contingencies about how the money was spent, even though the application was specific. (See April 25 memo.)

HUD Grants
page two

From the time of the announcements, discussions have been held with Steven Acree of the City's Community Development Agency regarding the procedures to following receiving the HUD funding. Because HUD did not finalize procedures to following receiving the grants until late in the summer, a measure could not be introduced in the Board of Aldermen which went on their Summer break.

September
1994

Upon returning from summer recess, discussions resumed between the District and the city about allocation of the funds. MSD sent information at the request of Mr. Acree to CDA regarding the environmental impact of the project.

Although Alderman Gruen had made overtures about the use of the funds for other purposes after the grant had been announced, it was not until this time that we discovered he wished to cut back the District's share and use a greater portion for sidewalk, park and other beautification projects in the flooded areas of his ward.

October
1994

A meeting was held with Peter Sortino and Alderman Gruen regarding the allocation of the HUD grants. The Alderman offered \$2.5 million of the \$3.1 originally intended for this project. The District rejected this offer and countered with \$2.8 million, which is half the difference from the original \$3.1 and the \$2.5 million suggested by Alderman Gruen.

The current disagreement is primarily between MSD and Alderman Gruen who is still insisting on an ordinance for \$2.5 out of fear not enough funds would be available for the remaining infrastructure needs. Peter Sortino, on behalf of the Mayor, is serving as a mediator. We believe the Mayor will go along with whatever is finally worked out between MSD, Alderman Gruen and Alderman Aboussie who will most likely handle the ordinance in his committee.

Note: Attached are correspondences and news accounts of the on going efforts being made by the City of St. Louis, MSD, Congressman Gephardt and others in trying to secure these funds. Some of these items are noted in the previous outline.

DSW 136924

STLCOPCB4036884



City of St. Louis
Community Development Agency

Richard B. Ford, Jr.
Mayor

James O. Washington
Executive Director

March 9, 1994

Mr. Kenneth G. Lange
Manager
U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development
St. Louis Field Office, Region VII
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2836

Re: Remaining Un-met Flood Relief and
Future Hazard Mitigation Needs

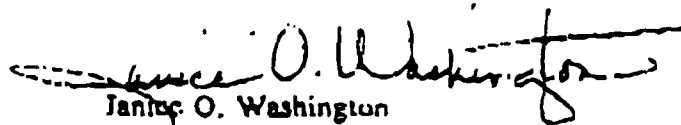
Dear Mr. Lange:

With the passage of Public Law 103-211, Congress has appropriated an additional amount of Title I funds for emergency expenses resulting from the Midwest Floods of 1993, including authorization to utilize these funds for permanent measures that reduce the potential for future flood losses.

The City of St. Louis continues to have un-met financial needs with regard to completing an acquisition and relocation program in the area of the City's floodplain that was most severely affected by the 1993 flooding. In addition, the city has no identified source to pay for the completion of repairs to infrastructure damaged by the flooding or public improvement measures to reduce the potential for future flood losses. We have detailed these needs on the attached list.

We hope we are not overlooked in the allocation of the additional Title I funds that have most recently been authorized by Congress. As an entitlement community, we have the "infrastructure" in place to administer these funds and we have a high proportion of low-income people who would be served. The lower River des Peres channel section of the City is approximately 60% low-moderate income. Please let us know if we can provide an additional information that would assist in the allocation process.

Sincerely,


James O. Washington
Executive Director

DSW 136925

STLCOPCB4036885

**CITY OF ST. LOUIS
CURRENTLY UN-MET FLOOD RELIEF
AND FUTURE HAZARD MITIGATION NEEDS
March 9, 1994**

1. Acquisition and Optional Relocation Assistance Program

Total "buy-out" area includes 176 parcels with 153 structures located on them, 59 of which are 50% or more damaged. Many of our 50% or more damaged structures are side by side, in a broken teeth pattern, with other substantially damaged (but not 50% or more) structures. Approximately 60% of the residents in this area are low-moderate income. Our inability to acquire structures that are damaged less than 50% will leave a low-income neighborhood with significant blighting influences exposed to future flooding.

Estimated total cost of acquisition and relocation:	\$4,889,550
Currently available for acquisition and relocation (Emergency CDBG):	\$3,283,562
Current un-met need to complete acquisition and relocations:	\$1,605,988

2. Clearance of Damaged Structures in Flood Plain:

We will pursue the possibility of funding this through the FEMA Section 406 Program, but at this time we have no identified funding to pay for demolition.

Estimated total cost of clearance:	\$535,100
Currently available for clearance:	\$0
Current un-met need to clear damaged structures from flood plain:	\$535,100

3. Prevention of Future Flooding:

The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District currently operates 10 temporary pump stations along the River des Peres channel in south St. Louis City and County. They only operate during high water stages on the Mississippi River. When the Mississippi River is in flood stage, backwater creeps up the lower River des Peres channel. Normally, this channel carries storm water run-off and little flow. Storm water sewers discharging rainwater directly into the channel must be plugged where the Mississippi River backs up to avoid river water from inundating the sewer system. When the storm water sewers are plugged, pumps must be used when it is raining to pump the water normally flowing into the sewers over the top of the River des Peres levee and into the channel. During a heavy rain, these pumps cannot keep pace with the run-off and localized flooding occurs.

If this type of makeshift system were not in place, areas away from the actual River des Peres channel itself would flood from the sewer system; not from overland flooding when the river water tops the levee. In addition, the 8-foot and 6-foot sanitary sewers running beneath the lower River des Peres channel become inundated with river water when the channel itself is full of Mississippi River floodwater. Because of the water pressure created when the sewers are full, the one-ton concrete slab manholes over these sewers are out of position allowing sewage to mix with river water. Predominantly low-

moderate income neighborhoods about approximately one-quarter of the length of the lower River des Peres channel.

Correcting these problems involve three phases:

a. **Pump stations**

Build permanent pump stations along the lower River des Peres. Those would be similar to those along the St. Louis riverfront and have the capacity to handle heavy rains.

Current un-met need to build pump stations:	\$10,000,000
Potentially CDBG eligible portion (25%)	\$2,500,000

b. **Sewer Gate Structures**

Automated gate structures are needed to seal off the sewers leading into the lower River des Peres channel to prevent river water from entering the sewers and flooding neighborhoods away from the actual channel. Current plugs are temporary and sometimes fail.

Current un-met need to build sewer gate structures:	\$9,000,000
Potentially CDBG eligible portion (25%)	\$2,250,000

c. **Rehabilitation of the Lower River des Peres Sanitary Sewer**

The sanitary sewers underneath the lower River des Peres channel must be replaced to prevent being saturated with flood water. This would prevent sewage from escaping the sewer and entering the river.

Current un-met need to rehabilitate sanitary sewer:	\$42,000,000
Potentially CDBG eligible portion (25%)	10,500,000

Total CDBG-eligible un-met flood relief and future hazard mitigation needs: \$17,391,088