

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****August 9, 2011****Page 1 of 1****SUBJECT: Grant Application to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – Expansion of the Inlet Pilot Project**

The purpose of this Informal Report is to notify City Council that City staff has submitted a grant application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as part of their Clean Water Act 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program. Staff became aware of this grant opportunity less than two weeks before the deadline and was therefore unable to process the application request through City Council in advance of the application as is normal process. Should the City of Fort Worth be selected for this grant, staff will provide an M&C to Council requesting authorization to accept the grant.

This application, if approved, would provide financial support to test the effectiveness of trash and sediment collection devices at approximately 70 drainage inlets in downtown Fort Worth (see attached map). The application would cover installation of collection devices and three years of operations beginning September 2012. The City would be reimbursed 60% of the total project cost, which is currently estimated at \$530,000. The balance of the project cost (approximately \$212,000) would be paid through Storm Water Utility revenues as a part of the 2012 operational budget.

In 2003 the City Council approved the Trinity River Vision Plan (TRVP). An area of common interest in support of the TRVP is the control of trash and damaging sediment transported through storm water.

The cities of Fort Worth and Arlington along with the Tarrant Regional Water District have been partnering to evaluate a combination of structural and non-structural best management practices (BMP's) to mitigate the adverse effects of trash and sediment buildup. In 2009, the City launched a pilot study to select, test and monitor the operational effectiveness of structural BMPs (drainage inlet screens and trash collectors) as control mechanisms. In 2010, the City deployed collection devices in 40 inlets in downtown Fort Worth to be evaluated over a two year period in a pilot study fully funded by the Storm Water Utility. Based on these preliminary results, it was anticipated that this test area would be expanded to approximately 70 inlets, and this grant is an opportunity to leverage federal funds to facilitate expansion.

TCEQ will notify applicants of potential project selection on October 24, 2011. Projects would then be refined and reviewed leading to an award of contract in June 2012.

**Tom Higgins**  
**Interim City Manager**