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COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 25, 2011

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: National Grid Grant Award of \$4,000 for the Riverworld Site,
4000 River Road, Town of Tonawanda**

Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution authorizing the execution of contracts with National Grid for concept planning and feasibility studies of the Riverworld Site at 4000 River Road in the Town of Tonawanda.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Collins", is written over a horizontal line.

CHRIS COLLINS
Erie County Executive

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: National Grid Grant Award of \$4,000 for the Riverworld Site,
4000 River Road, Town of Tonawanda
Date: January 25, 2011

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature authorize the acceptance of a \$4,000 grant award under National Grid's Brownfield Program. The funding will allow for preparation of concept plans and feasibility studies for the former Roblin Steel plant site, now known as Riverworld, in the Town of Tonawanda. The Erie County Department of Environment and Planning prepared and submitted this grant application to National Grid under its Brownfield Redevelopment Program. The owner of the property, the Tonawanda Development Corporation and ECIDA are also partners in this project.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The grant award from National Grid will be passed through as part of the overall feasibility study cost. The owner has committed up to \$7,000, the ECIDA has committed \$4,000 and the Tonawanda Development Corporation has committed \$2,000 towards the project. There will be no cost to Erie County.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Currently the Riverworld Site is two parcels. The first is an operating warehouse, which will remain as is. The second parcel is the former steel plant site of approximately 55 acres, which has had environmental remediation performed by NYSDEC, has had some structures demolished, but which has not been redeveloped. At this point, minimal tax revenue or jobs are generated from the site. Prior to redevelopment, potential uses for the site must be identified and possible site configurations for various uses investigated.

CONSEQUENCES OF A NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to adopt this resolution will result in Erie County being unable to accept this grant award of \$4,000. The first steps needed to prepare this site for reuse will not occur.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Upon approval of the resolution, a contract between Erie County and National Grid will be executed.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: National Grid Grant Award of \$4,000
for the Riverworld Site,
4000 River Road, Town of Tonawanda

WHEREAS, the Riverworld Site, 4000 River Road in the Town of Tonawanda is a former steel plant site that presents a blighting influence on the waterfront; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the property desires to redevelop the site to a higher quality use that will lead to investment and job creation; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Tonawanda Development Corporation and the ECIDA desire to partner with the owner and Erie County to perform concept planning and feasibility studies for the site; and

WHEREAS, National Grid has a Brownfield Grant Program to which the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning did submit a grant application to and was subsequently awarded \$4,000 for concept and feasibility studies at the Riverworld Site, 4000 River Road site.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to act in behalf of the County in all matters related to the National Grid grant award and sign contracts with National Grid receiving up to \$4,000 in grant funds; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to enter into contracts with the Town of Tonawanda, the Erie County Industrial Development Agency, the Town of Tonawanda Development Corporation, the owner of Riverworld or contractors or consultants in amounts not to exceed a total of \$4,000.00 for the purpose of providing services and activities for brownfield planning, engineering and site preparation which may take place as part of the National Grid program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following adjustments be made to the 2011 Budget

Fund 110
Fund Center 16200, Environment and Planning

Revenue	Increase
420499 Other Local Source Revenue	\$4,000
Appropriations	Increase
516020 Prof Service Contract & Fees	\$4,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Authorization take effect immediately; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to send certified copies of this resolution to the County Executive; the Director of the Division of Budget and Management; the Comptroller; the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning; and the County Attorney.