



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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March 24, 2020

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Erie County Sewer District No. 6
Former Bethlehem Steel Site Infrastructure Redevelopment Project
Grant Application: Buffalo and Erie County Industrial Land Development Corporation**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning requesting authorization to be a co-applicant on a proposed funding submission by the Buffalo and Erie County Industrial Land Development Corporation.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Deputy Commissioner Joseph L. Fiegl, P.E. in the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP:JF

cc: Joseph Fiegl, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Sewerage Management

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Erie County Sewer District No. 6
Former Bethlehem Steel Site Infrastructure Redevelopment Project
Grant Application: Buffalo and Erie County Industrial Land Development Corporation
Date: March 24, 2020

SUMMARY

The Department of Environment and Planning requests authorization to be a co-applicant on a proposed funding submission by the Buffalo and Erie County Industrial Land Development Corporation (ILDC) to obtain grant monies for the construction of public sewer infrastructure on the former Bethlehem Steel site in Erie County Sewer District (ECSD) No. 6.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None to the County of Erie. The proposed grant program requires a 20% local cost share which will be provided by the ILDC.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The ILDC wishes to submit a grant application to the United States Economic Development Administration requesting funding to construct public sanitary sewer and potable water infrastructure on the former Bethlehem Steel site. As the County of Erie / ECSD No. 6 would ultimately own the sewer improvements, it must be a co-applicant for the grant submission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The United States Economic Development Administration offers grant funding opportunities through its 2020 Development Assistance Program. After reviewing the program documents, the ILDC identified the construction of infrastructure improvements on former Bethlehem Steel site as an initiative that fits the criteria for funding. Sanitary sewer and potable water infrastructure improvements are necessary to prepare 150-acres of the former steel plant site, which is presently owned by the ILDC, for development into a state-of-art manufacturing center. Erie County, the ILDC, and other stakeholders have identified redevelopment of this former industrial site as a priority to address a major brownfield and the lack of shovel ready sites necessary to attract and grow manufacturing jobs in the region.

The "Former Bethlehem Steel Site Infrastructure Redevelopment Project" ("Project") would consist of the rehabilitation/construction of approximately 4,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer infrastructure and the construction of two (2) new water mains. These improvements would extend public infrastructure onto the site and connect to existing systems in the vicinity of New York State Route 5 between Ridge Road and Odell Road in the City of Lackawanna. The sanitary sewer improvements would ultimately be owned by the County of Erie / ECSD No. 6, while the potable water system improvements would be owned by the Erie County Water Authority.

As the entity responsible for owning the sewer improvements, ECSD No. 6 must be a co-applicant for the grant submission. The co-applicant responsibilities would include entering into a memorandum of understanding with the ILDC for the "Project," assisting with the preparation of the grant application (including signing necessary forms), administering engineering and construction phases services for the sewer infrastructure should the grant be awarded, and ultimately operating/maintaining the sewer improvements. The local cost share associated with the "Project" would be borne by the ILDC.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The ILDC would not be able to apply for United States Economic Development Administration funding to advance the proposed sewer improvements for the "Project."

STEPS TO FOLLOW APPROVAL

The Division of Sewerage Management will enter into a memorandum of understanding with the ILDC and assist with the preparation of the grant application.

Thomas R. Hersey, Jr.
Commissioner

JLF
enc.

cc: J. Fiegl/ 0.11.0 LegLtr (w/encl)
D. Millar/M. Salah/6.5.1 Grant _____

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Erie County Sewer District No. 6
Former Bethlehem Steel Site Infrastructure Redevelopment Project
Grant Application: Buffalo and Erie County Industrial Land Development Corporation

WHEREAS, the Buffalo and Erie County Industrial Land Development Corporation (ILDC) owns 150 acres of land on the former Bethlehem Steel site that it wishes to develop into a state-of-art manufacturing center; and

WHEREAS, the ILDC site is within the bounds of Erie County Sewer District (ECSD) No. 6; and

WHEREAS, the ILDC has proposed submitting a grant application to the United States Economic Development Administration to fund infrastructure improvements that would support redevelopment of this portion of the former Bethlehem Steel site; and

WHEREAS, specifically the ILDC has proposed approximately 4,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer infrastructure improvements to extend public sanitary sewer service further onto the former Bethlehem Steel site (hereinafter referred to as the "sewer improvements"); and

WHEREAS, as the entity responsible for owning and maintaining the sewer improvements contemplated as part of the ILDC's proposal, the County of Erie / ECSD No. 6 must be a co-applicant on the ILDC's grant submission; and

WHEREAS, the ILDC has committed to fund any local cost share required should a grant be awarded by the United States Economic Development Administration for the proposed sewer improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Deputy Commissioner of the Erie County Division of Sewerage Management is authorized to sign documents allowing for the County of Erie / ECSD No. 6 to be a co-applicant on the ILDC's grant application; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Deputy Commissioner of the Erie County Division of Sewerage Management is also authorized to sign a memorandum of understanding with the ILDC for the proposed sewer improvements to be included as part of the ILDC's grant submission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that should a United States Economic Development Administration grant be awarded, the Division of Sewerage Management is authorized to administer engineering and construction phases services for the sewer improvements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any local cost share required by the United States Economic Development Administration Grant Program for the sewer improvements will be provided by the ILDC; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be authorized and directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the County Executive, the County Comptroller, the Director of the Division of Budget and Management, Kristen Walder, Assistant County Attorney, Joseph Fiegl, P.E., Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning, and the ILDC.