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INFORMATION:

Brown's Cove Dredging Grant

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In April 2013, City staff presented to Council an overview of the history of sedimentation in Brown's Cove, on Lake Wylie, and efforts that had been taken to date to pay for and remove this sedimentation. After this presentation, Council requested staff work with the various stakeholders and regulatory entities to try and reach a mutually acceptable solution. Several of the stakeholders are City departments, including Aviation and CMUD.

Since that time, City and Mecklenburg County staff has been working with cove residents and the stakeholders partly responsible for the sedimentation. In addition, staff has enlisted the help of the Mecklenburg Soil and Water Conservation District (the District). On behalf of the group, the District applied to the state for a grant to help fund the dredging of the cove; the dredging plan is based on a report compiled by the County. The group recently learned that the state legislature did not fund the grant program during this past session and, as a result, the application had not been reviewed.

Staff recently became aware of another state-funded grant opportunity. Through conversations with the state and Representative Jeter, in whose district the Cove is located, staff believes grant funds for the dredging will be available this spring. This timing would allow for the dredging to commence in early summer. Staff has also been conversing with the District about it taking the role as recipient of the grant funds and payments from the stakeholders, and becoming the contracting agent with the dredging company. These conversations with the District are ongoing. Once staff has confirmed the contracting agent, it will distribute a letter of intent to the stakeholders for their signature. Staff hopes to have these letters out by the end of the year.

As staff continues to develop the overall plan to dredge Brown's Cove, and learn the status of grant application, it will provide periodic updates to Council.

CMGC Earns 2013 ENERGY STAR Designation

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Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center has again earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ENERGY STAR certification. This designation signifies the building performs in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency and meets strict energy efficiency performance levels set by the EPA.

Commercial buildings that earn the ENERGY STAR certification use an average of 35% less energy than typical buildings and also release 35 percent less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Earning ENERGY STAR this year was achieved due in part to recent lighting upgrades and implementation of building analytics. Lighting projects included the replacement/retrofit of exterior plaza lighting, interior conference room lighting, and elevator lighting. Building analytics focused on automated monitoring and optimizing aspects of the HVAC system.

CMGC is also participating in the 2013 Energy Star National Building Competition: *Battle of the Buildings*. Teams from more than 3,000 buildings across the country are competing to see who can most reduce their building's energy use. On December 10, the competition released midpoint results, which showed CMGC has reduced energy consumption by 7.5 percent compared to the 2012 base year. This competition marks the first steps to engage staff and empower all to save energy, which will continue to aid in earning future ENERGY STAR certification.

CMGC energy use is down 33% from the baseline year of 2003. Additionally, various energy efficiency renovations, dedicated efforts of staff to energy efficient management of CMGC, and occupant behavior changes have resulted in accumulated avoided costs of \$1.4M to date.