

Agenda Statement

Meeting Date: October 20, 2026
To: City Council
Through: Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager
From: Shelby Carlson, Assistant City Manager
Agenda Item: Accepting EPA Funding for Buckner Building Remediation



BACKGROUND, JUSTIFICATION, & INTENT:

Resolution 2026-049 authorizes the City Manager to accept and administer an initial \$600,000 award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency under Assistance Agreement No. EM-03J33601 for the Buckner Building Remediation: Abatement and Demolition of Prioritized Sections project. The award provides a 100% federal share, with no City contribution required, and is part of a \$5,000,000 project budget for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031. EPA will provide funding incrementally, subject to appropriations, agency priorities, satisfactory progress, and compliance with the grant terms.

The project is intended to address hazardous materials, progressive structural deterioration, and related public safety risks through targeted abatement, controlled demolition of prioritized sections, and stabilization of the remaining structure. These activities will reduce environmental and safety risks, decrease the Buckner Building's overall footprint, and support the City's long-term goals of complete remediation and eventual redevelopment of the site.

The initial award is limited to eligible pre-construction and pre-demolition activities, including project management and reporting, public involvement, and remediation planning. Construction expenditures cannot begin until EPA completes its environmental review and provides the required authorization and additional funding through an amendment.

The resolution also authorizes the City Manager to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to the Qualified Environmental Professional & Project Management Services Agreement with NORTECH, Inc. The amendment adds CDS-funded services associated with Tasks 1, 2, and 3 of the City's CDS Workplan and increases maximum compensation by \$305,532, from \$519,682 to a new not-to-exceed amount of \$825,214. Work remains subject to written task authorization, grant requirements, and the availability of lawfully appropriated funds.

CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Legislative Priorities: <i>Federal, "Buckner Building Environmental Remediation" and Local, "Contaminated Sites"</i>	☒	☐	☐
2. Comprehensive Plan: <i>Action Item 2.1.3.2, "Clean up City-owned land"</i>	☒	☐	☐
3. Whittier Code	☐	☐	☒
4. Other	☐	☐	☒

FISCAL NOTE: The City has received two grants for this project; a CDS Grant No. EM-03J33601 in the amount of \$5 million and an EPA Grant No. 02J56801 in the total amount of \$800,000. Additional appropriating resolutions will be brought forward as the project progresses.

ATTORNEY REVIEW: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends approval of Resolution 2026-049, including acceptance and appropriation of the initial \$600,000 EPA award and authorization of Amendment No. 1 to the NORTECH, Inc. agreement.