



RESTORING BROWNFIELDS TO REVITALIZE COMMUNITIES

WEST OAKLAND LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP

West Oakland Local Advisory Group

The West Oakland Local Advisory Group consist of community members and citizens interested in the environmental cleanup of potentially contaminated properties in their neighborhoods. Their purpose is to monitor ongoing environmental cleanup activities in the West Oakland area and be a part of the redevelopment decision-making process. The goals of the group include:

1. Develop criteria to evaluate and prioritize sites for cleanup.
2. Work collaboratively with public agencies to advocate for site cleanup and funding.
3. Apply criteria to prioritize brownfields sites for cleanup.
4. Create community awareness of all brownfields cleanup activities in West Oakland.
5. Monitor ongoing cleanup activities through open sharing of information.

West Oakland Brownfields Discovery Roadmap

In February 2006 the West Oakland Local Advisory Group began the process of developing a road map for the community to identify and gather information about brownfield properties in West Oakland. The product of their research can be found on the roadmap inside. The roadmap provides contacts and guidelines on how to obtain environmental information from local, state and federal organizations and agencies. **We encourage you to become involved in the West Oakland Advisory Group goals and activities.**

What Is A Brownfield?

Brownfields are defined as abandoned, idled or underutilized properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Brownfields are usually found in older developed urban communities. There are many Brownfields in West Oakland because of its historic residential and industrial land use. An example of revitalized Brownfields in West Oakland include: Gateway Shopping Center, Mandela Parkway, and Mandela Gateway Housing Development.



Right Photo: Before picture of “The Market Square” project site (formerly referred to as the “Housewives Marketplace”) is bounded by 8th Street, 9th Street, Clay and Jefferson in Oakland. The site includes two areas formerly occupied by gas stations. These gas stations operated underground fuel tanks that leaked petroleum hydrocarbons into the soil and groundwater. The City acquired the site and established cleanup goals and performed soil and groundwater remediation with assistance from the brownfields program.



Above Photo: After Phase 1 of this mixed-use development, 116 housing units and 3,000 square feet of commercial space was completed.

About The West Oakland Local Advisory Group (WOLAG)

The purpose of the WOLAG is to enhance the West Oakland community’s role in local, state and federal decisions regarding site-specific environmental cleanup activities. The advisory group will facilitate information sharing between the community and government agencies in order to provide a better understanding of the needs and concerns of the West Oakland community. This will result in a more effective integration of community input into the decision-making process. Implementation of this project will result in a model for community input into government decisions regarding environmental cleanup activities and reuse of the land.

BROWNFIELDS* DISCOVERY ROADMAP

What do I do if I suspect a property is contaminated?

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Ask the following questions of the contacts listed below:

- Do you know of any programs or people working on or knowledgeable about the property?
- Do you have contact information for any neighborhood associations?
- Do you have any information about the past land uses at the property?

WEST OAKLAND ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS PROJECT

Brian Beveridge 510-257-5640 ext. 5645
Margaret Gordon 510-257-5640 ext. 5647

WEST OAKLAND PROJECT AREA COMMITTEE (WOPAC)

Wendy Simon 510-238-6430
Redevelopment Staff

SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS

To find historic company names/locations
Oakland Main Library
Oakland History Room, 2nd floor
125 14th Street • Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-3222

Need Internet Access?

It's available at:
West Oakland Branch Library
1801 Adeline Street (Adeline & 18th)
Oakland, CA 94607
510-238-7352

LOCAL AGENCIES

OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT CUPA/HAZMAT

- Are any files available at that address?
- What type of information is in the file?
- Any hazardous waste generator or tank removal information?

Make appointment for file review
510-238-3927

OAKLAND BUILDING AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- Are any files available at that address?
Contact: 510-238-3911
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Any historical building information at that address?
Betty Marvin 510-238-6879
- Online Community and Economic Development Agency (CEDA) projects available at:
www.oaklandnet.com/government/ceda/revised/planningzoning/MajorProjectsSection/default.html

OAKLAND PUBLIC WORKS Environmental Services Department

- Are any files available at that address?
- Is property part of any city-initiated brownfield action?

Make appointment for file review
510-238-7314

OAKLAND EXPLORER DATABASE

www.oaklandexplorer.com gives you current property owner and occupant information; and general demographic information.

ALAMEDA COUNTY & REGION

ALAMEDA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Are any files available at that address?
- Any underground or above ground storage tank information?
- FAX file review request with property address to 510-337-9335

Make appointment for file review
Fridays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. only at
510-567-6700

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

- Are any files available at that address?
- Are there any onsite units covered under air permits?
- Public Records Request form at:
www.baaqmd.gov/adm/public_records_request.htm
- FAX request with address to 415-749-5111

Make appointment for file review
415-749-4761

COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE 1221 Oak Street • Oakland, CA 510-272-3787 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

- Go to Room 245, the Public Records of the Assessor's Office, and provide the property's address.
- Request a copy of an **Ownership History Report** for that property.

STATE AND FEDERAL

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

- Any files available at that address?
- What kind of files are available?
- What is the contact information for the Project Manager and Public Participation Specialist project team?
- DTSC EnviroStor database:
Search property for project-specific information about DTSC sites.
www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public

Make appointment for file review
510-540-3800

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

- Any files available at that address?
- Any information about soil, ground or surface water quality?
- Leaking underground tank sites?
- Water Board Geo Tracker database:
Search property for project-specific information about Water Board sites.
<http://geotracker.swrcb.ca.gov/search>

Make appointment for file review
510-622-2430

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- RCRAInfo database www.epa.gov/_enviro/html/rcris/rcris_query_java.html
- CERCLIS database
www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites

CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (Cal/OSHA)

Conduct a search by company name at:
www.osha.gov/pls/imis/establishment.html

* A brownfield is land that is known or suspected to have contamination.

Why Is This Important To The Community?

We have heard from the community and they have expressed:

- Concerns that developers need to be held accountable to demonstrate that there are no environmental risks.
- That all of West Oakland is formerly industrial property and should be treated as such.
- Concerns about health impacts from diesel and traffic – keep truck routes out of West Oakland as much as possible; consider low emission trucks/equipment in cleanup actions.
- The community has a right to know what is going on with enough time for them to address it by following up with the various regulatory, development, and reuse agencies at different levels of government.

WOLAG Answer To The Community

- We must impress upon developers that they need to be careful.
- Minimize impacts to the environment during cleanup actions and give timely public notification to the community.
- Request for transparency in the environmental cleanup and reuse process: What's happening, who's doing it and what is it?



Above Photo: Dorothy Paynes, WOLAG member, poses for picture at Mandella Parkway in Oakland, California. During the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the Cypress freeway (a double deck structure) located above this parkway collapsed and was subsequently demolished. Environmental cleanup was completed and the City of Oakland made landscape improvements, benches, water fountains, pedestrian and bicycle trails for the community.



Pictured above members of the West Oakland Local Advisory Group
Front Row left to right: Ellen Wyrick-Parkinson, Dorothy Paynes, Tim Thomas, Athena Applon
Second Row left to right: Gopal Nair and Brian Beveridge



WOLAG Information Contacts:

- Tim Thomas, WOLAG Co-Chairperson
Environmental Indicator Project, 510-290-7092
- Dorothy Paynes, WOLAG Co-Chairperson
West Oakland Resident, 510-763-0341
- Nancy Cook, WOLAG Co-Chairperson
Department of Toxics Substances Control, 510-540-3923

To receive a copy of the WOLAG Brownfields Discovery Roadmap, Step-by-Step Supplement or the City of Oakland CEDA Brownfields Resource Guide, please contact:

- Environmental Indicator Project Office
510-257-5640
- Nancy Cook, Department of Toxics Substances Control
510-540-3923, ncook@dtsc.ca.gov
- Margot Lederer Prado, City of Oakland CEDA Agency
510-238-6766, mprado@oaklandnet.com