

## Outreach and Grants: Support to Communities and Abandoned Mine Land Stakeholders

DTSC is committed to developing and expanding relationships with AML stakeholders, providing assistance to local agencies and other stakeholders, and educating the general public about AML issues. DTSC participates in various conferences and local panel discussions on AML issues and meets with California's Abandoned Mine Lands Forum to coordinate cleanup efforts. Additionally, in cooperation with partners such as the California Indian Environmental Alliance and the Sierra Fund, DTSC helps local communities in California to identify funding opportunities for legacy mine cleanups. DTSC has completed and supported grant applications to help cities, counties and other local agencies secure grants to address AML issues in their areas. These grants are aimed at providing funding to communities that do not have the financial means to address AML issues, so they can carry out assessments and cleanups of AML sites. Grants that may be available include:



- U.S. EPA preliminary assessment/site inspection, administered by DTSC.
- Targeted brownfields assessment, administered by U.S. EPA Region 9
- Brownfields assessment and cleanup grants administered by the U.S. EPA.
- Brownfields training, research and technical assistance grant, administered by the U.S. EPA.

More information about available grants is located at:

<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/grants.htm> and  
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/funding/index.html>

Projects involving grants and outreach include:

- **Arsenic Bioavailability Study:** DTSC has been awarded a training, research and technical assistance grant by the U.S. EPA to conduct an arsenic relative bioavailability study. Arsenic is a common mineral found in waste rock of AML sites, which can be toxic to humans. The difficulty with arsenic is that it is hard to know what concentration of arsenic in soil



represents a risk to people living on it. The goal of the arsenic relative bioavailability study is to determine, in a scientifically sound and defensible manner, the range of arsenic bioavailability (how much arsenic from the waste rock can be absorbed by the human body) that may exist in contaminated soil at former AML sites and not pose a threat to human health or to the environment. This will allow DTSC to produce a guidance document and assessment tool that will lead to more cost-effective cleanups and open more land up for reuse. For more information, [click here](#).

- **Jackson/Sutter Creek Community-Wide AML Assessment:** In cooperation with Amador County and the cities of Jackson and Sutter Creek, the AML Initiative Team has completed limited U.S. EPA grant-funded sampling of 24 public and privately owned parcels in and around the cities of Jackson and Sutter Creek. The results of this sampling effort will help the communities identify AML sites, take any necessary action to protect public health and consider this information during any planning activities for communities.
- **Cache Creek Watershed:** In cooperation with the Big Valley Rancheria, Elem Indian Colony, Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians, Robinson Rancheria and California Indian Environmental Alliance, DTSC has issued a letter of intent for the Cache Creek Mapping and Sampling Project with the goal of investigating and mapping mine waste contamination in areas important to tribes in the Cache Creek Watershed.