



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Toxic Substances Control

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## Name Change for DTSC Site Mitigation Program

**SACRAMENTO** -- The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced that its Site Mitigation Program has been renamed as the Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program. The name change is aimed at more accurately reflecting the current commitment of the program to foster the environmental cleanup and development of abandoned and underutilized properties, as well as several new initiatives that will further California's leadership in meeting the important challenge of brownfields redevelopment.

"For more than 20 years, DTSC has been a partner in brownfields redevelopment projects that have improved the quality of life in cities across California," said DTSC Director Ed Lowry. "With its new name, the Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program is poised to use its existing resources and several important new tools to solve environmental problems and return even more abandoned properties to productive uses."

The Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program will continue to encompass the successful activities of the Voluntary Cleanup Program, the Prospective Purchaser Agreement initiative, cleanup at closing military bases, the Expedited Remedial Action Program, and the School Property Evaluation and Cleanup Program – all of which support the sustainable reuse of properties, while fully protecting public health and the environment. In addition, the Cleanup Loans and Environmental Assistance to Neighborhoods (CLEAN) Loan Program and the new Financial Assurance and Insurance to Redevelopment (FAIR) Program will be incorporated into the Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program.

The CLEAN Loan Program, part of Governor Gray Davis's Urban Cleanup Initiative, was launched in 2000 following passage of Senate Bill 667 (Sher). The program provides low-interest loans to private developers, nonprofit groups or local governments to finance the investigation and cleanup of brownfields properties in urban areas. To date, six loans have been made statewide. The new FAIR program will further increase opportunities for brownfields redevelopment through the selection of a state-designated insurance company to provide environmental insurance. This will increase the affordability and availability of environmental insurance, which has proven to be a valuable tool for developers and lending institutions in reducing concerns over liability and cleanup costs.

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Other new activities for the Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program that will result from its expanded role include:

- Coordination with other State, federal and local government entities involved in brownfields redevelopment and related funding programs.
- Stronger and proactive working relationship with stakeholders, property owners and community organizations.
- Development of outreach materials and enhanced technical assistance for local governments, redevelopment agencies, communities and others interested in brownfields reuse; and
- Implementation of the California Land Environmental Restoration and Reuse Act (Senate Bill 32).

The Deputy Director of the Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program is Dorothy Rice. Staff assignments for the new, expanded brownfields programs responsibilities will be announced in the coming weeks.

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***The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.***

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*"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)."*