



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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DTSC Receives U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant

Sacramento – The California Department of Substances Control (DTSC) today announced receipt of a \$200,000 Brownfields Hazardous Substances Assessment Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Working together with the City of West Sacramento, which also received a \$200,000 U.S. EPA Brownfields Grant for petroleum assessment, DTSC's Sacramento Regional office will conduct a community-wide brownfields assessment of target areas within the City of West Sacramento.

DTSC received the grant during the annual EPA Brownfields conference, "Reaching New Heights in Redevelopment: A Decade of Progress and Performance," held in Denver, Colorado.

"The issuance of this grant and the formation of this partnership is an example of how local and state entities can pool resources and work together to clean up the environment. Governor Schwarzenegger has made cleaning up brownfields sites a priority, and this partnership achieves that goal. It also helps facilitate a comprehensive investigation and eventual cleanup that takes into consideration the redevelopment plans of the city," said Leonard Robinson, Acting Director of DTSC.

By combining forces and collectively utilizing their grant awards (total \$400,000) DTSC and the City will effectively and efficiently perform a comprehensive community-wide assessment. The assessment relies on DTSC's expertise in hazardous substances investigation and cleanup with the City's expertise in redevelopment in an effort to develop a model for efficient brownfields evaluation in support of redevelopment agencies statewide.

The selected target areas, Pioneer Bluff and the East and West Ends of Capitol Avenue, offer promising opportunity for vigorous redevelopment, but are currently impeded by concerns regarding possible petroleum and/or hazardous substances contamination. The assessment of sites in the early stages of redevelopment enables essential input into specific land use plans. This partnership, which addresses hazardous substances and petroleum releases together, is designed to expedite opportunities for redevelopment.

The assessments will lead to site cleanups that will provide improvements to public health and protection of the environment that are consistent with the planned land use. Uncontaminated sites will be cleared for development.

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Reliable assessments of contamination will enable effective planning of land use and remedial costs. The resulting redevelopment will provide economic benefits and improve the quality of life within the community through increased housing opportunities, reducing the number of vacant parcels and/or buildings, expanded employment opportunities, increased private investment and increased tax revenues through development and new retail outlets.

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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.