



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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First Agreement Signed Under California's New 'Brownfields' Cleanup Act

Berkeley – Citing the need to encourage cleanup and redevelopment of Brownfield sites, Acting Director Leonard Robinson today announced the signing of the state's first agreement under the California Land Reuse and Revitalization Act of 2004 (CLRRA), also known as the "Brownfields" Cleanup Act. The agreement between the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and La Vista, LLC, seeks to clean up a contaminated parcel in Hayward to residential standards and redevelop the site for use as affordable housing.

"With the signing of this first agreement, we hope the Brownfields Cleanup Act will provide a new blueprint for developers, property owners and local governments who want to address Brownfield sites but have concerns about liability. This agreement is consistent with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Environmental Action Plan to provide for the evaluation and redevelopment of underutilized sites to accommodate desirable mixed use, compact development and urban in-fill growth," said Robinson.

The Brownfields Cleanup Act went into effect on January 1, 2005, with the passage of Assembly Bill 389 (Montanez). The legislation provided new liability protections to developers, innocent landowners and contiguous property owners in an effort to promote the cleanup and redevelopment of California's estimated 100,000 Brownfields sites. Brownfields are properties with real or perceived contamination that may be vacant or underused due to environmental cleanup costs and liability concerns. A copy of the agreement can be viewed at www.dtsc.ca.gov

The 3.5-acre site, which is the subject of today's announcement, was used historically for agricultural purposes until the 1950s when it was converted for use as a food processing facility. Kruger Foods, Inc. processed cucumbers into pickles on the Site until 2004. La Vista, LLC purchased the property in 2005.

DTSC entered into the agreement with La Vista, LLC to address contamination at the former Kruger Food, Inc.'s pickle manufacturing plant located at 22958 Saklan Road in Hayward. Under this agreement, La Vista, LLC will identify and analyze any contaminants currently existing at the property and clean up any past hazardous material releases to ensure that the property is safe for residential use. The work will be conducted under DTSC oversight. After these environmental cleanup activities are completed, the property will then be developed in conjunction with Eden Housing into affordable housing.

This site is one of thousands of Brownfield sites in California that are located in urban and rural industrial or agricultural settings. DTSC is working with other public agencies and private entities to remediate Brownfield properties throughout California.

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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.