



DTSC grants pave the way for economic development

DTSC and Senior Environmental Scientist Sandy Karinen are playing crucial roles in efforts to foster economic development projects in scenic Siskiyou County.

Karinen worked closely with officials of the cities of [Mt. Shasta](#) and [Yreka](#), and with the [Siskiyou County Economic Development Council](#) to secure three \$400,000 federal EPA Brownfields grants to help kick-start economic development projects in the far reaches of Northern California. Those included a 2012 multi-purpose pilot grant that was one of only nine issued in the nation. That grant is being used to assess and clean up part of an old mill site that is slated to become a business park in Mt. Shasta.

“These grants are really competitive, so it required a team effort,” said Karinen. “The cooperation between DTSC and the cities of Mt. Shasta and Yreka and the Economic Development Council was amazing – and crucial to the success.”

Two of the grants are being used to help clean up a former mill site that is the proposed Roseburg Commerce Park in Mt. Shasta, and the third was used to identify possible redevelopment opportunities in the Siskiyou County seat of Yreka. The assessment funding in Yreka paved the way for developing another former mill site into the future home of Belcampo Butchery.

City leaders in Mt. Shasta have ambitious plans for the 150-acre former Roseburg lumber mill property just south of downtown. Plans call for a multiple-use business park with conference center, offices, stores, restaurants and light industry. The property was gifted to the city in the late 1980s.

It would be one of the largest economic development projects in the community, and follows an [announcement](#) last month that Crystal Geyser Water Company bought a 145,000-square-foot water bottling plant in Mt. Shasta that has been idle since 2010.

Portions of the former mill site are contaminated with petroleum compounds and other hazardous substances and must be cleaned before the business park is constructed. City officials signed a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with DTSC in July.

Karinen, who has helped secure other grants on behalf of DTSC cleanup partners, spent dozens of hours helping local officials prepare the grant applications. The 2012 multipurpose grant followed an assessment grant obtained in 2011 and the Yreka grant obtained in 2009. DTSC is being recognized for its role in obtaining the Yreka grant in a Nov. 12 ceremony in Yreka.



The view from Mt. Shasta City, not far from the former Roseburg mill site.