



Award-winning campus sprouts with DTSC's help

One of the first college campuses to achieve LEED platinum status rose from a former agricultural field. It is fitting then that [Ohlone College Newark Center for Health Sciences and Technology](#) (OCNC) received an award named after a reborn mythical bird.

The Ohlone campus in Alameda County was one of 10 projects nationwide to receive [Phoenix](#) awards at the 2013 National Brownfields Conference, the nation's largest annual event that focuses on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. It was held May 15 through May 17 in Atlanta.

The award held special meaning to the [California Department of Toxic Substances Control](#) (DTSC), which supervised the cleanup of pesticides at the 81-acre school site in Newark under a voluntary agreement with the college. A federal US EPA grant paid for a portion of the cleanup and oversight costs.

Approximately 34,100 cubic yards of contaminated soil was relocated from 30 acres at the northern end of the site. That land was cleaned to standards that allowed for development of the campus in 2008. Much of the contaminated soil was moved to the south end of the campus, which is restricted to agriculture use.

The campus achieved Platinum LEED certification in August 2008. At the time, only about 500 buildings in the world had achieved that benchmark.

DTSC Cypress Branch Chief Thomas Cota accepted the award on behalf of DTSC at the Atlanta conference, but said the credit goes to the Berkeley cleanup operations branch.

"They deserve all the credit and acknowledgment for expediting the quick evaluation of data and meeting the timeline for the community college district," he said.

The project turned unproductive land into a center of education for about 3,500 students, and provides jobs for about 100 people. It trains people for jobs in health, environmental and technology careers.



Pictured left to right: Thomas Cota, DTSC; Noemi Emric-Ford, EPA Regional Brownfields Coordinator; David Dixon, Principal in Charge, Roux Associates, Inc., project consultants; Mathy Stanislaus, EPA's Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.



Campus continued

“We are proud to have partnered with US EPA to turn land in the urban center of Newark into a sustainable, green asset for this community,” said Barbara Cook, Assistant Deputy Director of DTSC’s Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program.

The campus, built with funds from a public bond measure, is among the greenest in the world.

[Here’s why:](#)

- Photovoltaic solar panels;
- Geothermal heating and cooling from 26 miles of coils hidden under front landscaping;
- Insulation made of recycled blue jeans;
- Carpets and furniture made of recycled material;
- Wetlands were constructed to clean storm water runoff;
- Landscaping that uses less water;
- Remediating contaminated land;
- About 91 percent of the construction waste was recycled