

Funding will revitalize communities by cleaning up and redeveloping contaminated sites

LOS ANGELES - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that the City of Los Angeles will be one of 171 communities nationwide receiving brownfields funding to clean and redevelop contaminated properties, boost local economies and leverage jobs while protecting public health and the environment.

The FY14 Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (ARC) grants will give communities and businesses a chance to return economic stability to under-served and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods through the assessment and clean-up of abandoned industrial and commercial properties, places where environmental cleanups and new jobs are most needed.

“Brownfields funding allows communities to innovate new ways to retrofit formerly polluted, unused sites for sustainable new uses,” said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA’s Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. “The City of Los Angeles will use these funds to assess environmental contamination at various sites, protecting the environment while fostering new job growth opportunities for its local communities.”

The City of Los Angeles will receive a \$200,000 grant to address hazardous substances and a \$200,000 grant to address petroleum. Both grants will be used to conduct 10 Phase I and four Phase II environmental site assessments city-wide. A Phase I assessment determines the likelihood that some form of environmental contamination is present which includes a complete and thorough investigation on the history of a particular site. A Phase II assessment is a more comprehensive investigation that may include the collection of soil or groundwater samples to determine contamination conditions at the site.

A total of approximately \$23.5 million is going to communities that have been impacted by plant closures. Other selected recipients include tribes and communities in 44 states across the country; and at least 50 of the grants are going to communities who have received grants from U.S. Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Transportation, and U.S. EPA.

Since the inception of the EPA’s Brownfields program in 1995, cumulative brownfield program investments have leveraged more than \$21 billion from a variety of public and private sources for cleanup and redevelopment activities. This equates to an average of \$17.79 leveraged per EPA brownfield dollar expended. These investments have resulted in approximately 93,000 jobs nationwide. These projects demonstrate the positive impact a small investment of federal brownfields funding can have on community revitalization through leveraging jobs, producing clean energy, and providing recreation opportunities for surrounding neighborhoods. EPA’s Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields sites.

More information on brownfields grants by state: http://cfpub.epa.gov/bf_factsheets/

More information on EPA’s brownfields:

Program <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

Success Stories <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/success/index.htm>

Benefits <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/overview/Brownfields-Benefits-postcard.pdf>