



# Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

## Humboldt County, CA

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, the President signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

Humboldt County was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Humboldt County (population 126,518) is a community in rural northwest California that relied heavily on the lumber and wood products industry for many years. In the 1950s, the lumber industry employed 50 percent of the county's labor force. With the decline of both the lumber and fishing industries, workers shifted to lower paying jobs in the service sector. The county's unemployment and poverty rates are higher than the state average, with more than 19 percent of county residents living in poverty. The eight targeted areas represent the most economically stagnant and blighted communities in Humboldt County. Assessment and cleanup of the



### Assessment Grant

New  
2004

\$200,000 for hazardous substances  
\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected Humboldt County for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds and petroleum grant funds will both be used to inventory and prioritize brownfields sites, perform Phase I and Phase II site assessments, and draft remediation plans for prioritized sites within eight targeted county-wide redevelopment areas. Funds will also be used to develop a community involvement plan.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team

415-972-3188

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/>

Grant Recipient: Humboldt County, CA  
707-268-3735

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

abandoned and underutilized properties in the county are expected to facilitate the growth of manufacturing and other industries to replace the timber and fishing industries, and bolster the local economy. Since over 95 percent of the land in Humboldt County is not suitable for development, revitalization of brownfields is critical to this growth.