



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

Rio Dell, 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, President George W. Bush 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

The City of Rio Dell was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Rio Dell is a small city of 3,207 residents located on the banks of the Eel River in northern California. The city's economy is based on the timber industry which has declined over the past two decades. The decline in the timber industry and the impact of the rerouting of a major highway that diverted traffic away from the local businesses in the center of the city, have left Rio Dell with numerous blighted and potentially contaminated properties in the town center and residential neighborhoods. Since the 1970s, Rio Dell consistently has been the most economically disadvantaged small municipality in Humboldt County. More than 23 percent of city residents live in



Assessment Grant

New
2005

\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Rio Dell for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to compile a comprehensive inventory of contaminated sites, fund a community involvement program, perform Phase I and II environmental site assessments, and develop cleanup and redevelopment plans. A range of petroleum-contaminated sites around the city will be investigated.

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.

EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team
415-972-3188

[http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/
index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html)

Grant Recipient: City of Rio Dell, CA
707-764-3532

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

poverty and the unemployment rate is nearly 14 percent. The blighted and idled petroleum sites around the city are eyesores, magnets for vandalism and other undesirable behavior, and pose a threat of contaminant exposure especially for children. A number of properties also may threaten the water quality in the Eel River. Assessment of these brownfields properties represents the first step in re-establishing economic activity, a key factor that will help prevent future brownfields in Rio Dell.