



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Visalia, CA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders 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 Visalia was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Located in central California's San Joaquin Valley, Visalia (population 108,000) is known as the "Jewel of the Valley." However, there are areas in the city where the poverty rate is at least 37 percent, the unemployment rate is 21 percent, and per capita incomes are 25 percent lower than the national average. In these areas, 69 percent of residents are minorities. A significant number of the former industrial parcels northeast of downtown are or have been brownfields that pose risks to nearby low-income residential areas. After brownfields are assessed and cleaned up, they will become part of a government and business office center that will include a new City Hall, police and fire department headquarters, facilities for the county and school



Assessment Grants

New
2006

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

EPA has selected the City of Visalia for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to perform Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments throughout the community, and conduct community outreach with the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Downtown Visalians. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

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
415-972-3092
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

Grant Recipient: City of Visalia, CA
559-713-4312

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

district, an amphitheater, open space, and new residential, office, and retail development. Brownfields redevelopment will eliminate health risks, address environmental justice concerns, provide new jobs, generate new property taxes, eliminate blight, and retain downtown Visalia as a vibrant community.