



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Alameda County, CA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Alameda County for a Brownfields Pilot. The County's Community Development Agency (CDA) is focusing its redevelopment activities on the commercial corridor along East 14th Street and Mission Boulevard from 150th Avenue south to Grove Way. This corridor passes through the Ashland and Cherryland communities, and is the longest continuous roadway in the East Bay area. Once a major thoroughway, but now a bypassed state highway, this corridor contains deteriorated commercial establishments, vacant properties, and pockets of crime. Auto repair shops and gas stations once operated along this route and may have contributed to contamination on the sites. The need for environmental testing and cleanup at these commercial properties is a deterrent to planned streetscape improvements and redevelopment efforts. Since 1981, the area has lost 30% of its business establishments and 25% of its retail sales. The population of the Ashland and Cherryland communities is predominantly minority and the median household income is 28% lower than the Alameda County average.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Alameda County,
California

Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Alameda County CDA plans to focus redevelopment activities on the commercial corridor that passes through the Ashland and Cherryland communities.

Contacts:

Community Development
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Regional Brownfields Team
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Visit the EPA Region 9 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/brown/index.html>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot's primary objective is to implement a redevelopment plan that will stimulate the local economy. The Pilot will conduct environmental assessments in the public right-of-way and on selected commercial parcels to facilitate the County's streetscape improvement program, which includes the placement of utilities underground. Because the Ashland and Cherryland communities are unincorporated and have no formal mechanisms for leveraging redevelopment funds, the Pilot project will also encourage and plan for large-scale improvement programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting Phase II environmental assessments on potential brownfields redevelopment properties;
- Creating cleanup and redevelopment plans for targeted sites;
- Aiding in the identification of alternative funding sources; and
- Conducting community outreach activities in partnership with the Alameda County Redevelopment Citizens Advisory Committee.

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