



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Carson, 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. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs 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 the City of Carson for a Brownfields Pilot. Carson (population 83,995) is located in southern Los Angeles County at the crossroads of several major transportation routes, including four freeways, two ports, two airports, and rail facilities. Due to this prime location, the city has attracted a diverse population and a variety of businesses. There is no clear population majority in Carson; the racial mix is 22,000 African American, 21,000 Asian-Pacific, 23,000 Hispanic, 29,000 Caucasian, and 11,000 other. Since the city's incorporation in 1968, it has attracted over 3,500 businesses within its boundaries.

From the 1940s to the 1960s, the area now known as Carson was under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County and was subject to use as a landfill (there are 17 former landfills) and inconsistent land use patterns; industrial lots can often be found near single-family homes. The leading land use in Carson has been and still is industrial (54 percent), and the resulting contamination is of concern to city officials. There are a number of sites within the city with known soil and groundwater contamination, and the stigma of this contamination affects the undeveloped properties in Carson. The Pilot will target five of these sites for further investigation.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Carson, California

Date of Announcement:
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will target
five priority brownfields sites
in southern Los Angeles
County.

Contacts:

Carson Redevelopment Agency
(310) 952-1761

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 9
(415) 744-2237

Visit the EPA Region 9 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/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 objective is to identify sites with development potential by combining newly discovered sites with the existing city inventory and paring the list down to a manageable group of 25 undeveloped sites. The Pilot will then develop criteria to further evaluate these 25 sites and select five for further investigation and environmental assessment. Based on prior and current land uses, it is suspected that many of these undeveloped sites contain varying levels of contamination. The Pilot will support the city's overall objectives to create more jobs, increase tax increment revenues in the redevelopment project area, increase sales tax revenue, and improve aesthetic and environmental conditions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Compiling an initial list of up to 25 potential sites for redevelopment;
- Performing Phase I and II assessments on five priority sites from the list;
- Determining cleanup alternatives for each of the priority sites; and
- Conducting community and stakeholder outreach activities.

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