



# Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot

## Madera County, CA

### BACKGROUND

Madera County (population 125,000) is a rural county located in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The southwestern half of the county consists of farmlands and dairy country, while the northeastern part of the county is rich timberland in the foothills of the Sierra Mountains. The county economy, in the 1900s, was based on mining, timber, and agriculture. The county's two small cities and several towns were built around these industries. Changes in the timber and agricultural industries have resulted in the closure of lumber mills and food processing plants, with devastating losses of jobs and economic vitality in the small towns where the facilities were located. It has been extremely difficult to find alternative uses for these sites because of their rural location and the presence of contamination. Countywide, the unemployment rate is 13%, and 23% of residents live in poverty.

The county is working to establish partnerships dedicated to the redevelopment of brownfields scattered throughout the county. The small communities of North Fork, Ahwahnee, and Raymond have been the most severely impacted by the closure of industrial and other facilities. The county has made the most progress at the North Fork site, a timber mill that closed in 1994. One sixth of the town's businesses have closed since the mill closing. The county and the North Fork community have responded by conducting extensive redevelopment planning and leveraging over \$1 million in various forms of government assistance. However, the lack of funding that can be used for cleanup of contaminated soils continues to hamper reuse of this site.

### BCRLF OBJECTIVES

The goal of the BCRLF Pilot is to support revitalization efforts in the small communities of North Fork and Ahwahnee and other communities countywide that have

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Madera County, CA*

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 2002

**Amount:** \$1,000,000

**BCRLF Target Area:**  
Sites throughout Madera County

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**Contacts:**

<p>Madera County Environmental Health Dept. (559) 675-7823</p>	<p>Region 9 Brownfields Coordinator (415) 972-3188</p>
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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:  
[www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields)

lost major industrial facilities. Priority will be given to properties that are located close to a residential communities.

### FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

The Madera County Environmental Health Department is the cooperative agreement recipient and will serve as the lead agency. The California Department of Toxic

Substances Control will provide a site manager. The Madera County Economic Development Commission will serve as the fund manager.

## **LEVERAGING OTHER RESOURCES**

There are several sources of funds in Madera County that can be used in conjunction with BCRLF Pilot funds for redevelopment purposes. The Madera County Economic Development Commission administers a small business revolving loan fund through a grant from the federal Community Development Block Grants program. The county will apply for a California Proposition 12 Parks Bond Act grant for capital improvements to the Ahwahnee Hill property. The county anticipates receiving a HUD capacity-building grant, which will enable the county to hire a part-time fund developer.

*Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.*