



Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

California Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency, CA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

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, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace), to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and 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, a cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance 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 California Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency (TTCA), formerly called the California Trade and Commerce Agency (TCA), to receive supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. The State of California established the California Mill Reuse Program, which is a publicly supported program to clean up and reuse closed and abandoned wood products mill sites in the state. The California program, implemented by TTCA, plans to conduct assessment activities and develop cleanup and redevelopment plans for each targeted former mill site.

An initial survey identified 100 abandoned or closed mills in an area covering 25 counties, primarily in the northern half of California. Further investigation revealed that the total number of former mill sites in California is much higher—there are close to 600 sites in just one county. The closure of timber mills has resulted in the 25-county area having a much lower average income than the rest of the state. The average unemployment rate is 10 percent and the average poverty rate is 14.8 percent in these mostly rural counties.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Date of Award: April 2001

Amount: \$150,000

Profile: The Pilot will target former mill sites throughout the state's rural communities for assessment to facilitate site cleanup and redevelopment.

California Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency, California

Contacts:

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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:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

With EPA's supplemental assistance grant, the Pilot plans to continue strengthening public-private partnership efforts, promote the cleanup and redevelopment of closed mill sites, and support the long-term economic stability of impacted rural communities. The Pilot will add two new mill sites to the California Mill Reuse Program (bringing the total to nine participating sites) and continue to conduct environmental assessments as necessary.

The Pilot plans to:

- Complete Phase II environmental assessments on the McCloud site;
- Begin environmental assessments on two additional mill sites; and
- Provide continuing community planning and technical assistance for each targeted mill site community.

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