



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Department of Toxic Substances Control News

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DTSC SELECTS FOUR BROWNFIELDS SITES TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION SERVICES THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) receives funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the State and Tribal Response Program Grant pursuant to Section 128(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (SRP Grant). Under the SRP Grant, DTSC developed a Targeted Site Investigation (TSI) Program to provide environmental investigation services for brownfields sites at no cost to grantees selected through a competitive application process. The goal of the TSI Program is to facilitate the redevelopment planning and reuse of brownfields.

Applications for the 2016-2017 fiscal year were accepted through July 11, 2016. Following DTSC review, and EPA concurrence, the following recipients were selected to receive environmental investigation services:

- Burton School District
- Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley, Inc.
- Natomas Unified School District
- Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

Burton School District

Burton School District will receive up to \$51,000 of services to conduct a preliminary environmental assessment of a future K-8 school site on North Newcomb Street in Porterville. This assessment will help Burton School District identify any cleanup necessary to develop a 12.59-acre abandoned drive-in theater into a K-8 school.

"The Burton School District hopes to develop the old outdoor movie theatre into a future K-8. The school would be a valuable addition to the community both as an educational resource and a community resource."

*Wendy Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Businesses Services
Burton School District*



Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley, Inc.

Habitat for Humanity will receive up to \$60,000 of services to conduct additional investigation for Sequoia Grove in Hayward. The Sequoia Grove site is located within the City of Hayward's Cannery Area Design Plan which established a framework to transition a formerly industrial area into a mix of housing, parks, retail, commercial, and office uses. As part of this redevelopment, Habitat for Humanity intends to develop the Sequoia Grove site, 0.73 acres of vacant land, with ten homes affordable to buyers with incomes less than 80 percent of the area median income. The project has strong support from the City of Hayward and the community. This investigation will help Habitat for Humanity characterize the extent of soil contamination on site and provide information needed to develop a cleanup plan.

"Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley's Sequoia Grove development will provide much needed affordable homeownership opportunities to hard working, lower income families in Hayward. We greatly appreciate the Department of Toxic Substance's commitment of \$60,000 to this project through its Targeted Site Investigation program. Our partnership with DTSC will allow the development of this community to move forward which is a win for Hayward and for the future homeowners who will live here."

*Janice Jensen, President and Chief Executive Officer
Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley*



Natomas Unified School District

Natomas Unified School District will receive up to \$40,000 of services to conduct a preliminary environmental assessment of a future K-8 school site at the intersection of Truxel Road and Arena Boulevard in Sacramento. This assessment will help Natomas Unified School District identify any cleanup necessary to develop 18.53 acres of vacant, fallow land into a K-8 school.

“The Natomas Unified School District hopes to develop these parcels into a future school for the community. The property has been vacant for a number of years, and offers an ideal location for community connectivity. The future school would provide the community an educational resource and a community resource.”

*Mark Covington, Executive Director, Facilities & Strategic Planning
Natomas Unified School District*



Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (Sierra Institute)

The Sierra Institute will receive up to \$149,000 of services to conduct a preliminary environmental assessment for the Crescent Mills Industrial Site in Crescent Mills. This assessment will help the Sierra Institute characterize the extent of contamination on site so that a cleanup plan can be developed. The site is approximately 28 acres and includes an abandoned industrial sawmill. The Sierra Institute plans to redevelop this site into a woody biomass utilization campus to process the large volume of low-value wood resulting from forest restoration activities in the northern Sierra Nevada into products. This effort supports Governor Brown's Executive Order B-36-15 which calls for additional action to build upon the State's ongoing response to record dry conditions and assist recovery efforts from California's devastating wildfires in 2015. Such a campus will create employment opportunities in Plumas County (a rural and socioeconomically depressed county), and contribute to reduced fire risk and increased forest and watershed health in the Upper Feather River Watershed, the headwaters of the California Water Project (a critical source watershed for the state).

"The Sierra Institute is thrilled to receive DTSC support to address what has been a thirty-year environmental and community problem. DTSC support will allow evaluation of a valuable rural industrial site, and allow us to take the critical first step in bringing it back into productive use, and to respond to a local environmental problem and produce badly needed jobs."

*Jonathan Kusel, Ph.D., Executive Director
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment*



"We are re-developing this site to address high risk of wildfire, declining forest and watershed health, and poor socioeconomic conditions in local communities. The campus will utilize low-grade wood for various value added products, and the demand that will be created for this material will result in and The Sierra Institute is thrilled to receive DTSC support to address what has been a thirty-year environmental and community problem. DTSC support will allow evaluation of a valuable rural industrial site, and allow us to take the critical first step in bringing it back into productive use, and to respond to a local environmental problem and produce badly needed jobs. Increase in forest and watershed restoration efforts and help revitalize the local economy. Furthermore, the site has been abandoned since the late 1980s, and is referred to as a "sore eyesight" by the local community—redevelopment into a "biomass campus" is in the best interest of the environment, the economy, and the local communities."

*Camille Swezy, Biomass Program Assistant
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment*