

Fact Sheet
December 2003

Brownfields Action Agenda and Workplan



SITE MITIGATION AND BROWNFIELDS REUSE PROGRAM

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



DTSC's Brownfields Mission Statement

DTSC is committed to working in partnership with communities to restore contaminated properties to productive use, while ensuring that cleanups are fully protective of public health and the environment.

Background

Brownfields are sites with actual or perceived contamination and the potential for redevelopment or reuse. Successfully redeveloping brownfield properties involves the need to consider both the cost and time required to clean up these sites and whether the proposed land use is compatible with the cleanup. DTSC has successfully provided assistance at approximately 150 California sites that are now ready for redevelopment. Major accomplishments include projects in Stockton, Emeryville, Oakland, Los Angeles and Fontana.

Listed below are key elements of DTSC's Brownfields Action Agenda for the 2003-2004 fiscal year:

Program Efficiencies

DTSC will produce guidance documents for effective site characterization and cleanup activities. DTSC is currently drafting a model Environmental Oversight Agreement to provide consultative, investigative and cleanup oversight services to redevelopment and local agencies that offers flexibility when selecting options to address the sites. In addition, DTSC is establishing presumptive approaches to commonly encountered site conditions and contaminants. DTSC is developing proposals to establish a more streamlined investigation and cleanup process to address brownfield sites with the goal of making the process less complex and time consuming, while retaining full protection for public health and the environment.

Assistance to Local Government

Many local agencies seek DTSC's support and oversight in providing technical assistance and finding financial resources. DTSC had provided loans through its CLEAN program and continues to support communities that have received grants and loans through EPA's federal Brownfields Program. New this year is the Targeted Site Investigations program through which EPA has provided grant funds for DTSC to investigate a limited number of brownfields sites.

Public Participation and Outreach

Effective public participation is an important process that informs a community about site cleanups. DTSC is expanding its public participation guidance to provide local communities with options in selecting outreach activities by examining public interest, minimum requirements, and the nature of the site conditions, while continuing to ensure opportunities for community dialog. A flow chart will outline the options and the required elements based on the cleanup process.

DTSC'S Brownfields Contacts

Within the Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program, there are dedicated brownfields staff in each regional office, and a statewide Brownfields Coordinator as listed below.

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For more information on DTSC's Brownfields Program, visit www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields/index.html



For general information about any of DTSC's activities, please contact the office nearest you, or call the regional Public and Business Liaisons at (800) 72TOXIC (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov



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