EQUITABLE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION GRANT

ROUND 2 ECRGUIDELINES

We EnCouRaGe you to Apply!

Draft

May 18, 2023

Proudly administered by California
Environmental Protection Agency's

OFFICE OF BROWNFIELDS

Department of Toxic Substances Control · Cleanup In Vulnerable Communities Initiative

Proudly Presenting the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant Draft Guidelines

The Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC's) Office of Brownfields wants to hear your thoughts on the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG). We would like to learn how the ECRG Community-wide Assessment, Site-specific Investigation, and Site-specific Cleanup grants can better serve your community. Your feedback will influence our approach to drafting the guidelines and applications for ECRG Round 2 and Round 3, which are planned to be released in summer 2023 and summer 2024, respectively. DTSC's goal is to reflect your concerns and aspirations in ECRG.

We will accept feedback on our online form [here](). Note that:

- Feedback received through May 31st will be considered for both ECRG Round 2 and future rounds
- Feedback received through September 30th will be considered for Round 3 and future rounds

Although, DTSC's Office of Brownfields will not provide individual responses to the feedback received through this process, we will share how the feedback influenced the ECRG approach in a publicly available report.

We appreciate your time, we appreciate your feedback, and we EnCouRaGe your involvement in building an ECRG that creates a positive impact that goes beyond the resolution of environmental concerns. Our true hope is that together we can advance environmental justice goals throughout our great state.

Sincerely,

The Office of Brownfields

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1.0 Introduction

ECRG Mission
ECRG's mission is to EnCouRaGe beneficial reuse of land through assessment, investigation, and cleanup and to advance environmental justice goals through concerted support and deep investment in vulnerable and underserved communities.

ECRG Vision
ECRG's vision is to transform brownfields into vibrant community spaces where people live, work, play, and learn in harmony with their built environment.

1.1 ECRG Background

In 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI) under Senate Bill (SB) 158 (Chapter 73, Statutes of 2021), allocating $500 million for the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to expedite the cleanup and beneficial reuse of contaminated land, with priority given to properties in historically vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

California is burdened by thousands of idled and potentially contaminated lands that require deep investment and resources to resolve environmental uncertainties so they may be returned to the people for safe and beneficial reuse. The majority of these lands, also known as brownfields, exist in the most historically underserved and disadvantaged areas of our state.

Recognizing the positive impact that can be provided to communities when these properties are cleaned up for beneficial uses, CVCI allocated $270.5 million to the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG) for public entities, nonprofits, and tribes to conduct environmental assessment, investigation, and cleanup. ECRG includes special provisions for deep and meaningful community engagement. This unprecedented investment in California's most precious resource, its land, will create safer, more economically viable and inclusive communities, begin the process of mending historic environmental injustices, and set a new path for land use that will have immediate and lasting benefits.

ECRG awarded about $90 million in 2022 in Round 1. Approximately $85 million is available for the upcoming round, Round 2, and we expect to allocate around $100 million for Round 3. The exact allocations for ECRG are subject to change.

1.2 ECRG Resources

ECRG focuses on providing funding to resolve environmental uncertainties in the state's most disadvantaged communities. We consciously recognize that the applicants representing these communities often lack sophisticated brownfield knowledge and may not have access to professional grant-writers. Therefore, the Office of Brownfields has made a conscious effort to design the application process to be as straightforward as possible, while still obtaining the information needed to be responsible stewards of this funding by doing the following:

- Guidelines and application use plain, easy to follow language as often as possible
- [Easy-to-use online application](#)

- [Many resources available online](#)
- [Free ECRGenius webinars](#)
- [Free application assistance from our Brownfield Technical Assistance Provider](#)
- [Easy online scheduling for application assistance appointments](#)
- [Direct access to DTSC Office of Brownfields staff](#)

DTSC is committed to working with applicants throughout the process and will provide the resources and guidance needed to successfully compete for this transformative funding.

1.3   Grant Types

DTSC's Office of Brownfields is pleased to make resources and information available to guide applicants at every step of the process. ECRG is available to help public entities, nonprofits and tribes to conduct:

Community-wide Assessments (CWA) to obtain information about environmental conditions at three or more sites within a study area. ECRG may be used for preliminary environmental planning, including All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) or Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, Preliminary Endangerment Assessments (PEA), as well as public engagement activities to elicit community input on cleanup and reuse of the sites. Applicants must design a budget of a fixed amount of $350,000 when applying. **CWAs** may include up to $50,000 for ECRG Tasks conducted by the grantee, such as community engagement.

CWAs are for early-stage activities in the cleanup and reuse timeline, and a starting-point for entities still developing their brownfield approaches and capacity. In addition to obtaining environmental information on three or more sites, applicants can develop a brownfield inventory, begin community engagement, and gain a deeper understanding of the environmental conditions of brownfields.

Site-specific Investigation and cleanup planning at a specific site that is slated for reuse. Tasks include AAI or Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, PEAs, supplemental or other necessary investigations, health and ecological risk assessments, evaluating cleanup methodologies, pilot tests to assess a potential remedial technology, and preparation of a cleanup plan, community engagement activities, and cleanup-related California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) activities. Applicants may request $150,000 to $7 million.

A **Site-specific Investigation** grant can pay for designing the cleanup approach. This may include pilot tests to evaluate the feasibility of innovative and alternative cleanup technologies such as bioremediation, chemical treatment, and other on-site treatment technologies. This grant will also cover community engagement costs for the local community to provide input on the cleanup and a reuse that meets local needs.

Site-specific Cleanup includes implementation of a cleanup plan, public engagement, and cleanup-related CEQA activities. A cleanup plan that is under review or approved by

an environmental regulatory agency is required for a **Site-specific Cleanup**. Applicants may request $300,000 to $10 million.

Site-specific Cleanup is for late-stage environmental activities. DTSC expects that by this stage, the proposed reuse of the site should be fairly clear, and the applicant should be prepared to answer detailed questions about the implementation.

1.4 Two-Year Funding Period

The tasks proposed for ECRG must be completed within the two-year funding period, even if the overall environmental work and reuse may take longer. After the ECRG Agreement is executed, grantees have two years to complete approved ECRG Tasks and incur costs eligible for reimbursement. During the grant period, grantees may have the opportunity to request additional funding, based on availability and DTSC approval.

2.0 ECRG Eligibility Overview

Prior to beginning an ECRG application, applicants are highly encouraged to use the Eligibility Self-Check Tool (Appendix A), which is designed to help determine eligibility. The purpose of the Eligibility Self-Check Tool is for the user to learn about ECRG eligibility, to provide a strong informational basis for free assistance discussions with the DTSC Brownfield Technical Assistance Provider (B-TAP), the Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR), and to prepare to submit an ECRG application via DTSC's Application/Grant Portal (Fluxx).

2.1   Eligible Applicants

1. A public entity, which could include:
   - A unit of local government (county, municipality, city, or town, etc.)
   - A school district
   - A special district or agency
   - An intrastate district
   - A council of government
2. A tribe, regardless of federal recognition, that is culturally, regionally, or traditionally affiliated with lands or resources of California, including those listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)
   - A public entity or nonprofit may apply on behalf of a tribe if the reuse is for the sole benefit of the tribe. A written agreement or letter of support from the tribe must be provided by the applicant applying on their behalf. Contact ECRG@CCLR.org to schedule an application assistance call if this situation applies.
3. A nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status

2.2   Eligible Sites

Eligible sites meet the following criteria:

1. **Brownfield:** Each site meets the federal definition of a "brownfield site" – real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, controlled substances, petroleum or petroleum products, or is mine-scarred land. Examples include factories, plating shops, farms, dry cleaners, mining sites, properties with minimal historical information, abandoned buildings and vacant properties, or properties near those with known environmental contamination.
2. **Access:** The applicant must either own the site or have an access agreement to perform the proposed ECRG Tasks over the two-year funding period of the ECRG Agreement.
3. **CalEnviroScreen 4.0:** ECRG prioritizes census tracts where the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Percentile (CES 4.0 Percentile) is 75% or greater, representing areas with the highest pollution burdens. If the CES 4.0 Percentile is less than 75%, the reuse must be for the primary benefit of the disadvantaged community AND the CES poverty percentage is 50% or greater. Tribal uses are eligible regardless of the CES 4.0 Percentile.
   Consideration will also be given to remote rural communities (defined as 60% or more County Rurality Level [2010] by the U.S. Census), and areas that have experienced state or national disaster declarations to help with the community recovery effort.

2.3   Ineligible Sites

The following types of sites are ineligible for ECRG:

1. The site is controlled and owned by the State of California.
2. The site is controlled and/or owned by the federal government.
3. The site is subject to ongoing United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) directed removal actions.
4. The site is subject to an active enforcement order from DTSC or environmental regulatory agency.
5. The site is subject to an active Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) Cease and Desist Order (Water Code §13301) or a Cleanup and Abatement Order (Water Code §13304).
6. The site is listed or proposed for listing on the USEPA National Priorities List.
7. The site is subject to a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit.
8. The site is subject to a DTSC Hazardous Waste Facility Permitting Program permit established under Chapter 6.5 of California Health and Safety Code and RCRA authorization or related authority.

2.4   Ineligible Reuses

In order to reduce the historic negative economic, health, and environmental impacts that certain polluting industries have had on lower income and disadvantaged communities and neighborhoods, the following reuses will not be eligible for ECRG:

1. Warehouse or distribution centers
2. Uses that have the potential to cause pollution or contamination that negatively impact the neighborhood
3. 100% market rate housing
4. Mixed income housing that does not meet the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit requirement where 40% of the units are at or below 60% area median income (AMI) and may have units up to 80% AMI, if the average of those units is at or below 60% AMI

2.5   Ownership and Responsibility for Contamination

To be eligible for ECRG, applicants must not have caused or contributed to any releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances at the site (or sites for **CWAs**) and cannot be affiliated with any other person or entity that is potentially liable for the contamination at the site. Affiliations include familial, contractual (does not include deeds or arrangements related to potential purchase), financial, or corporate relationships that are the result of a reorganization of a business entity with potential liability. This applies to all parcels that are part of the site.

To be eligible for a **Site-specific Investigation** or **Site-specific Cleanup**, applicants must demonstrate that they are not in any way liable for any releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances at the site(s) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or federal Superfund law). This applies to all parcels that are part of the site.

Tribes are not required to demonstrate a CERCLA liability defense to be eligible for ECRG for sites they own. Tribes that do not own the site may have to provide a CERCLA liability defense for the site owners.

The Eligibility Self-Check Tool, available on the ECRG website and as Appendix A of this document, includes Table 1 below to guide applicants to the applicable CERCLA liability defense requirements.

Table 1 – Applications Requiring CERCLA Liability Defense for Eligibility

Applicant Type	Ownership of Site	Site-specific Investigation	Site-specific Cleanup
Public Entity	Applicant is Owner	CERCLA Liability Defense **REQUIRED** (See Supplement for Question I, Table 2)	CERCLA Liability Defense **REQUIRED** (See Supplement for Question I, Table 2)
	Applicant is Not Owner	CERCLA Liability Defense **NOT REQUIRED** (Purchase Information or Current Owner Affirmation Required)	CERCLA Liability Defense **REQUIRED** FOR CURRENT OWNER (See Supplement for Question I, Table 2)
Nonprofit	Applicant is Owner	CERCLA Liability Defense **REQUIRED** (See Supplement for Question I, Table 2)	CERCLA Liability Defense **REQUIRED** (See Supplement for Question I, Table 2)
	Applicant is Not Owner	CERCLA Liability Defense **NOT REQUIRED** (Purchase Information or Current Owner Affirmation Required)	CERCLA Liability Defense **REQUIRED** FOR CURRENT OWNER (See Supplement for Question I, Table 2)
Tribe	Applicant is Owner	CERCLA Liability Defense **NOT REQUIRED**	CERCLA Liability Defense **NOT REQUIRED**
	Applicant is Not Owner	CERCLA Liability Defense **NOT REQUIRED** (Purchase Information or Current Owner Affirmation May Be Required)	CERCLA Liability Defense **MAY BE REQUIRED**

For applicants who are applying for a site that consists of multiple parcels with different ownership and CERCLA liability defenses, there may be the need to submit separate applications. This is because the grant management platform may not be able to accommodate the complexities required to establish multiple CERCLA liability defenses. Applicants in this situation should contact DTSC or DTSC's B-TAP for more information.

2.6   Environmental Regulatory Oversight
Environmental regulatory oversight is a requirement for **Site-specific Investigations** and **Site-specific Cleanups**. Oversight can be provided by DTSC, by the Regional Board, or a Local Oversight Agency.

If you have a voluntary agreement with DTSC, contact the DTSC Project Manager to obtain the EnviroStor link for the agreement to include in the application. To enter into a new voluntary agreement with DTSC, go to our website or contact one of our Regional Brownfield Coordinators for assistance.

If DTSC is not the environmental regulatory agency, the applicant must obtain a copy of the Project Suitability Letter from their Regional Board or environmental regulatory agency. Environmental regulatory oversight is not a requirement for **CWAs**.

2.7   Eligible ECRG Tasks and Budget
When applying for ECRG, the applicant must complete a budget table by selecting eligible tasks and entering the amount and planned schedule for that activity.

Community-wide Assessment: Submit a budget for a fixed amount of $350,000. Applicants may self-perform ECRG Tasks such as community engagement up to $50,000.
Site-specific Investigation: Budgets can range from $150,000 to $7,000,000.
Site-specific Cleanup: Budgets can range from $300,000 to $10,000,000.

The ECRG budget should include various ECRG Tasks under the following spending categories:
- **Regulatory Oversight Fees:** includes all estimated costs within the Regulatory Overnight Fees task, do not break it out under other ECRG Tasks (may not be applicable for **CWAs**)
- **Grant Project Management Labor/Travel:** includes all estimated costs for Grant Project Management in Project Management Labor and Project Management Travel, as applicable
  o Grantee Project Management Labor can be no more than 5% of total proposed budget amount or $200,000, whichever is less.
- **Community Engagement:** includes all estimated community engagement and/or tribal engagement costs
- **Environmental Contracts:** includes all costs for the ECRG Tasks listed in Appendix D.

Refer to the **ECRG Budgeting - Spending Categories and Eligible Tasks for Various Grant Types Table** (Appendix D) for the details of allowable and eligible costs.

2.8   Ineligible Costs
ECRG cannot be used for:
1. Activities conducted prior to ECRG Agreement execution
2. Hazardous building material surveys and removals, such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), lead, and asbestos in buildings, except as required to perform site clearing or building demolition determined by DTSC as necessary to conduct sampling and/or cleanup
3. Proposal or grant preparation
4. Long-term operation and maintenance of a remedy
5. Compliance and monitoring of institutional controls such as a Land Use Covenant
6. Costs for cleanup of groundwater when the land is already suitable for proposed reuse
7. Interest, penalty, or fine
8. Plugging and abandoning oil wells and mine features if not specifically part of a broader cleanup plan
9. Pre-construction activities and other site preparation activities needed to support construction of the reuse
10. Construction of the reuse beyond what is required in the final remedy for the site
11. Food and childcare during public or organizational meetings
12. Markup greater than 10% from a prime contractor on subcontracts and other direct costs
13. Grant project management costs greater than 5% of the total budget for the ECRG Agreement or $200,000, whichever is less
14. Budget contingency or unallocated funding
15. Legal fees unless pre-approved by the DTSC Portfolio Manager and directly related to the implementation of ECRG Tasks
16. Any activity except those approved in the ECRG Agreement or approved by the DTSC Portfolio Manager

2.9 Current ECRG Grantees

Current ECRG Grantees are eligible to apply for additional ECRG funding for their existing grants or for new sites. In addition to meeting all updated eligibility requirements, grantees must also demonstrate significant progress on their current ECRG Tasks. Grantees must have submitted reimbursement requests of at least 70% of their current ECRG funding, for all grants, if they have more than one, by the application deadline. On a case-by-case basis, the DTSC ECRG Portfolio Manager may provide a waiver, generally if the grantee is very close to meeting the 70% reimbursement requirement.

For more information, existing ECRG Grantees should contact their DTSC ECRG Portfolio Manager.

2.10 ECRG Agreement

Grants are subject to the provisions in the ECRG Agreement. See here to review the Round 1 ECRG Agreement (subject to change for Round 2). Review the ECRG Agreement before submitting an ECRG application because the provisions **are not subject to negotiation**. Submitting the ECRG application requires that the applicant accepts the terms and conditions of the ECRG Agreement. If awarded, the ECRG Agreement will need to be signed by the applicant within a few days of notification of award.

If a tribal applicant has any concerns with the ECRG Agreement, contact DTSC at ECRG@dtsc.ca.gov.

The ECRG Agreement will incorporate various elements of the ECRG application either by reference or by attaching as exhibits. The ECRG Agreement specifies terms and conditions of the funding, whereas the regulatory oversight agreement and ECRG application generally define the approved technical scope of work to inform the budget and eligible ECRG Tasks.

2.11 ECRG Reimbursement Process

ECRG is a reimbursement-based grant. To manage internal resources effectively, DTSC requires grantees to submit invoices in batches of a minimum of $15,000. Once approved, grantees will receive a check from the State Controller's Office in about 90 days. DTSC is willing to have discussions with grantees regarding contractors, vendors, and suppliers who have shorter payment terms than what DTSC is able to accomplish.

ECRG reimburses grantees for eligible costs incurred directly by the grantee and generally procured through competitive contracts (see Contracts section of these guidelines). Grantees will be authorized to "spend" starting on the date the ECRG Agreement is signed by DTSC. **Costs incurred before the agreement is executed are not eligible for reimbursement.**

DTSC does not require that invoices are paid by the grantee prior to requesting reimbursement. ECRG will not reimburse cost estimates. Additionally, DTSC will not reimburse interest, penalties, or fines.

If grantees do not request reimbursement within the initial six months of the ECRG Agreement, the ECRG budget may be subject to redistribution.

See additional details on the reimbursement process in the Fluxx Grant reimbursement request training.

3.0 Application

The ECRG application must be completed online. Applicants will create an account with a username and password. Prior to beginning an ECRG application, applicants are highly encouraged to use the Eligibility Self-Check Tool, included as Appendix A, to confirm eligibility and gather the required documents and information. The application questions are included as Appendix C.

To simplify and streamline the ECRG application process, the Office of Brownfields uses Fluxx, a grant management platform that houses the ECRG application, post-award grant information, and a process to comply with grantee reporting requirements including agreements, quarterly reports, reimbursement requests, and amendments. The Office of Brownfields has developed a comprehensive Fluxx User Guide to aid applicants.

3.1 Required Documents

1. Proof of 501(c)(3) status for nonprofits
2. Grant deed(s) for each parcel included in the site (all applicants)
3. Site map showing each parcel and site boundary (all applicants)
4. Site photographs (all applicants)
5. Access authorization(s) from owner (if applicant does not own site)
6. Applicant organizational chart (all applicants)
7. Applicant Board member names (if applicable)
8. Link to DTSC Voluntary Agreement on EnviroStor **OR** Regional Board/ Local Oversight Agency voluntary agreement **OR** Regional Board investigatory order AND ECRG Project Suitability Letter
9. Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, consistent with AAI (for bona fide prospective purchaser, contiguous property owner, or innocent landowner defense)
10. Documentation related to CERCLA Liability Defense (see Eligibility Self-Check Tool)

3.2 Required Information

1. Contact information
2. Site information, including environmental history, regulatory information, and environmental investigation and cleanup documents
3. ECRG budget and implementation schedule
4. Outreach and engagement efforts
5. Reimbursement request information for existing ECRG grantees

3.3 Fluxx Tips

Use the following tips to effectively navigate Fluxx. The comprehensive Fluxx User Guide is available here.

- Chrome is the preferred browser.
- To enter edit-mode on a draft application or respond to a revision request, select **Edit** at the top right.
- Fluxx does not automatically save. **Be sure to Save often.**
- **BOLD** text indicates a required field.
- If Fluxx is unresponsive, try clicking **Save** to refresh the page without losing your progress. **If you refresh the browser and have not saved, you will lose your progress.**
- **Changes cannot be made after an application is submitted.**
- **If experiencing Fluxx issues, send an email to ApplicationPortal@dtsc.ca.gov. Include the request ID, a description of the issue, and screenshots, if applicable.**
- Once in edit-mode, use the **Table of Contents** to quickly advance to a particular section.
- Click on a section's arrow to expand or collapse that section.

- You can print a copy of your own responses. Select the **Save and Close** button at the bottom right, then select the **Print** icon at the top right.
- **Save and Close** if you would like to save your responses and resume your application at a later time.
- If you have not yet submitted your application, you may continue editing using the **Edit** button at the top right of the form.
- When you have entered and provided all the information required to process your application, click **Save and Close** to exit edit-mode. Then click **Submit** to submit your application for review.

3.4   Application Questions

The application sections are as follows:
1. Eligibility
2. Application Contacts and Project Team
3. Site Information
4. Ownership and Access
5. Ownership and Responsibility for Contamination
6. Previous Environmental Activities
7. Environmental Regulatory Oversight
8. ECRG Tasks and Budget Detail
9. Community Engagement
10. Benefits of Reuse
11. Community Benefit Commitments
12. Equity in Contracts
13. Documents
14. Additional Information
15. Signature & Attestations
16. Application Poll

3.4.1   Eligibility (Application Section 1)

Refer to [Guidelines Section 2](#) and the [Eligibility Self-Check Tool](#) (Appendix A).

3.4.2   Application Contacts and Project Team (Application Section 2)

In Application Section 2, the applicant must identify members of the project team. The applicant must designate a Grant Project Manager to coordinate ECRG Tasks with DTSC.

For reference, here are the instructions in the ECRG application:

A. *The organization name below should match the organization that will receive funding and sign the ECRG Agreement. Attach a copy of the Applicant's organizational chart and board membership (if applicable).*
   - *If you are completing an application on behalf of a client and the organization name shown here is incorrect, go to [dtsc.fluxx.io](#) to register yourself under the correct Applicant organization using your same email address. DTSC will link your account to the correct organization.*
B. *The Application Main Contact may be contacted for clarification and should be prepared to respond to specific and detailed questions regarding the content presented in the Application.*

C. *The Application/Agreement Signatory will be responsible for signing both the Application and the grant agreement, if funded. The Signatory will not be included in general project correspondence. It is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure that the Signatory is aware of their responsibility to sign the Application and agreement and return it to DTSC within the specified timeframe.*

D. *Additional Application Access Contacts are optional and will allow up to three additional users to edit and/or submit the Application.*

E. *A Grant Project Manager must be designated to coordinate ECRG Tasks with DTSC and may be the same as an application contact provided above. The Grant Project Manager shall have access to sufficient resources to ensure that the grant is managed in a timely and effective manner, be responsible for efficient and correct use of grant funds, implement grant performance and reporting requirements and respond to inquiries and requests for information from DTSC in a timely manner.*

3.4.3   Site Information (Application Section 3, Maximum Points: 100)

This section compiles basic site information including location, address, and CES 4.0 Percentile among other information needed to review and score applications.

1. Enter information about the site(s), such as site name, address, Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (APN) or other property identifier, latitude/longitude, California Assembly and Senate districts, site area, or acreage, structure information, zoning, and CES 4.0 Percentile.

   - The site name will be used for all DTSC public databases and internal/external communication and tracking. The site name should match the site name on the regulatory oversight agreement.

   - If an address is not available, please enter the city, county, and nearest cross street.

   - The regulatory oversight agreement must fully encompass the investigation/cleanup area.

   - A site map must be uploaded to Section 13, Documents.

   - Sites may comprise multiple parcels, which must be individually identified in the application with specific ownership and location information. Refer to Sections 2.5, 3.4.4, and the Eligibility Self-Check Tool (Appendix A) for required ownership information.

2. For **Community-wide Assessments**, the sites proposed do not have to be contiguous but must be included within a defined area of the Applicant's jurisdiction, control, or interest.

3. For **Site-specific Investigation** and **Site-specific Cleanup**, the site must be a single contiguous area that may have multiple addresses and/or APN. If there are multiple addresses, select one address as the primary address for the site for the purposes of this application and, if funded, the ECRG Agreement. The primary address should match the address used in the regulatory oversight agreement.

4. Click here to determine the CES 4.0 Percentile, poverty percentage, State Assembly and Senate District, and the United State Congressional District for the site. The link will open in a new browser tab.

- If the CES 4.0 Percentile is less than 75%, the reuse must be for the primary benefit of a disadvantaged community <u>and</u> have a CES poverty percentage of 50% or greater. Tribal uses are eligible regardless of the CES 4.0 Percentile and poverty percentage.
- If a site is located in multiple census tracts and has multiple CES 4.0 Percentiles, you may use the highest percentile.

5. The applicant will be asked whether the site is located in one of the following remote rural communities: Alpine, Mariposa, Sierra, Trinity, Plumas, Calaveras, Modoc, Siskiyou, Amador, Lassen, and Mono County. For the purposes of a **CWA** with multiple sites, all of the sites must be in a rural county for this consideration.
6. The applicant will be asked if the site was impacted by a flood, fire, or other natural disaster that resulted in a designation of a federal, local, or state declaration of emergency.

3.4.4   Ownership and Access (Application Section 4)

An important requirement for ECRG applicants is that they have access to the site being proposed to receive funding. The questions in this section help to establish that the applicant will be able to conduct the ECRG Tasks at the site within the two-year funding period.

The applicant will respond to the following:
1. If the applicant is the owner of the site(s), upload proof of ownership (grant deed or other documentation showing the date of acquisition).
2. If the applicant does not own the site(s), specify applicant's relationship with the owner(s) and upload written authorization from the owner that indicates the owner's consent for the applicant to apply for ECRG and to access the site(s) to conduct proposed ECRG tasks during the two-year funding period.
3. For **CWAs**, enter information into Fluxx for one site, and for the other two sites, upload the information requested in the Additional Information section of the application.

If the owner name does not match the name on the proof of ownership document, the applicant will be asked to explain. Explanations will be reviewed to determine whether or not the application still meets eligibility criteria.

3.4.5   Ownership and Responsibility for Contamination (Application Section 5)

In addition to having access to the site, the applicant must also determine if they or the owner needs to establish a CERCLA liability defense. Refer to the [Eligibility Self-Check Tool](#) (see Appendix A- Question I and Table 2), for detailed information on ownership, responsibility for contamination, and the specific requirements for each ownership scenario.

To be eligible for ECRG, all applicants must attest that they did not cause or contribute to any releases of hazardous substances at the site(s), are not affiliated with any person/entity potentially liable for contamination at the site(s), and are not in any way liable for any releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances at the site(s). This applies to all parcels that are a part of the site(s).

Tribes are exempt from demonstrating a CERCLA liability defense.

Public entity and nonprofit applicants must demonstrate that they are not liable under CERCLA for contamination at the site or must be exempt from meeting the requirements by asserting an affirmative defense to CERCLA liability.

The responses to the questions in this section of the application provide DTSC with the necessary information to support the assertion that the public entity or nonprofit applicant is not responsible for the contamination under CERCLA.

A good faith effort should be made to provide all the requested information. If there are gaps in the applicant's knowledge, they should provide the responses to the best of their knowledge and use the one-page Additional Information section toward the end of the application to provide further explanation.

3.4.6   Previous Environmental Activities (Application Section 6)

The applicant must describe why the site is or suspected to be contaminated, including summaries of any assessment, investigation, or cleanup activities conducted prior to the submission of the application.

Sites included in the ECRG Application are brownfields proposed for reuse.

> *A brownfield is a site, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of*
> *which may be complicated by the presence or potential*
> *presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.*

A. If the applicant is completing a **CWA** application, they should include information for each site included in the application.
B. Provide the reason(s) for believing the site(s) is(are) contaminated or may be contaminated and the known and suspected contaminants. Reasons include past/current use of the site, known contamination adjacent to the site, past sampling activity, or past spills/leaks of chemicals on the property.
C. Identify the environmental media (soil, soil vapor, groundwater, indoor air, etc.) which are known or suspected to be contaminated at the site.
D. Provide the previously performed environmental activities and the current status of environmental activities at the site with links to the four most recent environmental documents prepared for the site, if applicable. For **Site-specific Cleanups**, a cleanup plan that has been requested and submitted to the environmental regulatory agency for review is required.
E. The applicant may upload or provide EnviroStor or Geotracker links to the document(s).
   • EnviroStor is the data management system for tracking DTSC cleanup, permitting, enforcement, and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities, sites with known contamination, and sites where there may be reasons to investigate further.
   • GeoTracker is the database system used by the Regional Boards, and Local Oversight Agencies to track and archive compliance data from authorized or unauthorized discharges of waste to land, or unauthorized releases of hazardous substances from underground storage tanks.

3.4.7   Environmental Regulatory Oversight (Application Section 7)

Application Section 7 requires the applicant to provide their regulatory oversight agreement for the site.

1. Oversight of environmental investigations and cleanups by an environmental regulatory agency is required for **Site-specific Investigation** and **Site-specific Cleanup**

applications. The regulatory oversight agreement must encompass the entire site for which funding is being requested and the site name and address should match both the regulatory oversight agreement and ECRG application.

2. **Community-wide Assessment** applications do not require a regulatory oversight agreement. However, if the applicant opts to work with an environmental regulatory agency and submits the required documents, oversight will be an allowable cost.

3. If the site is not currently under regulatory oversight, you may apply for oversight with DTSC by submitting a Request for Lead Agency Oversight Application in Fluxx.
   - Navigate to the 'Submit an Application' page to start an oversight application.
   - A minimum of 4 weeks should be allowed to execute a voluntary agreement with DTSC.
   - Applicants may contact DTSC's Regional Brownfield Coordinators with questions about DTSC's voluntary agreements. Their contact information can be found on DTSC's website.

4. The organization applying for ECRG must be the same organization in the regulatory oversight agreement. If the organizations are different, the site is not eligible for ECRG funding.

5. The applicant must obtain an ECRG Project Suitability Letter (Appendix B) for sites under oversight by a Regional Board or Local Oversight Agency.

6. For a **Site-specific Cleanup**, a cleanup plan that has been requested and submitted to the environmental regulatory agency for review is required.
   - Since regulatory approval provides DTSC with a higher level of confidence regarding the proposed cleanup approach and timeline, applications with regulatory approved cleanup plans will score higher than applications with draft cleanup plans.

3.4.8   ECRG Tasks and Budget Detail (Application Section 8, Maximum Points: 70, 70, or 105)

This section describes the scope, schedule, and budget for activities proposed under ECRG, referred to as ECRG Tasks.

Community-wide Assessment, **Site-specific Investigation**, and **Site-specific Cleanup** grants have different eligible ECRG Tasks. The budget must refer to eligible ECRG Task categories listed in the ECRG Budgeting - Spending Categories and Eligible Tasks for Various Grant Types Table (Appendix D). The proposed task(s) and associated cost estimate must reflect activities that can be completed in the two-year funding period. Contingency is not an eligible task and cannot be included as a separate line item.

ECRG requires that prevailing wage rates be used where applicable. Prevailing wage rates must be considered when estimating the budget for ECRG Tasks.

The applicant must hit the "+" button per activity, select tasks from the list, and provide an estimated cost and start/finish date. Community Engagement, Regulatory Oversight, and the ECRG Project Management activities are generally required tasks. Applicants must provide an explanation and date range for each ECRG Task included.

Table 2 below is blank and presents the information that will be required to complete this section of the application; however, the input of this information will be guided in Fluxx and will not appear as a table.

Table 2 – Budget Detail Data Required in Fluxx

Description	[ECRG Task 1] [Date Range] Budget	[ECRG Task 2] [Date Range] Budget	[ECRG Task 3] [Date Range] Budget	[ECRG Task 4] [Date Range] Budget	Total Budget
Regulatory Oversight Fees ($)					
Environmental Contracts ($)					
Community Engagement Contracts ($)					
Grantee Project Manager Labor* ($)					
Grantee Project Manager Travel** ($)					
Total					

Table 3 below is a completed **<u>sample</u>** of the output generated in Fluxx for an example ECRG Site.

Table 3 – Sample Budget Detail Table After Adding Data in Fluxx

Description	Regulatory Oversight 12/15/2023 – 12/15-2025 Budget	Community Engagement 12/15/2023 – 6/15/2024 Budget	Indoor Air Sampling Workplan and Fieldwork 12/15/2023 – 4/15/2024 Budget	Indoor Air Sampling Report 6/15/2024 – 8/30/2024 Budget	Total Budget
Regulatory Oversight Fees ($)	$25	-	-	-	$25
Environmental Contracts ($)	-	-	$ 25	$25	$50
Community Engagement Contracts ($)	-	$ 25	-	-	$ 25
Grantee Project Manager Labor* ($)	$25	$ 25	$25	$25	$ 100
Grantee Project Manager Travel** ($)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	$ 50	$ 50	$ 50	$ 50	$200

($ monetary values not shown in the sample table above)

*Grant Project Manager Labor: Applicants may include an optional budget item for staff time needed to conduct management of the ECRG Agreement. The applicant may allocate **a maximum of 5% of the total budget up to $200,000**.

The Grant Project Management Allocation may include, among other things, the time needed to track performance and expenditures, submit reimbursement requests, participate in meetings requested by DTSC, follow up on inquiries made by DTSC, and develop quarterly reports.

**Grantee Project Manager Travel: DTSC's Office of Brownfields encourages the use of this allocation for expansion of brownfield knowledge and capacity by participating in knowledge-building training, such as attendance in California-focused land reuse and brownfield conferences (in California). This travel is subject to prior approval by the DTSC Portfolio Manager and the California Department of Human Resources' (CalHR) Travel Reimbursement Guidance and the State Administrative Manual requirements and restrictions.

Travel costs directly associated with implementing the ECRG Tasks at the site is an eligible expense. The costs must comply with the CalHR Travel Reimbursement Guidance and the State Administrative Manual requirements and restrictions.

If the Applicant needs assistance determining what tasks are appropriate or how to develop a reasonable estimate, set up an appointment to speak with DTSC's B-TAP. Requirements and questions in this section of the application include:

1. The sum of the ECRG Task budget must match the total amount requested in the ECRG application.

2. Applicants will be asked to provide an overview of the ECRG Tasks as well as the consequences if the application is not approved.

3. Applicants who evaluate and/or select on-site treatment technologies such as (vapor extraction, bioremediation, etc.) will receive additional points. Applicants should consider the life-cycle impacts of cleanup implementation and use sustainable metrics like metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2) released and water demand in the evaluation of technology choice. Information on sustainable remediation can be found in USEPA's guide on [Climate Smart Brownfields](#).

4. Applicants will be asked to describe how they will mitigate and minimize impacts to the neighborhood during cleanup implementation to protect the neighborhood (truck-traffic measures, noise and dust control, etc.) as feasible. When using traditional technologies like excavation and off-site disposal, the applicant should consider the impacts of truck traffic and where possible minimize off-site impacts with community considerate scheduling, and dust control measures.

5. Applicants will be asked to describe any anticipated barriers to complete ECRG Tasks and how these barriers will be overcome. Applicants should develop a strategy to address potential issues that would prevent timely completion within the two-year funding period.

6. Applicants must describe how the implementation of the ECRG Tasks will make the community safer. Recognizing brownfields often attract undesirable uses that compromise community safety, describe ways that the work on the site will be helpful in creating safer spaces. For example, reducing potential environmental exposure of people in the area, attracting investment to the community, reducing crime and/or vagrancy, eliminating illegal dumping, etc.

7. If the ECRG Tasks include building demolition and/or significant debris removal activities, applicants must describe why these activities are necessary to support the ECRG Tasks.

8. If applying for a **Site-specific Cleanup**, the applicant must have a cleanup plan which has been submitted for regulatory review. Applications with regulatory approved cleanup plans will score higher than applications with draft cleanup plans.

9. Land use covenants, deed restrictions and/or operation and maintenance requirements, by DTSC or other environmental regulatory agency are considered to be an acceptable component of a cleanup approach for parks, retail, commercial, and other non-polluting uses, etc.

10. However, to be eligible for ECRG, sites planned for housing, schools, hospitals, health clinics, or day care centers, must be cleaned up sufficiently so that land use covenants, deed restrictions and/or operation and maintenance requirements are not placed on future use of the site. For these sites, DTSC recognizes that the cleanup may not be completed within the two-year ECRG Agreement. However, ECRG could fund the initial two years of cleanup implementation.

11. The applicant must provide the status of the [CEQA analysis](#) conducted to analyze and mitigate potential impacts of the cleanup and reuse.

3.4.9 Community Engagement (Application Section 9, Maximum Points: 55, 65, or 75)

Community engagement is vital to ECRG because it maximizes the accountability of projects and allows community residents to be involved and have a say in reuses that will impact them and their lives long after the ECRG two-year funding period. When public engagement is done correctly, it provides an opportunity for a cleanup and reuse to resonate with the needs of the community while also achieving the grantee's goals. Applicants must demonstrate that they are going to involve the local community throughout the cleanup process, and that the community is, will be, or was involved in the reuse concept.

ECRG uses the language of the Spectrum of Public Participation to assess the level of public engagement being achieved or proposed by the applicant.

Selecting the level of public engagement. There are different levels of public engagement that allow community residents, stakeholders and interested parties (the public) to participate in the process. The different levels of public engagement are referred to as the Spectrum of Public Engagement. Each level in the spectrum builds upon the previous level and allows for a more robust public engagement process, where outcomes are informed and decided in partnership with the community.

The different levels of engagement are:
- **Inform** - To provide the public with objective information to learn and be informed about the project.
- **Consult** - To obtain feedback from the public on specific project decisions and/or analysis.
- **Involve** - To work directly with the public to ensure that their concerns and feedback are understood and considered throughout the project.
- **Collaborate** - To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision.
- **Community Governance** - To place final decision making in the hands of the public.[1]

Community-wide Assessment applicants must conduct engagement activities that at a minimum achieve the level of **"consult". CWAs** have a lower engagement threshold because the applicant may be too early in the process for "involve" activities to occur. However, we encourage **CWA** applicants to try and achieve the level of "**involve**".

Site-specific Investigation and **Site-specific Cleanup** applicants must agree to conduct engagement activities that at a minimum achieve a level of "**involve**".

An engagement process at the "**involve**" level is one where participants are actively involved in a decision-making process organized by project leaders. "*At its most effective and beneficial, an involving process includes members of the public in meaningful roles (e.g., by training them to be facilitators or giving them some degree of leadership authority, such as chairing a committee), and the public is included from the beginning stages of the process (e.g., during the identification of a problem and the development of a proposed process to tackle the problem).*" Applicants can select engagement levels in the spectrum that go beyond this level of engagement strategies – the more participatory the engagement strategy, the higher the score.

If previous public engagement was conducted, applicants must describe the engagement activities that were conducted, the level of engagement achieved, and how the feedback from the public was incorporated into project plans.

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[1] ECRG modified the language for this level of engagement, referring to it as "Community Governance" rather than "Empower" because of community feedback that this language better honors the power and dignity of communities.

Engagement Activities

Applicants will describe the key activities that they will conduct to demonstrate the level of engagement selected. If awarded, the information included in the proposed activities will be incorporated into the ECRG Agreement as the engagement plan. Regular reporting updates about the engagement activities will be required.

Engagement activities can differ for every community and for every site. What is important to consider in developing a public engagement plan is that there is intent in involving the local community and that the feedback received will be used to shape the outcome(s) of the project. The manner in which public engagement occurs demonstrates the relationship that applicants have with the local community and their commitment to being responsive to the needs of the community. The applicant should be able to demonstrate that they can carry out a range of public engagement activities that keep the community informed and involved about site activities.

The applicant must describe how they are accountable to the local community. Being accountable to a local community means that the applicant has established a relationship or an established connection that reflects the needs and values of the community. Some examples of accountability can be:

- Having a board or consulting with a group made of residents where the site is located
- Having regular formal procedures accessible to local residents to decide on reuse priorities
- Partnering with community-based organizations

Applicants should set realistic time frames which allow for meaningful engagement with the populations impacted.

3.4.10 Benefits of Reuse (Application Section 10, Maximum Points: 60, 90, or 95)

The applicant must identify and describe the primary proposed reuse and any additional proposed reuses for the site. ECRG does not prefer any particular eligible uses over any other. However, there is a strong focus on the essential need for the proposed or planned reuse or reuses in that neighborhood, the value that will be provided to the community during the ECRG two-year funding period, and after the reuse has been implemented.

Housing Reuses

If the applicant is proposing an affordable housing or mixed-use project, the applicant must provide information about the housing elements. The applicant must include the Average Median Income (AMI) for the area, the census tract's median family income, and the number of housing units:

- At or below 30% AMI,
- Above 30% and up to 50% AMI
- 50% and up to 80% AMI
- 80% and up to 120% AMI
- At market rate

To find the census tract's median family income visit the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) map site and follow the instructions below:

- Enter the site's address in the search tool
- Select the "Census demographic data" icon on the left-hand corner of the webpage
- Enter the amount shown in the table under "Tract Median Family Income"

To be eligible for funding, housing projects must provide 40% of the units at or below 60% AMI and may have units up to 80% AMI, if the average of those units is at or below 60% AMI. ECRG prioritizes housing projects that demonstrate that they are meeting a housing need for the community, particularly for vulnerable populations that need the housing and are at higher risk of displacement because of redevelopment.

All Reuses
The applicant will describe the planned reuse for the site in the Additional Details section.

The applicant will describe how the planned reuse(s) benefit low-income residents in the surrounding neighborhood and whether the people currently living and working in the neighborhood will be generally able to afford or have access to the services associated with the reuse.

The applicant will describe why the proposed reuse is needed in the neighborhood or city. Applicant may reference:
- Planning documents like existing state and local plans including community or specific plan goals
- Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)
- Environmental justice elements, and/or Equity Development Plan
- Community surveys or other outcomes of community engagement or community-based advocacy
- Demographic and economic data
- Other reliable sources of information beyond anecdotal information

The applicant will select the year the reuse will be completed and made available to the public.

Incompatible Land Uses
The applicant will be asked to identify if the site is within 1,000 feet of a heavy industrial or significant source of pollution such as goods movement railyards, metal fabricators & recyclers, refineries, ports, oil and gas facilities, warehouses for all uses, or freeways. If yes, the applicant should have an approach for mitigating the impact of the pollution to future users/residents, especially those sensitive users in housing, schools, and health care facilities. Mitigation techniques may include vegetative or other physical barriers, air filtration, or designs that reduce potential exposures.

The applicant should indicate if the proposed reuse will require a Zone Change or General Plan Amendment, and if so, describe the current entitlement status.

Ineligible Reuses

Reuses that have the potential to cause pollution are ineligible for ECRG. Refer to Table 4 for examples of ineligible uses.

Table 4 – Examples of Ineligible Uses

Examples of Ineligible Reuses			
Aerospace/Airfield Manufacturing/ Maintenance	Foundry	Manufacturing Paint/Paper/ Pesticide/ Petroleum	Recycling - Drum/ Scrap Metal/ Used Oil/Aerospace
Autobody/ Mechanics Shop	Fuel Storage/Pumping/ Terminal Fuel storage/ pumping/terminal	Metal Manufacturing	Sand Blasting
Battery Manufacturing/ Reclamation/Storage	Hazardous Waste Hauling, Transfer, Storage, Treatment	Mine, Oil Field	Service Station
Chemical Manufacturing/ Distributing	Incinerator (Medical or otherwise)	Oil/Water Separators	Shipyard
Degreasing Facility	Junkyard	Open Burn/ Open Detonation	Testing, Launch or Operations Site
Dry Dock	Laboratories Biological/Chemical/ Radioactive	Paint/De-paint facility	Transformer Repair
Electric Generation/Substation	Land Disposal/Fill/Landfill	Pesticide/ Insecticide/ Rodenticide Storage	Underground Storage Tanks
Engine/Equipment or Instrument Repair	Laundry Services	Photographic Processing	Utility
Finishing, Plating	Machine Shop	Pipeline	Vehicle Maintenance
Fire Training Area	Manufactured Gas Plant	Port, Railroad (Maintenance Shop or Right of Way)	Warehousing and Distribution
Firing range	Manufacturing - Ceramics/Electronics/ Machinery/Leather/ Lumber/Wood	Recyclers, Shredders	Waste - Treatment or Storage

3.4.11 Community Benefit Commitments (Application Section 11, Maximum Points: 40, 80, or 100)

Cleanup and development of contaminated and underutilized land in vulnerable communities can provide much-needed removal of pollution, create new community-serving land uses, increase local tax revenue, and generate positive ripple effects in the economy and quality of life in the surrounding neighborhood. However, these investments can also produce unintended consequences such as increases in housing costs, and displacement pressure on long-standing residents who have suffered disinvestment, inequities, and have advocated for reinvestment. To counter the possible negative consequences from redevelopment, ECRG is using equitable development as a framework and set of practices to maximize the equitable distribution of benefits from redevelopment opportunities by addressing the most pressing

needs of existing residents and achieving quality of life outcomes that benefit everyone in the community.

Equitable development combines the use of policies, programs, community-serving infrastructure, and place-based strategies for low-income residents to gain an equity stake in the revitalization of their communities.

Public entities like cities, counties, water districts, park districts, school districts, transit districts, and others are all public entities whose policies can proactively shape development projects so that they generate community benefits that are equitably distributed, meet pressing needs in the surrounding neighborhood, and reduce the risk of low-income residents being displaced.

Some of the quality-of-life outcomes that can be achieved through equitable development include but are not limited to:

- **Expanded economic opportunity** – New opportunities for local entrepreneurs and community-serving establishments, and increased access to quality living wage jobs and ownership opportunities for local people and disadvantaged workers.
- **Stabilized communities** – Support and protections for people who may experience increased costs or displacement pressure, especially low-income tenants and small community-serving businesses and organizations.
- **Increased mobility and connectivity** – Expanded access to an effective and affordable public transportation network that supports transit-dependent communities and provides equitable access to core services and amenities, including employment, education, and health and social services.
- **Healthier and safer communities** – Changes to the built environment that enhance community health through public amenities (schools, parks, open spaces, complete streets, health care, and other services), access to affordable healthy food, improved air quality, and other resources for safe and inviting environments.
- **Environmental justice** – Eliminating sources of pollution that have a disproportionate environmental burden on low-income neighborhoods and disadvantaged communities and ensuring an equitable share of environmental benefits/protections, including resources to mitigate and reverse the effects of environmental hazards past and present.

DTSC strongly supports the advancement of equitable development in vulnerable communities to address environmental injustices that have led to disproportionate exposure of pollution in low-income disadvantaged communities. Environmental projects that are slated for redevelopment and include equitable development in their design are more likely to benefit the existing residents of a community. For this section, applicants are asked to describe how the site that will be environmentally assessed, investigated, or cleaned up for a future reuse, will support or address past practices that have led to inequitable health, financial, educational, and other outcomes for the community.

ECRG supports equitable development policies and practices that occur city-wide because they advance social and economic conditions. In areas where public policies are already in existence, DTSC will provide 5 points per policy, up to 20 points.

Including ECRG Community Benefit Commitments in the Application
There is no one-size fits all approach to equitable development. The project should reflect the local context, including the specific needs of the surrounding community, the type of project, and the existing policies and project team's capacities. With enough care and intention, every project can generate equitable community benefits. This section includes a description of examples of strategies that can help a project achieve the equitable development outcomes listed. The specific strategies that applicants commit to in the ECRG application should address the stated needs of disadvantaged community members. These needs may be documented through a community engagement process, recent assessment, or planning process. It is important that the process for understanding community needs embodies the principle of community members speaking for themselves.

In alignment with the intent of ECRG:
- **Community-wide Assessment** applicants must select a minimum of **one** (1) community benefit commitment.
- **Site-specific Investigation** applicants must select a minimum of **two** (2) community benefit commitments.
- **Site-specific Cleanup** applicants who request under $5 million must select **two** (2) community benefit commitments.
- **Site-specific Cleanup** applicants who request $5 million or more must select **three** (3) community benefit commitments.

Applicants may receive additional points for opting to implement more commitments than what is minimally required with a maximum of three (3) additional commitments. If awarded, the grantee must implement, track, and report on the status of community benefit commitments to DTSC.

Each commitment will include selecting a specific outcome, describing the strategy for achieving that outcome, and describing one or more metrics to measure progress.

For each commitment, the applicant will answer the following questions:
- Describe the community benefit commitment and how it will benefit the vulnerable populations of the area.
- Describe the strategy and what actions the applicant will take to achieve the desired outcome of the community benefit commitment.
- Describe the metrics the applicant will use to measure progress toward the community benefit commitment in a quantifiable and relevant form. For example, what percentage of workers will be local residents, or how much in financial contributions will be made to a community benefit fund.
- Provide the date (month and year) the community benefit commitment is expected to be implemented.

Table 5 below presents examples of Community Benefit Commitment outcomes, strategies and metrics. An applicant may select one of the strategies and metrics listed or propose their own. The strategies and metrics below are not an exhaustive list of what would qualify as community benefit commitments under ECRG.

Table 5– ECRG Community Benefit Commitments, Outcomes, Related Strategies, and Metrics

Community Benefit Commitment	Examples of Strategies	Examples of Metrics
CBC.1. Increase Local Ownership: Partial or full ownership of the site will be held by a local community-serving nonprofit or Community Land Trust	**S.1.** Ownership after cleanup will be held by a community-serving nonprofit organization **S.2.** Land will be owned by a Community Land Trust that ensures permanent affordability **S.3.** Ownership equity shares are distributed at reduced or free cost to disadvantaged community members	**M.1.** Deed or other legal proof of ownership of part or all of the site **M.2.** Contract committing to transfer ownership to a Community Land Trust, local community-serving nonprofit, or real estate cooperative with local members
CBC.2. Increase Local and Living Wage Hiring: Hiring process during the project will include carve-outs or otherwise prioritize workers who are local residents and/or disadvantaged workers.	**S.4.** Minimum percentage of work hours will be worked by people qualifying as local workers **S.5.** Minimum percentage of work hours will be worked by people qualifying as "disadvantaged workers". This can include transition age foster youth, formerly incarcerated, long-term unemployed, veterans, or other defined categories **S.6.** Formal partnership with a workforce development program that will be treated as a First Source for recruiting employees during construction and/or ongoing operations	**M.3.** Number and percent of local residents hired in permanent staff positions **M.4.** Number and percent of disadvantaged workers hired in permanent staff positions **M.5.** Number and percent of project hours worked by local residents and/or disadvantaged workers **M.6.** Number and percent of local residents and/or disadvantaged workers employed earning a living wage ([link to living wage calculator](#)) or represented by a union **M.7.** Partnership agreement between public agency and a local workforce development program, setting specific goals and practices to hire local and disadvantaged workers

Community Benefit Commitment	Examples of Strategies	Examples of Metrics
CBC.3. Provide Financial Contributions to Expand Community Benefits: Financial contributions to an affordable housing trust fund, local community-serving nonprofit, or other public service such as a free local transit pass program or job training program	**S.7.** Voluntary financial contribution to the city or other public agency's affordable housing trust fund **S.8.** Set amount or percentage of revenue committed to be donated to a local, community-serving, nonprofit organization **S.9.** Financial contribution made to offset the cost of a service that will be available for free to disadvantaged community members, such as free transit passes	**M.8.** Dollar amount or percentage of project budget that will be contributed to a public fund for affordable housing, transportation service, or other local public service **M.9.** Dollar amount or percentage of project budget that will be contributed to an independent nonprofit serving the project area
CBC.4. Promote Local Enterprises Through Contracting Practices: Contracting during the project will prioritize micro enterprises in the surrounding neighborhood.	**S.10.** Development of partnerships with firms owned by, employing, and based in the local disadvantaged community **S.11.** Requests for proposals that have eligibility requirements and/or scoring matrices that prioritize firms owned by, employing, and based in the local disadvantaged community **S.12.** Minimum percentage of contract dollars that will go to micro enterprises in the surrounding neighborhood.	**M.10.** Percentage of budget and number of dollars to be spent in contracts with firms or organizations owned by and based in the local disadvantaged community
CBC.5. Build and/or Provide Access to Green Infrastructure: Installation or building of infrastructure that promotes climate resilience, reduces carbon emissions, and/or advances the use of renewable energy sources and/or practices	**S.13.** Construction of green infrastructure such as rain gardens and urban gardens **S.14.** Construction of buildings that meet standards for green building practices **S.15.** Urban reforestation to increase tree canopy in disadvantaged neighborhoods	**M.11.** Dollars invested as part of the project into green infrastructure, reforestation on public land, or other public facilities **M.12.** Score/level of green building construction that will be achieved using green building standards

Community Benefit Commitment	Examples of Strategies	Examples of Metrics
CBC.6. Build or increase access to green spaces: Expand, build, or allow access to open space or recreational uses that promote wellness and the quality of life for residents	**S.16.** Construction or renovation of public open space or park that is accessible to vulnerable populations	**M.13.** Square feet of space to be permanently dedicated as publicly accessible open space or public facilities
CBC.7. Build or rehabilitate affordable housing	**S.17.** Build rental or for-sale affordable housing	**M.14.** Number of units at each AMI level with the average
CBC.8. Offer Community-Serving Programs and Services: Services provided during future use, such as a community center, health clinic, transportation/mobility improvements, grocery store, or social services, etc.	**S.18.** Provide public or nonprofit services at the future site **S.19.** An essential community service or products identified through a community planning process, such as a grocery store in a neighborhood with a needs assessment that documented lack of access to healthy foods	**M.15.** Number of clients who will be served on average monthly basis by future community-serving organization on the site **M.16.** Percentage of budget and dollar amount invested in public transportation infrastructure **M.17.** Number of residents using the new or expanded transportation infrastructure
CBC.9. Promote Environmental Justice: Use of practices that protect vulnerable populations, engage local residents in the decision-making process, and promote public health	**S.20.** Cleanup of contaminants to a standard higher than required for the designated reuse **S.21.** Residential design that enhances environmental health conditions, such as built-in air and water filters **S.22.** Buffer zone to protect residential occupants from nearby environmental hazards, such as a 500 feet buffer between housing units and a nearby source of air pollutants	**M.18.** Dollar amount spent on additional cleanup required to achieve a higher standard than required **M.19.** Square feet of area that will be cleaned up using bioremediation as the primary means **M.20.** Dollar amount spent on technologies and design elements that enhance environmental health conditions for residents

Community Benefit Commitment	Examples of Strategies	Examples of Metrics
CBC.10. Community Benefits Agreement: A legally binding agreement developed through a collaborative process with local organizations and leaders accountable to the broader community, specifying the community benefit commitments of the proposed project	**S.23.** A collaborative process with organizations and leaders accountable to disadvantaged local communities, leading to a legally binding agreement on defined community benefits **S.24.** A Development Agreement with a public agency that commits the project to specific community benefit strategies included in this table	**M.21.** Written partnership agreement with local leaders of disadvantaged communities committing to collaborate on developing a community benefits agreement **M.22.** Copy of a Development Agreement or Community Benefits Agreement that legally commits the project partners to specific community benefits actions and outcomes
CBC.11. Safe and Accessible Mobility Options: Access to reliable, affordable, and efficient transportation and walkable routes that provide access to services and improve quality of life	**S.25.** Infrastructure for walking and biking, such as a bike lane **S.26.** Traffic calming infrastructure, such as curb extensions **S.27.** Subsidized transit passes for residents	**M.23.** Dollars invested as part of the project into infrastructure for safe and accessible mobility **M.24.** Dollars invested as part of the project into subsidized transportation options

3.4.12 Equity in Contracts (Application Section 12, Maximum Points: 25)

Competitive contracting and fair market pricing are requirements of ECRG. Applicants must have practices in place to ensure fair market costs through a competitive procurement process for contracts over $10,000. If the applicant does not have practices that ensure competitive contracting utilizing fair market costs, the applicant must include a process to ensure requirements are met for ECRG Tasks. If applicable, describe the process the applicant will utilize to award new contracts that will be used to conduct ECRG Tasks. The applicant must describe if reasonable competitive contracting practices and fair market rates were used to secure existing contracts of any environmental professional already retained to conduct ECRG Tasks.

Prevailing wage is a requirement for all applicable ECRG Tasks. ECRG is a public program; therefore, prevailing wages must be used on all ECRG Tasks, where applicable. ECRG does not

require the use of prevailing wages on activities not funded by ECRG even if they are related to ECRG Tasks.

Diverse Suppliers: In this section of the application, the applicant must verify and describe any plans to contract with diverse suppliers such as disabled veteran-owned, disadvantaged business enterprises, or small business enterprises. DTSC's Office of Brownfields has developed a [Quick Reference Guide](#) with information on how small businesses can become certified and participate in upcoming contract opportunities. The applicant should undertake good faith efforts to apply similar procurement processes for services and supplies necessary to complete ECRG Tasks that would promote inclusion of small businesses, disabled veteran business enterprises, and other disadvantaged and underrepresented businesses.

3.4.13 Documents (Application Section 13)
Refer to Guideline Sections 3.1 and 3.2 for required documents and information needed to complete the application.

3.4.14 Additional Information (Application Section 14)
The applicant has the option to provide critical information on the application that may not be reflected through responses to the questions and requested information. If this is the case, this section may be completed to provide DTSC with additional helpful context. For those with complicated ownership situations, this section may also be used to provide additional information needed to establish CERCLA Liability defense.

This section is optional, is not scored, and does not provide the application with any additional advantages.

3.4.15 Signature & Attestations (Application Section 15)
In order to be eligible for funding and to submit a completed application, all applicants will attest or agree to the following in Section 15 of the application:
1. *Does the Applicant attest that the signatory is an authorized representative of the Organization and certifies to the best of their knowledge and belief that the information contained in this Application, including any attachments, is true and complete and accurately describes the Applicant, the Site(s), and related conditions?*

2. *Does the signatory affirm that the Applicant will ensure both the Applicant and all site owners (as applicable) comply and will continuously comply with all California conflict of interest laws during the ECRG funding period, including, but not limited to, Cal. Gov. Code sections 1090, 81002(c), 82048, and 87100 et. seq.*

3. *Does the Applicant attest that they did not cause or contribute to the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance at the Site(s) and is exempt from liability for any previous contamination at the Site(s)?*

4. *Does the Applicant agree to abide by the ECRG Agreement if awarded? Any Community Benefit Commitments will be included in the ECRG Agreement.*

5. *Does the Applicant understand that the ECRG Agreement terms and conditions are non-negotiable?*

6. *Does the Applicant agree to promptly inform DTSC of any changes that occur in the information contained in this Application?*

7. *Does the Applicant recognize that DTSC must comply with the California Public Records Act (PRA) (Gov. Code section 7920.000 et seq.), which may require DTSC to release information regarding this application or site in response to PRA requests that DTSC receives from the public, and that DTSC will protect the confidentiality of "personal information" provided in this Application only to the extent authorized by law and necessary to accomplish a lawful purpose of DTSC?*

> *"Personal information" is defined in the Information Practices Act (Civil Code section 1798.3) and means information that identifies or describes an individual including, but not limited to, name, physical description, home address, home telephone number, education, financial matters, and employment history.*

8. *Does the Applicant consent that DTSC has the right to distribute, transmit, publish, or copy, in any medium, either in whole or in part: information, photographs, or drawings DTSC obtains pursuant to ECRG for any use, including, but not limited to, project documentation, public outreach, web and social media content, and marketing materials? This does not apply to information that contains confidential business information.*

3.4.16 Application Poll (Application Section 16)

In order to fully understand the application experience, several poll questions will be asked. These responses will be considered for future ECRG enhancements.

4.0   Application Submission, Scoring, and Appeals

4.1   DocuSign

After the application is submitted, an email message will be sent to the signatory through DocuSign. The signatory must open the email and use DocuSign to sign the application within two (2) business days. The application will not be scored unless DTSC receives the signed application through DocuSign in a timely manner, as requested. A similar process of electronic signature using DocuSign will apply to the agreement if the application is approved for funding.

DTSC does not currently have a process in place to accept hard-copy applications. However, we will consider special accommodations, if requested, on a case-by-case basis.

4.2   Scoring

The process for application review is as follows:

1. All applications will be reviewed to confirm eligibility
   - Applicants may be disqualified if it is determined that false warranty, representation, or statement has been made in, or in connection with, the application
   - All applicable questions must be answered, tables completed, and requested documents provided
   - Incomplete applications may result in disqualification
2. Applications that meet all eligibility criteria will be scored
3. A multi-disciplinary team of DTSC staff will conduct the scoring
   - Applicants should provide responses indicating strong ECRG alignment with goals of increasing equity for vulnerable communities, well-defined technical approaches, and timeliness of implementation.
   - For full points on a given question, the applicant's answers must be complete, thorough, and demonstrate a clear understanding of the question or topic.
   - Scores for each application will be averaged
   - Applications will be recommended to DTSC's ECRG Selection Committee based on scores and availability of funds
4. The ECRG Selection Committee will award grants based on application score, benefits to the community, availability of funds, alignment with DTSC Strategic Plan, alignment with the legislative intent of SB 158, and any other factors and considerations identified in the ECRG Guidelines.

Subject to Change

Table 6 below is the ECRG Round 2 Scoring Chart with point assignments and section weighting.

*Question is for potential bonus points. Bonus points are not included in overall score total (denominator).

Table 6 – ECRG Round 2 Scoring Chart

Category		Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Higher Scoring Responses
3. Site Information		**CWA**	**Investigation**	**Cleanup**	
Q: 3.k.	CES 4.0 Percentile, 100 for tribal	100	100	100	
Q: 3.d.1.	Rural applicant*	10*	10*	10*	
Q: 3.p.1.	Natural disaster*	10*	10*	10*	
	Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	
	Section percentage of total	**29%**	**24%**	**20%**	
8. ECRG Tasks and Budget Detail		**CWA**	**Investigation**	**Cleanup**	
Q: 8.a. & 8.b.	ECRG scope, schedule and budget table; and project overview	60	60	60	Applicant provides a clear description of specific required activities that are organized into ECRG Task categories; ineligible tasks are not included; the narrative clearly explains the tasks included in the budget table and there is a very high likelihood that the ECRG tasks will be completed within the two-year funding

Category		Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Higher Scoring Responses
					period
Q: 8.c.	Consequences of not funding project	5	5	5	Applicant provides a clear description on how current environmental conditions impact the community
Q: 8.d.1	Evaluation of on-site treatment technology*	NA*	10*	10*	Applicant will evaluate and/or implement cleanup approaches that have minimal negative impact to the neighborhood and environment
Q: 8.e & 8.f.	Anticipated barriers for 2-year completion and strategy to overcome	5	5	5	Applicant demonstrates and communicates a strong understanding of potential challenges and methods to overcome them
Q: 8.i.	Approved cleanup plan	NA	NA	20	
Q: 8.k.	CEQA analysis and provisions	NA	NA	5	Applicant will conduct a CEQA analysis for cleanup implementation to keep community safe with minimal environmental impacts
Q: 8.l	Mitigation of potential impacts to the neighborhood	NA	NA	10	Applicant has clearly articulated the mitigation

Category		Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Higher Scoring Responses
					measures proposed to ensure the safety of the community
Total		**70**	**70**	**105**	
Section percentage of total		**21%**	**16%**	**21%**	
9. Community Engagement		**CWA**	**Investigation**	**Cleanup**	
Q: 9.a. & 9.b.	Past community engagement and activities	10	15	20	Applicant has conducted a high-level of community engagement which is described in detail and demonstrates a good faith effort towards meaningful dialogue with the community
Q: 9.c.& 9.d.	Level of community engagement and activities	35	40	40	Applicant proposes and clearly describes community engagement activities that achieve the appropriate levels on the Spectrum of Public Participation based on application type
Q: 9.e.	Accountability to local community	10	10	15	Applicant has two or more methods for specific meaningful community accountability
Total		**55**	**65**	**75**	

Category	Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Higher Scoring Responses
Section percentage of total	*16%*	*15%*	*15%*	
10. Benefits of Reuse	CWA	Investigation	Cleanup	
Q:10.d.	Benefits to low-income residents	30	30	30	Applicant clearly expresses how the reuse will provide direct benefits to low-income residents and prevent displacement
Q:10.e.	Affordability/access	5	10	15	Applicant clearly expresses how existing local residents and community will have access to the benefits of the reuse and demonstrates displacement prevention measures
Q:10.f.	Justification for the proposed reuse	5	10	15	Applicant understands the specific needs of the community and how the reuse will address them, especially for the most vulnerable community members
Q:10.g.	Reuse completion date	5	5	5	Applicant scores higher the sooner the completion date
Q:10.i.	Nearby pollution and mitigation strategy	5	20	20	Applicant project is not impacted by nearby pollution

Category		Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Higher Scoring Responses
					or a mitigation strategy has been created
Q:10.j.	No change to the General Plan land use	NA	5	NA	Applicant reuse is consistent with existing General Plans
Q:10.k.	No change to zoning	NA	5	NA	Applicant reuse is consistent with existing zoning
Total		**50**	**85**	**85**	
Section percentage of total		*15%*	*20%*	*17%*	
11. Community Benefit Commitments		**CWA**	**Investigation**	**Cleanup**	
Q:11.a.	Public policies*	20*	20*	20*	Site is located in an area which has public policies in place to support equitable communities; the applicant will get 5 points for each eligible policy, up to a total of 20.
Q:11.b. & 11.c.1. through 11.c.4	Required community benefit commitment	40	80	100	Applicant clearly describes how each community benefit commitment will uplift the area with tangible benefits that serve existing community needs and can be quantitatively tracked and reported

Category		Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Higher Scoring Responses
	Additional community benefit commitments, up to 3*	20* (up to 60*)	20* (up to 60*)	20* (up to 60*)	Applicant may provide up to three additional commitments, beyond what is required for the application type, for up to 60 bonus points. Scores will be based on the quality of the commitment and not quantity proposed
	Total	40	80	100	
	Section percentage of total	12%	19%	20%	
12. Equity in Contracts		CWA	Investigation	Cleanup	
Q: 12.b.	Environmental professional or consultant already retained	10	10	10	Applicant has an environmental professional retained to perform proposed work
Q: 12.e.1.	Policies for contracting with diverse suppliers	5	5	5	Applicant has policies requiring contracts with a range of diverse suppliers
Q: 12.f	Incorporating equitable contracting principles	10	10	10	Applicant has more robust outreach to solicit and select inclusive and diverse contractors
	Total	25	25	25	

Category	Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Maximum Points	Higher Scoring Responses
Section percentage of total	*7%*	*6%*	*5%*	
Application Score	**340**	**425**	**490**	
Does this application align with the goals of DTSC's Strategic Plan?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	DTSC's ECRG Selection Committee will award grants based on alignment with DTSC's Strategic Plan
Does this application meet the ethos and legislative intent of ECRG?	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	DTSC's ECRG Selection Committee will award grants if the applicant meets the ethos and legislative intent of ECRG
* Question is for potential bonus points. Bonus points are not included in overall score total (denominator)				

Subject to Change

Table 7 below is the benchmark scoring rubric/guide will be used to score the application.

Table 7 – Benchmark Scoring (Example if question is worth a maximum of 10 Points)		
Qualification	Points	Definition
Well-Articulated	8-10	Applicant's answer is complete and thorough. Applicant demonstrates an excellent understanding of the question or topic. Applicant provides responses that indicate strong alignment with ECRG goals of increasing equity for vulnerable communities, well defined technical approaches, and timeliness of implementation. Applicant's response is well formulated.
Articulated	4-7	Applicant demonstrates a sufficient understanding of the question or topic. Applicant's response may not be as well formulated or as complete as that provided by the Well-Articulated applicant; however, this applicant demonstrates the level of knowledge and understanding required to implement this component of ECRG.
Non-Articulated	0-3	Applicants' response is vague, incomplete, incorrect, or lacks sufficient detail. Applicant's response may not address the question or does not adequately address the topic. Applicant fails to demonstrate the level of knowledge and/or understanding required for this question.

4.3.   Eligibility Appeals

If an application is found to be ineligible or not selected for funding, DTSC will forward a formal denial decision letter outlining the appeal process and associated timeline. The applicant may file a written appeal in accordance with the process and timeline provided.

Upon receiving an appeal request, ECRG will provide information on the appeal process and timeline for ECRG appeal decision.

Hyperlinks to Appendices

[Appendix A – ECRG Eligibility Self Check Tool](#)

[Appendix B – ECRG Project Suitability Letter](#)

[Appendix C – ECRG Application Questions](#)

APPENDIX D - ECRG Budgeting - Spending Categories and Eligible Tasks for Various Grant Types Table

Community-wide Assessment	Site-specific Investigation	Site-specific Cleanup
Regulatory Oversight Fees (not required)	**Regulatory Oversight Fees**	**Regulatory Oversight Fees**
Grant Project Management	**Grant Project Management**	**Grant Project Management**
Community Engagement on Reuse Visioning	**Community Engagement on Reuse Visioning**	**Community Engagement on Cleanup**
Community envisioning, canvassing, community meetings, development of meeting/project materials (Public Notice, Community Profile, Fact Sheets, etc.), interpretation/translation, roundtables for reuse, focus groups on reuse, community design charrettes, reuse polling, interview/consultation meetings, reuse ground-truthing	Community envisioning, canvassing, community meetings, development of meeting/project materials (Public Notice, Community Profile, Fact Sheets, etc.), interpretation/translation, roundtables for reuse, focus groups on reuse, community design charrettes, reuse polling, interview/consultation meetings, reuse ground-truthing	Canvassing, community meetings, development of meeting/project materials (Public Notice, Community Profile, Fact Sheets, etc.), interpretation/translation
Tribal Engagement	**Tribal Engagement**	**Tribal Engagement**
Tribal monitoring, incorporation of indigenous knowledge (IK), incorporation of tribal ecological knowledge (TEK), other engagement as appropriate	Tribal monitoring, incorporation of indigenous knowledge (IK), incorporation of tribal ecological knowledge (TEK), other engagement as appropriate	Tribal monitoring, incorporation of indigenous knowledge (IK), incorporation of tribal ecological knowledge (TEK), other engagement as appropriate
Brownfield Planning and Inventory	**All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) or Phase I**	**All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) or Phase I**
Inventory brownfield sites within a project area (such as a neighborhood, corridor, downtown area, etc.), research existing conditions within a brownfield area, develop database of brownfield sites, use GIS mapping to compile, and analyze associated data, and American Land Title Association (ALTA) Survey	Phase I Environmental Site Assessment	Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI) or Phase I	**Investigation Workplan and Fieldwork**	**Investigation Workplan and Fieldwork**
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment	Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Workplan, Supplemental Site Investigation Workplan, Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Workplan, Tech Memo/Letter Workplan	Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Workplan, Supplemental Site Investigation Workplan, Tech Memo/Letter Workplan
Investigation Workplan and Fieldwork	**Investigation Report**	**Investigation Report**
Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Workplan, Supplemental Site Investigation Workplan, Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Workplan, Tech Memo/Letter Workplan	Reports associated with Investigation Workplans and Fieldwork	Reports associated with Investigation Workplans and Fieldwork
Investigation Report	**Cleanup Workplan**	**Cleanup Workplan**
Reports associated with Investigation Workplans and Fieldwork	Removal Action Workplan, Remedial Action Plan	Removal Action Workplan, Remedial Action Plan
Reuse Assessment	**Risk Assessment Workplan/Report**	**Cleanup Implementation/Fieldwork**

Community-wide Assessment	Site-specific Investigation	Site-specific Cleanup
[Site Reuse Assessment](#) Property Information Sheets	Risk Assessment Workplan/Report	Field activities associated with implementing cleanup
	Feasibility/Pilot Study Workplan	**Cleanup Report**
	Feasibility Study Workplan, Pilot Study/Treatability Workplan, Treatability Study Workplan	Reports associated with Site-specific Cleanup Workplans and Fieldwork
	Feasibility/Pilot Study Report	**Risk Assessment Workplan/Report**
	Reports associated with Site-specific Feasibility/Pilot Study Workplans	Risk Assessment Workplan/Report
	California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Document	**Feasibility/Pilot Study Workplan**
	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Initial Study/Negative Declaration, Notice of Exemption	Feasibility Study Workplan, Pilot Study/Treatability Workplan, Treatability Study Workplan
	Land Use Covenant (LUC) Preparation	**Feasibility/Pilot Study Report**
	Land Use Covenant, Soil Management Plan	Reports associated with Site-specific Feasibility/Pilot Study Workplans
		Cleanup Design and Implementation Plan
		Design/Implementation Workplan/Report, Remedial Action Implementation Workplan/Report, Remedial Investigation Workplan/Report
		Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan
		O&M Plan
		California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Document
		Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Initial Study/Negative Declaration, Notice of Exemption
		Land Use Covenant (LUC) Preparation
		Land Use Covenant, Soil Management Plan

Spending Category Key
Regulatory Oversight Fees
Grantee Project Manager Labor/Travel
Community Engagement Contracts
Environmental Contracts

Natasha DiPietro, PG

*Senior Engineering Geologist
and Fluxx Capacitor*

Natasha joined DTSC in late 2020 and led the implementation and configuration of DTSC's Application/ Grant Management Portal, Fluxx, to support the ECRG and other programs. Prior to joining DTSC, she supported a variety of projects in the environmental and geotechnical fields and was a private-sector consultant. Contact her at **Natasha.DiPietro@dtsc.ca.gov** with questions about the application portal and grant management system.

Gregory Shaffer

*Statewide Brownfield Coordinator
and ECRG Portfolio Manager*

Gregory leads DTSC's team of Brownfield Coordinators to develop tools and guidance on voluntary agreements and provide information to parties seeking information on voluntary oversight. For ECRG, Gregory acts as the Portfolio Manager for sites with Regional Board or Local Agency oversight. He also leads DTSC's engagement with Local Oversight Agencies as DTSC's Local Agency Liaison. He has managed a diverse portfolio of projects at DTSC, including reuse oversight. Before joining DTSC in 2016, he worked with private-sector clients on a range of environmental matters. Contact him at **Gregory.Shaffer@dtsc.ca.gov** to learn about voluntary agreements or with general inquiries about the ECRG.

Rana Georges

*Small Business/Contract Manager
and ECRG Portfolio Manager*

Rana joined DTSC in 2005. She has overseen environmental assessments, investigations and cleanups of new and existing school sites, dry cleaners, recycling facilities, and residential reuse. She is a Portfolio Manager for DTSC-lead ECRG Sites. Rana is our Small Business Coordinator, working to increase equity in our contracting practices, and supports the voluntary agreement program. Contact her at **Rana.Georges@dtsc. ca.gov** to learn about our small business ethos, the voluntary agreement program, or for general questions about the ECRG.

Anthony Rosas

*Project Manager and
Digital Media Specialist*

Anthony joined DTSC in March 2021 as a project manager and digital media specialist. In addition to managing several voluntary agreement projects, he develops and maintains DTSC brownfields websites, leads American Disabilities Act compliance for documents, and designs ECRG media. Anthony is also the mentor for the Office of Brownfields Internship Program. Please contact him at **Anthony.Rosas@dtsc.ca.gov** with any questions or comments about any brownfields website or ECRG document.

*Free application assistance is available to all applicants at any stage of the application process. Contact DTSC at **ecrg@dtsc.ca.gov** or our technical assistance provider, the Center for Creative Land Recycling, at **ECRG@CCLR.org** or (510) 269-7020.*

MEET THE DTSC TEAM

Triss Chesney

DTSC's USEPA Brownfield Funding Manager and ECRG Portfolio Manager

Triss oversees agency activities that are funded by U.S. EPA brownfield grants and is an ECRG Portfolio Manager for Community-wide Assessments. Since joining DTSC in 1999, she has provided regulatory oversight for military facilities, school sites, voluntary sites, and brownfield grant sites. Prior to joining DTSC, she worked as an environmental consultant on projects ranging from site assessments to remediation. Email her at **Triss. Chesney@dtsc. ca.gov** if you are a U.S. EPA grantee who needs DTSC's support, or to learn more about coordinating state and federal brownfield funding.

Kathy Takeshita

Brownfield Development Data Analyst

Since joining DTSC in June 2021, Kathy has assisted with the coordination of marketing and outreach and performs data analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data. She produces operational reports and helps track voluntary agreements to ensure commitments and timelines are met. She also serves as the main point of contact for outside business and agencies. Please email her at **Katherine. Takeshita@dtsc.ca.gov** for any general ECRG questions or to schedule a meeting with anyone from our team.

Jessica Duffey

Project Manager and Fluxx Developer

Jessica joined DTSC in January 2022 and is leading the configuration of DTSC's Application/Grant Portal, Fluxx, for ECRG. Prior to joining the DTSC team, Jessica worked in consulting managing diverse remedial action projects including pilot studies, construction, operation, and maintenance of various systems, and ongoing monitoring at sites impacted with chemical contamination within the environmental and oil/gas sectors. Contact her at **Jessica.Duffey@dtsc. ca.gov** with questions about Fluxx.

Doris Nguyen

Brownfield Development Specialist

Doris is our latest addition to the Office of Brownfields. Based on her 25 years of experience as an urban planner and developer, she is our resident expert on matters pertaining to CEQA, NEPA, construction, entitlement, and city planning. This knowledge allows her to provide deep support to applicants, grantees, and staff on safely recycling land for community uses. Doris also manages applicant outreach, marketing, and communications strategies for the ECRG. Email her at **Doris.Nguyen@dtsc. ca.gov** to learn more about the ECRG or partner on brownfields educational opportunities in your area.

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MEET THE DTSC TEAM

Patricia Ochoa

Community Engagement and Capacity Building Specialist

Patty has been with DTSC since 2017 leading efforts to involve BIPOC communities in environmental cleanup decisions. In 2022, Patty joined DTSC's Office of Brownfields and Equitable Community Revitalization Grant program to lead the program's community engagement strategy. Through the implementing the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE-EH), Patty works with BIPOC communities to identify, assess, and grow residents' capacity so that communities can be at center of decision-making on environmental cleanup projects.

Maryam Tasnif-Abbasi

Brownfield Development Manager

Since joining DTSC in 2005, Maryam has provided regulatory support for the reuse of underutilized brownfield properties. She manages DTSC's Office of Brownfields and is expanding DTSC's brownfield practice to effectively manage the new ECRG. An expert on the investigation and cleanup of brownfields, DTSC's voluntary agreements, and the California Land Revitalization and Reuse Act, email her at **Maryam.Tasnif-Abbasi@dtsc.ca.gov** if you have ideas on brownfield or ECRG strategy, community or organizational partnership and collaboration opportunities.

Peter Garcia

Southern California Division Chief for DTSC's Site Mitigation and Restoration Program

Peter has served in several capacities within DTSC dating to 1989, with a 10-year pause for work in the private sector. His projects included contaminated site investigation and remediation, hazardous waste management, land use compatibility studies, and environmental impact reports, as well as other environmental land use planning projects for both public and private sector clients. To discuss a brownfield topic with Peter, please contact his assistant, Kelly Laliberte, at **Kelly.Laliberte@dtsc.ca.gov**.

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MEET THE ECRG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TEAM

Natalie Nava
ECRG Program Manager

Natalie Nava is CCLR's Program Manager, supporting the ECRG program. She has worked for over a decade to advance equity by bringing stakeholders together to create opportunities for community selfdetermination, sustainability and economic prosperity. Natalie has advocated for equitable development policies and managed communitydriven public health programs as well as a university alternative transportation options program. She has a Master's degree in Urban & Regional Planning from UCLA and is bilingual in Spanish and English.

Tamara Cardona-Marek, PhD
Brownfield Revitalization Specialist

Tamara is an environmental scientist with more than 15-years of experience in the regulatory oversight of the cleanup of contaminated sites . She most recently worked for the Washington State Department of Ecology on the development of the Affordable Housing Cleanup Grant Program, a new program that funds cleanup of brownfields for reuse as affordable housing.

Ignacio Dayrit
Lead Program Consultant

Ignacio has extensive expertise in all aspects of land revitalization. He oversees the DTSC BTAP and EPA Technical Assistance to Brownfield (TAB) service delivery. Prior to joining CCLR, he spent 20 years with the City of Emeryville's Brownfield Pilot Project, where he led revitalization of hundreds of acres of contaminated property.

Sebastian Harrison
Brownfield Revitalization Specialist

Sebastian is a member of the CCLR BTAP team dedicated to bringing applicants through the ECRG grant process. He is an Environmental Engineer with a passion for sustainability and moving brownfields into productive use. Prior to joining CCLR, he worked in the chemicals industry. He is experienced in cost estimating, construction planning, and project management. He also has experience coordinating with government entities, public and private stakeholders to help deliver project timelines and drive successful revitalization.

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MEET THE ECRG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TEAM

Janet Naito
Brownfield Revitalization Specialist

Janet is a member of the CCLR BTAP team dedicated to bringing applicants through the ECRG grant process. She has over 30 years of experience working with local, State and Federal government agencies, communities and private stakeholders to restore properties for productive use. Prior to joining CCLR, she managed a branch within the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program.

Tony Torres
Community Coordinator

Tony is a Spanish language support resource and Community Coordinator for the CCLR BTAP team. Tony has over 27 years of experience working with Latino Communities throughout California to help create solutions to empower these communities. Tony brings a wealth of relationships and expertise working with local nonprofit organizations, Latino elected officials and influential stakeholders in the most environmentally affected areas in Southern California. Tony is a hands-on outreach practitioner ready to assist organizations with the ECRG grant application process.

Jim Bergdoll, AICP
Brownfield Revitalization Specialist

Jim has had an extensive and broad career in city planning, real estate, and affordable housing/community development, including several brownfield cleanup projects where he worked with DTSC, EPA and CCLR. He has worked for the San Francisco Planning Department, the Alameda County Community Development Agency, and many different non-profit affordable housing developers as staff or as a contract consultant navigating local, state and federal programs and regulations.

David Harnish
Brownfield Revitalization Specialist

David is a member of the CCLR BTAP team dedicated to bringing applicants through the ECRG grant process. David has led environmental and real estate projects with government agencies and executives for over 25 years, often in the context of transactions and developments. He has led teams selling real estate, addressing contamination, protecting biological resources, and environmental compliance.

*Free application assistance is available to all applicants at any stage of the application process. Contact DTSC at **ecrg@dtsc.ca.gov** or our technical assistance provider, the Center for Creative Land Recycling, at **ECRG@CCLR.org** or (510) 269-7020.*

Acknowledgments

The Office of Brownfields would like to acknowledge the significant contributions made by our inaugural cohort of ECRGrantees. Their patience with us as we built the processes of effective grant management, and their willingness to include us in their journeys to build safe and equitable communities has been a humbling and informative experience. They are listed in alphabetical order below:

City of Anaheim	City of South San Francisco	Las Palmas Housing and Development Corporation
City of Bell Gardens	City of Stockton	National Council for Community Development
City of Brisbane	City of Tulelake	New Way Homes, Inc.
City of Carson	City of Whittier	Pico Union Housing Corp
City of Colton	Community Action Alliance	Resources for Community Development
City of Commerce	Community Housing Development Corporation	San Diego State University Research Foundation
City of Cudahy	County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation	San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART)
City of Huntington Park	County of Orange	San Francisco Community Land Trust
City of Jackson	East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation	Satellite Affordable Housing Associates
City of LA by 94BLLC/CMQ	First Community Housing	The Nature Conservancy
City of Los Angeles	Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles	The Unity Council
City of Lynwood	Hayward Area Recreation and Park District	Yurok Tribe
City of Santa Cruz	Housing Corporation of America	

We would like to thank the one hundred and thirteen different organizations who took the time to meet with us as part of our 100 Communities in 300 Days campaign. The open dialogue and crucial conversations we had with these organizers, city staff, tribes, academic institutions, and many more, expanded our understanding of the essential need of the ECRG in California and how we can adjust the approach for maximum community benefit. They are listed in alphabetical order below:

All Positives Possible	City of Laguna Niguel	City of South San Francisco
CA Contract Cities Association	City of Lake Elsinore	City of Stanton
Charles R. Drew University	City of Lake Forest	City of Stockton
City of Anaheim	City of Lawndale	City of Taft
City of Arcata	City of Lindsay	City of Tehachapi
City of Arvin	City of Livermore	City of Temple City
City of Bakersfield	City of Lomita	City of Torrance
City of Berkeley	City of Los Angeles	City of Tracy
City of Brea	City of Lynwood	City of Tulelake
	City of Manhattan Beach	City of Tustin

Subject to Change

City of Buena Park
City of Calabasas
City of California City
City of Camarillo
City of Carson
City of Claremont
City of Colfax
City of Colton
City of Covina
City of Cudahy
City of Daly City
City of Delano
City of Duarte
City of El Monte
City of El Segundo
City of Fortuna
City of Fresno
City of Garden Grove
City of Gardena
City of Hawthorne
City of Hermosa Beach
City of Huntington Beach
City of Huntington Park
City of Industry
City of Inglewood
City of Irvine
City of Jackson
City of La Habra

City of Maricopa
City of McFarland
City of Mission Viejo
City of Montebello
City of Monterey Park
City of Newport Beach
City of Norwalk
City of Pasadena
City of Piedmont
City of Pittsburg
City of Pomona
City of Rancho Cordova
City of Rancho Palos Verdes
City of Rancho Palos Verdes Estates
City of Redondo Beach
City of Richmond
City of Ridgecrest
City of Rolling Hills
City of Rolling Hills Estates
City of Rosemead
City of Santa Ana
City of Santa Cruz
City of Santa Fe Springs
City of Seal Beach
City of Shafter
City of Sierra Madre
City of Signal Hill
City of South Pasadena

City of Vernon
City of Wasco
City of West Covina
City of West Hollywood
City of Whittier
City of Yorba Linda
Costa Mesa Sanitation District
Cudahy Alliance for Justice
De Maximis, Inc.
East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation
Elk Valley Rancheria Tribe
First Generation Environmental Health & Economic Dev't
Habitat for Humanity
Hollywood Community Housing Corporation
Humboldt Bay Keeper
Kern County
LA Southwest College
Los Angeles County
LA Neighborhood Land Trust
Mariposa County
North Tahoe Fire Protection District
Orange County
Pioneer Community Energy
Santa Rosa Rancheria-Tachi Yokut Tribe
University of California Santa Barbara
Waterfunder
Yurok Tribe

We are indebted to the California Environmental Justice Alliance, who asked us to specifically consider our broader role in society beyond the science of brownfields, and to use the formidable funding of ECRG as a tool to transform neighborhoods into safer and more vibrant spaces where people can live, work, learn, and play in harmony with their land and built environment.

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