

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BUREAU OF SANITATION  
BOARD REPORT NO. 1  
December 2, 2015

CD: All

AS AMENDED\*\*  
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD  
PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY  
of Los Angeles California  
AND REFERRED TO THE MAYOR  
DEC - 2 2015  
AND REFERRED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

  
Executive Officer  
Board of Public Works

AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT A BROWNFIELD GRANT APPLICATION TO U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (USEPA) FOR COMMUNITY AREA-WIDE ASSESSMENT IN LOS ANGELES AND, IF AWARDED FUNDS, ACCEPT, NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS

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RECOMMENDATIONS

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1. Approve and forward this report ~~forthwith~~, with its transmittal, to the Mayor and the City Council, with the recommendations that the City Council, subject to concurrence of the Mayor, authorize the Director of the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN), or designee, to submit a Brownfield Grant Application FY15 to USEPA for community area-wide assessment and cleanup funds (for up to \$600,000) in Los Angeles to fund Brownfield environmental services and if awarded funds, to accept, negotiate and execute all necessary agreements with the USEPA to implement and carry out the purposes specified in the application.
  2. Request the City Council to adopt the Resolution (Transmittal No. 1) authorizing the submittal of application for Brownfield community area-wide assessment grant.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. The Household Hazardous Waste Fund will front fund the program. Grant awards will be announced in April/May 2016 and the funds will be available from July 2016–October 2019 on a reimbursement basis. There are no match requirements for this type of grant.

TRANSMITTAL

1. Copy of proposed Resolution. (Transmittal No. 1)

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of this Federal grant program is to assist in sustaining and restoring communities (and the ecological systems that support them) by providing financial assistance to assess contaminated property.

Funding provided through this grant program is aimed at encouraging local solution to endemic Brownfield problems, creating new jobs, economic investment, and green space acreage. Brownfields community area-wide assessment funds may be used for conducting brownfield sites inventory, assessment, and cleanup planning. These funds may also focus on conducting area-wide planning activities within a specific brownfields-impacted area or developing strategies for facilitating the reuse of existing infrastructure, and determining next steps and identifying resources needed to implement the area-wide plan.

Brownfields are properties whose redevelopment or reuse is complicated by the presence or the potential presence of hazardous substances or other contaminants. The City of Los Angeles Brownfields Program (Program) provides financial and technical assistance for the investigation, remediation, and redevelopment of Brownfield sites. Over the past 10 years, the Program has obtained over \$60 million in Brownfield funding and leveraged over \$500 million in public and private development funds. The City Brownfields Revitalization Fund has applied for an allocation from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to pay for investigation and remediation of Brownfield sites and to provide matching funds for other grants, and has utilized these funds in prior years.

Brownfield grants are available for all real property, regardless of land use designation, that has been contaminated by hazardous waste, controlled substances, petroleum or petroleum products.

LASAN's Program is requesting authorization to apply for two USEPA Brownfields Grants as described below. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was announced on October 19<sup>th</sup> with the application due on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Recently, the City of Los Angeles has identified two (2) specific areas for focused community improvement efforts: the LA Promise Zone and LA RiverWorks Alternative with Restoration Benefits and Opportunities for Revitalization (ARBOR) Reach.

The LA Promise Zone is an approximately 2-square mile area and includes portions of Hollywood, East Hollywood, Koreatown, Pico Union, and Westlake. The Promise Zone designation is a national initiative from President Obama's office with goals to foster a healthy business climate, preserve housing affordability, expand access to high quality education and career preparation, and invest in livable neighborhoods.

The program provides support to the City in the form of federal partners including U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), and offers preferential points for grant opportunities and technical assistance with those agencies and 10 others. Many sites in the Promise Zone will be identified for better and higher development/use to create jobs and enhance the quality of life for those living in the community.

The LA RiverWorks ARBOR Reach, is a revitalization effort of approximately 11.5 miles along the Los Angeles River from the Glendale Narrows to downtown Los Angeles. The goals for revitalizing the River include creating a safe environment with more open space, parks, trails, recreation, environmental restoration, riverfront living and commerce, neighborhood identity, economic development, tourism and civic pride. Revitalization of the LA River Works ARBOR Reach will require purchase and clearing or development of many sites along the river. Some may have environmental impacts, and identifying those impacts, or lack thereof, will facilitate the development process.

A USEPA Brownfield Assessment grant is a critical tool that would provide great benefit to both of these programs. With a successful grant application proposal, the City would be performing site assessments, community outreach and site remediation planning and will assist the City, and both programs, by attracting developer investment in these at-need communities. Therefore, your support of the grant application effort is needed and will be rewarding to the City.

1) We propose to apply for \$400,000 for an area-wide assessment grant that would provide Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments at qualifying brownfield properties. The Project will identify privately or City-owned properties where development is being hindered by a lack of information on the environmental status of the property, where there is a need for Phase I and/or Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, and property owners are willing to have the City perform such assessments. Properties must also meet other criteria imposed by USEPA. Properties would be referred by Council District offices, City departments, and non-profit community development organizations. The project as envisioned at this time will include all or portions of those Council Districts where Brownfields are likely to occur.

2) We are also seeking authorization to apply for a \$200,000 USEPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant, if a qualifying City-owned property is available in time. The USEPA requires that the application be publicized to the community several days in advance of the grant due date, a process that is normally conducted at a City Council Committee meeting.

In preparation for this opportunity, the Brownfields Program is seeking referrals of City-owned sites that require funding for cleanup of contamination. The property must be owned by the City at the time the grant is submitted. There are currently two (2) sites that may be eligible but exact contamination status and date of acquisition is not yet known. Also, additional sites may become known between now and when the NOFA is issued. If the Brownfields Program has authorization to submit an application for a Cleanup Grant, then we will have maximum flexibility to take advantage of this opportunity.

The Brownfields Program currently has an USEPA Assessment Grant to conduct assessments in the neighborhoods of Wilmington and Pacoima. Site assessments are available for qualifying sites at this time and referrals of sites are encouraged. Since 1997, the City's Brownfields Program has applied for and received nine 9 USEPA Brownfields Program grants for a total of four million.

STATEMENT AS TO FUNDING

The total funding for this project is not to exceed \$600,000. No funding is needed for Fiscal Year 2016. If awarded the grant, funding for future years will be made available through the normal budgetary process from the Household Hazardous Waste Fund as follows:

Fiscal Year	Fund No.	Dept. No	Appropriation Account	Amount
2017	526	50	New Account (LA Citywide Assessment Grant)	\$400,000
2017	526	50	New Account (Brownfields Cleanup Grant)	\$200,000

If awarded, grant funds received will be deposited into Fund No. 526, Dept. 50, Dept. Revenue Source Code 368400 (Other Federal Grants – General).

Respectfully submitted,

  
ENRIQUE C. ZALDIVAR, Director  
Bureau of Sanitation

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