



NEWS FROM:

Business Development, Community and Economic Development Agency

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New Resource Guide To Assist With Oakland Land Redevelopment
64-Page Guide Offers Introduction To Environmental Programs

OAKLAND, Calif. (July 27, 2006) – The City of Oakland has released its new ***Brownfields Resource Guide***, a free guide to Oakland’s site reutilization process with valuable information about resources, permits, financing and insurance mechanisms. Brownfields are defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as properties which are contaminated or perceived to be contaminated and which may be vacant or blighted and remain undeveloped due to that perception or reality. With the guide, the City hopes to stimulate in-fill development by encouraging land owners and developers to reutilize such sites.

The guide offers a roadmap and tools for assisting the community, property owners and private developers in planning and successfully redeveloping Brownfields sites in Oakland. Some of the City programs highlighted include the Cal ReUSE Loan Program which offers low-interest, three-year loans of up to \$125,000 for environmental site assessment and the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund which offers low-interest loans to developers as well as loans and grants to eligible nonprofit agencies.

Like other older urban centers, many of Oakland’s remaining in-fill development sites are Brownfields. Thanks to more than \$1.5 million in EPA grants over the past five years, Oakland has aided the assessment and/or cleanup of the Uptown district, West Oakland’s Willow Park, the Jack London Cinema site and several sites in the Coliseum Transit Village area. Similarly, the Cal ReUSE Loan program has funded environmental assessments on five sites.

Production and printing of the *Brownfields Resource Guide* was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Agency (EDA). EDA grants also funded environmental assessments at the Coliseum and West Oakland BART stations to encourage the development of transit villages.

To request a copy of the *Brownfields Resource Guide*, call (510) 238-3741.