



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #V.E

DATE: APRIL 04, 2016

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM UPDATE

BACKGROUND

The South Florida Regional Council Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative (BERI) recognizes Brownfields as an important community redevelopment tool and promotes the designation of sites with real or perceived contamination. Council staff supports the planning, assessment, cleanup or remediation and sustainable redevelopment of brownfield sites by providing funding, technical assistance, and bringing municipal, private, and community stakeholders together to address related issues. The Council's BERI portfolio currently includes an Assessment Grant and revolving loan fund for Brownfield remediation.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program empowers states, municipalities, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is defined by the EPA as "...real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant." In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country remediate and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate program.

ASSESSMENT GRANT

EPA awarded a Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant to the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and its partners, the South Florida Regional Council and Palm Beach County. The assessment grant funds will be used to inventory, characterize, and test potential Brownfield sites. A maximum of 14 Phase I and 14 Phase II environmental site assessments will be conducted and up to 10 remediation (cleanup) plans will be developed. Grant funds will also be used to conduct community engagement activities, including community meetings.

FUNDING AMOUNT

The grant will provide \$450,000 to perform assessment activities across Southeast Florida. Of the total awarded, \$275,000 has been allocated for sites with hazardous substance impacts and \$175,000 for sites with petroleum impacts. This grant is an adjunct to the Council's BCRLF and provides an opportunity for Council staff to market the Council's other loan products.

TIMEFRAME

The grant budget period is October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2018.

ELIGIBILITY

Any local government (city, village, town, county, redevelopment authority, community development agency, downtown development authority) is eligible to complete an application for brownfield site assessment assistance. The Program is available to municipalities, prospective purchasers, and parties that would not be found liable for any existing contamination at the property.

To qualify for Brownfields Site Assessment Assistance, the identified site should be abandoned, idle, or under-utilized industrial or commercial property, and have the following:

- real or perceived petroleum and/or hazardous substances contamination
- a high degree of redevelopment or reuse potential
- no responsible party able to conduct the environmental investigation
- the support of the local government and the community
- be tied to a redevelopment plan

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact Karen Hamilton of Council staff for additional information at khamilton@sfrpc.com or 954.985.4416

Applications can be downloaded from the Council Website: <http://sfregionalcouncil.org/portfolio-item/brownfields-partnership/#toggle-id-5>

Recommendation

Information only.