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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM AWARDS \$400,000 IN GRANTS TO CITY OF LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES (June 15, 2011) – The City of Los Angeles has been awarded \$400,000 in grants from the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Brownfields Program. The Brownfields Program empowers states, communities and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safety clean up and sustainably reuse brownfields. It arranges for the identification of environmental contaminants and cleanup options for blighted property necessary for land reuse.

EPA selected the City of Los Angeles for two brownfields assessment grants: Community-wide hazardous substances and petroleum grant funds. These funds will be used to survey and assess sites that present feasible redevelopment opportunities within the realm of the redevelopment goals of each community.

Grant funds will be used to conduct cleanup planning, prioritize brownfields and support community outreach activities.

Assessments will be conducted in Wilmington and Pacoima neighborhoods -- areas near industrial and oil fields. Assessments of brownfields will help the city identify human health risks and is expected to facilitate redevelopment plans.

Both of these brownfields revitalization projects are part of the City’s Green Zone Project. The Green Zone Project is a collaboration among academic researchers, grassroots environmental justice groups, experienced policy advocates and the philanthropic community to implement a policy that supports Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa’s vision to transform Los Angeles into the greenest big city in America.

The Brownfields Program is one of several green programs the Bureau of Sanitation oversees to promote sustainability, environmental stewardship and the greening of Los Angeles.

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