

# YAQUINA BAY Brownfields Initiative

A Coalition, led by the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, including Newport, Toledo, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and Lincoln County, has been awarded a U.S. EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant.

The grant is intended to support brownfields redevelopment in developed areas within the Yaquina River watershed: the cities of Newport, Toledo, and the areas of Lincoln County located near the Yaquina River between these two cities.

Brownfields are properties that are not being used to their full potential because of known or suspected environmental pollution.

Brownfields are often abandoned by property owners due to fears about the liability and expense of assessment and cleanup of contaminated materials.

Cleaning up and reinvesting in Brownfields protects the environment, reduces blight, and takes development pressures off greenspaces and working lands.

What is a Brownfield?



### Opportunities for <u>PROPERTY OWNERS</u>

- Increase property value
- Access free support to property assessment
- Grants/loans may be available for cleanup and redevelopment
- Each step toward cleanup leverages financing/development interest

## Opportunities for **COMMUNITIES**

- Have a voice in shaping the future of community development
- Support economic development
- Enhance livability and public health
- Support development of affordable housing and businesses that bring new jobs



EPA studies show that on average

7.3 Jobs

are created for every \$100,000 of EPA Brownfields dollars invested

## Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why should I conduct an environmental assessment of my property?

- Banks typically require an environmental assessment before lending
- Property values are often affected by uncertainty regarding site history and the financial and legal risks of potential environmental impacts
- Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) allow property owners to quantify the amount of contamination on a property (if any)
- An ESA can help owners who are redeveloping their own property plan for unexpected contingencies like contaminated soil or underground storage tanks
- Conducting assessments eliminates "unknowns," reducing environmental constraints
- An ESA can verify that a property is not contaminated
- ESAs are funded by the grant and performed by a consultant, requiring minimal time from the property owner

#### What kinds of properties are potentially eligible to use the funds?

- All Public and privately owned properties
- Active, underutilized, vacant, and abandoned properties
- Sites with known or perceived petroleum and/or hazardous substance issues

#### What activities can the grant pay for?

- Phase Land II Environmental Site Assessments
- Cleanup Planning and Redevelopment Planning / Market Analysis / Pro Forma
- See our Step-by-Step Summary for more details on the types of assessments and plans

#### What activities does the grant NOT pay for?

- Cleanup implementation (soil removal, groundwater treatment, etc.)
- Environmental assessment or cleanup work already completed
- Property purchase and associated fees

#### How long will the funds be available?

- The funds will be available until the fall of 2020
- Visit <u>www.ocwcog.org/communitydevelopment/brownfields</u> for applications and more details





For more information, please contact:

Jeff Gepper | Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments jgepper@ocwcog.org | 541.924.8430 | www.ocwcog.org