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Grass Valley to Hold Workshop on U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Grants

On February 25th, The City of Grass Valley will host an informational, free public meeting about the 2012 and 2013 Brownfields Assessment Grants awarded to the City by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These funds were granted to the City to assess and plan the safe cleanup of properties contaminated by hazardous substances and/or petroleum products. The program incentivizes property owners to address potential contamination on their property to remove this hurdle to redevelopment. Nonresidential property owners are encouraged to attend and learn about opportunities to participate.

The public meeting will be held at 6:00pm on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at the City Hall Council Chambers at 125 East Main Street, downtown Grass Valley. Community members are encouraged to attend to learn how federal funds will assist with the planned assessment, clean up and potential re-use of targeted areas in commercial and industrial blocks of the City. Property owners interested in learning about how to participate in this program are especially welcome to attend. The program will include a presentation by Jim Brake, Senior Geologist and Associate at Geocon Inc., providing information about the overall program goals and activities. There will be a question and answer session following the presentation.

The City of Grass Valley is home to historic mining, timber, and milling activities, and parcels in the town are suspected to be contaminated with hazardous substances and petroleum products – lands that are referred to as “Brownfields.” The City will be using the newly awarded EPA funds to conduct targeted assessments of properties which are known or suspected to have some level of contamination from these legacy activities. Once these assessments are complete, the City can leverage this information to plan appropriate cleanup and decrease the risk to human health and the environment for those properties requiring it, thereby allowing property development to move forward. This program will serve to revitalize the community by turning formerly contaminated industrial and commercial sites into thriving business and public districts.

The City has already managed a similar grant, awarded in 2009, totaling $400,000. The City exceeded program objectives by completing numerous property assessments to owners at no cost, while clearing several properties for redevelopment. Due to the success of the 2009 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant, the City of Grass Valley was consecutively awarded two further grants in 2012 and 2013. The implementation of these grants is now underway.
“We are glad to have brought these funds to our town, and hope that interested members of the public take the time to come to this public event and learn more about the program,” notes Tom Last, Grass Valley’s Community Development Director. “This is a great example of government working for the good of the community.”

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