



The BERC Brownfields e-Newsletter



BERC Submits Proposal for a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund

BERC submitted a proposal to the U. S. EPA asking for \$1,000,000 to capitalize a loan fund to create a source of cleanup funding for owners of brownfields properties in Sacramento County. The application was submitted on December 14, 2005. BERC expects to know by mid-May 2006 whether EPA will accept the proposal. If the proposal is funded, the loans could be available as soon as December 2006.

All Appropriate Inquiry Rule Finalized

On November 1, 2005, EPA finalized rules for how environmental due diligence is performed. The new "All Appropriate Inquiry" or AAI rule is the first federal standard for conducting an initial environmental assessment that can protect new property owners from cleanup liability should environmental contamination be found. The "innocent landowner defense" protects new owners from liability for pre-existing contamination if they perform a site assessment that conforms to AAI prior to taking ownership of the property. AAI does not require a site assessment for property transfers, but clarifies the type of assessment considered adequate. For more information about the new rule, see: www.epa.gov/brownfields/regneg.htm

Seasons Greetings from BERC!

First Environmental Assessment Completed

In October 2005, BERC's consultant, Tetra Tech EM Inc., has completed the project's first Phase I environmental site assessment for the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA). The assessment was conducted for a vacant lot adjacent to the former Donner School that SHRA is working to develop into new housing for the Oak Park area of Sacramento. Several other Phase I and Phase II assessments are scheduled for the first part of 2006.

BERC Publishes Request for Proposals

On December 14, 2005 BERC posted a request for proposals (RFP) on the Sacramento County General Services website. The RFP is seeking proposals from environmental consultants for services related to BERC's brownfields assessment project for petroleum sites. A consultant contractor is sought to perform Phase I and II environmental site assessments and assist BERC with conducting workshops and one-on-one consultations with brownfields property owners. For more information on including how to submit a proposal, see RFP#6639 at: www.sacountybids.net/Current_Bids.htm

Proposals are due January 31, 2006



For more information about BERC's Brownfields Assessment Project, please contact Marcy Barnett at (916) 364-4108.

Director's Corner

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of the people involved with BERC's brownfields project. We have had a successful year with getting our project up and running. And we look forward to an exciting new year when we will be able to offer additional assistance to owners of brownfields sites. Until then, have a safe and happy holiday season!

Rob White

About BERC

BERC is a:

- *resource center* that provides confidential assistance to business and government, promoting economic success and environmental quality.
- *joint service provider* funded by a coalition of local environmental, public works and utility agencies to assist businesses in complying with federal, state and local regulations.
- *supporter* of pollution prevention, environmental restoration and development focused on smart growth