

**Draft Letter of Support for DCD applications for Brownfield grants – 8/23**

The Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Commission supports the application for xxx by the Contra Costa Department of Conservation and Development. This grant, if received, will allow the Department of Conservation and Development to protect public health, revitalized unused and underused land, and spur economic development in Contra Costa County.

The Hazardous Materials Commission is a 14-member advisory board to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on hazardous waste and hazardous materials policy. The Commission is made up of representatives from Business, Labor, Environmental groups, Environmental Justice communities, local elected officials, Environmental Engineering firms, the League of Women Voters and the general public. Effective assessment, clean-up and community engagement for brownfield sites in the County is a priority of the Commission.

The Commission supports this grant because it will support the eventual remediation of contaminated sites, thus reducing the health risks they pose to nearby residents and businesses. This is especially important in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) that are already overburdened by multiple sources of pollution and are where many brownfields are located.

The Commission also supports this grant application because it would help create an inventory of potentially contaminated site that businesses that would like to locate in Contra Costa County would benefit from by enabling them to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of developing specific sites. It would also help expedite the assessment and re-use of specific sites. This, in turn, will help create construction and permanent jobs that generate taxes that benefit the whole community through increased service. Redeveloping sites can also directly provide benefits such as sidewalks, bike paths, and green spaces). These are also especially important benefits to Disadvantaged Communities where many brownfield are located.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Fred Glueck

Chairperson, Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Commission

- Businesses that would like to locate in Contra Costa would benefit from the County having an inventory of potential contaminated sites and basic information about them (contamination levels) so they can determine what sites might be cost-effective site.
- This will expedite re-use of sites
- This will help EJ communities by encouraging repurposing of contaminated, unproductive sites.
- Could facilitate future grants to remediate.

- Puts sites back in economic use – taxes, jobs, construction
- Helps develop infrastructure and community benefits (sidewalks, bike paths, green space)
- Prevents potential off-site contamination from site.