Westside Brownfields Coalition Assessment Grant

A Regional Model for Prioritization

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Outline

• Project Overview
  – Local Context
  – Coalition Assessment
  – Nontraditional Application
  – Project Importance

• Interactive Mapping Tool (Erik Ringelberg)
  – What it includes
  – How it works

• Community Engagement
  – How we use the tool
  – Importance & Challenges of Community Engagement
  – Partners

• Project Status & Next Steps
Cache & Putah Creek Watersheds share similar context to Sierra.
What is a “Brownfield?”

- “… real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, controlled substances, petroleum or petroleum products, or is mine-scarred land.”

- Liability protection, funds & technical assistance (not enforcement) to assess and clean up sites [US EPA Brownfields Program]

Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (Jan. 2002)
Assessment grants evaluate and plan now; clean up for reuse later.

Identify eligible property

Determine nature and extent of contamination

Evaluate public health & environmental risks re: intended use

Set cleanup goals based on redevelopment plan

Future project(s) to implement plans (with additional funding)
Brownfields program is a “carrot,” not a “stick.”

• Assess now, cleanup next grant.
• Participation & access is voluntary.
• Assessments are free (for landowner).
• Need local knowledge & contacts.
• Results are public (but not publicized).
• This is NOT a regulatory program.
Not all sites are eligible for assessment.

- ✔ Private land *(to be transferred)*
- ✔ Tribal land
- ✔ State/local gov’t land

- ❌ Listed or proposed “Superfund” site;
- ❌ Subject to court order/ decree under CERCLA;
- ❌ Controlled by US government*

* Unless held in trust for an Indian Tribe
This is an atypical application of the Brownfields Grant Program.
Abandoned mines pose significant environmental & public health threat.

- Health & safety risk from bodily injury or chemical exposure.
- Environmental hazard from naturally-occurring toxics.
- Watershed degradation from alterations & erosion.
- Liability & barrier to redevelopment.
Assessment provides environmental & social benefits to the watershed.

- Protect landowners & local gvm’t from liability.
- Save community time & money on required docs.
- Equip community for funding to clean up legacy harms & improve ecosystem.
- Integrate long-term land use planning with restoration via area-wide plan & map tool.
IRWM Region & Counties
Mines – Current Inventory
Mines – Web GIS

Westside Mines Brownfields

Operational Layers

- 2000_Poverty_Rate_Percent_Below_Poverty_Level
- land_use
- geologic_units
- pop_by_block
- Counties
- Watershed Boundary
- USGS Mineral Resources Mine Data
- Topographic Map Symbols (Points)
- Principal Areas of Mine Pollution (Pamp)
- Topographic Map Symbols (Area)

http://bskassociates.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=aa323766668d468b803819953e3e3f00
Assessed individually, and through weighted metrics, using 3 basemaps for mines, Topographic Mine Symbols (TOMS), Principal Area of Mine Pollution (PAMP), and USGS map symbols, physical variables such as geology/fault/landslide, poverty rate, population density, proximity to listed streams, Biological observations, National Wetland Inventory, and indices, such as soil erosion,
Mines – Soil Loss
Mines – 274 Ranked out of 1418

Mapped Mine Features in Study Area
Mines – Priorities
Mapping tool quite useful for public engagement & input.
Rural community engagement: incredibly important, but challenging.

**Importance**
- Local expertise
  - Thousands of abandoned mines; Known and unknown
  - Where to start?
- Strong connection to community & region
- Priorities for future vision of the watershed.

**Challenges**
- Sparse population over vast geographic range.
- Absentee landowners & incomplete datasets.
- Limited access to technology, internet.
- Hard working community; little time or resources to participate.
Local partners & multiple methods critical to effective outreach.

- Partners
  - Tribes & Gov’t Agencies
  - Rotary / Lions Clubs & Chambers
  - Homeowners Associations
  - Watershed Groups

- Methods
  - Web
  - Mail
  - Phone
  - In Person
Project is about 45% complete; will continue engagement throughout.

2016

Revised work plan

2017

Quarterly reports

Site ID/ Priorit.

Site Assessments: Eligibility (16); Ph. I (6) & II (2) ESAs

2018

Final report

Outreach

Site Cleanup Plans

Area-wide Plan

Institutional Controls
Next Steps

- Continued engagement to develop Area-Wide Plan:
  - Administrative Advisory
  - Public Input

- Refining mapping tool

- Site Eligibility Assessments
  - Phase I Env. Asmnts (6)
  - Phase II Env. Asmnts (2)

- Site Clean-up Plans (2)
Anticipated Outcomes

- Interactive spatial database of mine features
- Informed community;
  - engaged in mine site assessment
  - prepared to address watershed issues
- Site remediation & reuse plan
  (including local interests and priorities).
- Indirect benefit to address:
  - watershed contamination
  - public & environmental health concerns
  - barriers to reuse (open space & economic development).
Westside Brownfields Assessment – Project Team

**Project Director**
Chris Lee, SCWA

**Project Manager**
Stephen McCord (MEI)

**Facilitator**
• Danielle Dolan (Local Gov’t. Comm.)

**Site Assessor and Cleanup Planner**
• Greg Reller (Burleson Consulting)

**Land Use Planners**
• Erik Ringelberg (TFT)
• Kurt Balasek (W-Kuhl)
• Martin Cline (BSK)

**Westside CC Project Support**
• Elisa Sabatini, Yolo Co.
• Tom Smythe, Lake Co.
• Chris Silke, Napa Co.
Contact us to get involved or for more information!

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What info does the team have so far?

- Mine site inventory from public databases.
- Eligible mine sites prioritized by EPA criteria.
- Landowner info from County records.
- Interactive map of mine sites & other factors.

Mines – Web GIS
1950’s photo of project site; common to CA mercury mining

1890’s Scott Furnace

Rotary Furnaces

Ore Bins

Adit

Waste Rock

Soot Recovery

1940’s-1950’s Retort (condenser) tubes

‘Calcine’ Tailings with Waste Rock

1890’s Scott Furnace
Mine Cleanup Efforts

Clockwise from top left: fence, backfill, culvert gate, cupola, bat gate, PUF.