

# **EPA grants aid study of polluted land**

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Properties where leaking tanks from old gas stations and other contamination have made the land unbuildable could get new life if they are treated and cleaned properly.

In a first step toward making that happen, the city of Petaluma will study such property and craft a list of potential sites for redevelopment, thanks to \$400,000 in grant money from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The two "Brownfields" grants, \$200,000 each, were awarded to the city the past two years. As part of the program, the city will create a computerized map of contaminated property and an inventory of those sites.

"Anybody who wants to redevelop a site that has toxics on it will know what's there," said Paul Marangella, the city's director of economic development and redevelopment.

That information will then aid planners and developers exploring a new use for vacant or blighted land. There are "hundreds of environmentally impacted sites" in the city, according to the EPA -- land where gas stations, tanneries, dry cleaners, chicken processors and soap-making companies once stood.

"Some of these historic land uses may have left a legacy of soil and/or groundwater contamination," the city said in a letter publicizing the Brownfields program to property owners, developers and the public.

Petaluma's \$400,000 share is part of \$5.7 million in Brownfields money awarded to Bay Area cities and organizations in the past two years. For information on the program, call 778-4555.

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