



PRESENTATION

Department: Housing Authority
Prepared by: Angelita Palma, Housing Programs Manager
Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Approved by: Armando Vergara, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT:

National City Brownfields Assessment Project by San Diego State University.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the presentation by SDSU staff and provide comments.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE PRIOR ACTION:

Not Applicable.

EXPLANATION:

San Diego State University (SDSU) has been awarded two grants to support community-wide assessment of brownfields in National City, California. These grants were awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Brownfields Grant Program (\$500,000) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC's) Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG) Program (\$296,762). The grant periods are three and two years, respectively, which began in Summer 2022.

A brownfield is a piece of land where its use or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of contamination due to past uses. National City's long history of industrial activity, proximity to freeways, and mixed and often incompatible land uses have created multiple paths for environmental contamination and many brownfields. The City is disproportionately impacted by numerous economic and health disparities as compared to county, state, and US levels, with National City neighborhoods having some of the highest levels of pollution burden regionally. Environmental assessment and planning are critical to promoting better environmental and community health. Community engagement in this process is critical to identifying brownfields sites, elaborating on community priorities, generating shared knowledge on local challenges, and identifying solutions.

Since 2013, SDSU has successfully partnered with and provided added capacity to the City in identifying solutions for stormwater runoff, greening streets in the downtown area, improving active transportation infrastructure, air quality assessments, disaster preparedness and response, developing a property management plan, and installation of public art throughout the community, and other revitalization and redevelopment projects through the Sage Project. Building on this long-standing, mutually beneficial collaboration, SDSU will leverage their own personnel, expertise, and administrative infrastructure to create capacity and oversee this Project to address brownfields in the City, in collaboration with a brownfields advisory committee, community partners, and community stakeholders.

Project activities are organized around four main areas: 1) brownfield site identification 2) site prioritization 3) environmental assessments and 4) reuse planning. Four priority sites have already been identified as part of the grant application process for environmental site assessment. These sites were selected based on site access, community input and City priorities: 921 National City Blvd (Former Education Center), 929 National City Blvd (Steamed Bean), 1028 A Avenue,

and 140 W 18th St (Welding Shop). Additional sites will be identified and prioritized in coordination with Project Partners and community members. The grant funding cannot be used for remediation and site cleanup activities, construction, or development.

For more information on the Project and to stay up to date, visit <https://brownfields.sdsu.edu/>. For additional inquiries related to the work, please contact project leads: Dr. Jessica Barlow (jbarlow@sdsu.edu) or Dr. Madison Swayne (mswayne@sdsu.edu).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Grant funding will be administered by San Diego State University.

RELATED CITY COUNCIL 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Health, Environment, and Sustainability

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Not applicable

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION:

Agenda Report posted within 72 hours of meeting date and time in accordance with Brown Act.

ORDINANCE:

Not Applicable

EXHIBIT:

Exhibit A – Power Point Presentation