

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A) RESOLUTION NO. 05-3644
BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM AND A)
BROWNFIELDS TASK FORCE) Introduced by Councilor Rex Burkholder
)

WHEREAS, establishing a Brownfields Program that complements ongoing efforts by cities and counties in the region will enhance the efficient use of land, eliminate environmentally contaminated sites and generate additional tax revenues for local governments; and

WHEREAS, identifying and prioritizing Brownfields in the region is an important part of increasing the developable short-term land supply in the region; and

WHEREAS, underutilized Brownfields sites are a collective challenge for the region, yet present an opportunity to provide significant redevelopment opportunities for affordable housing and jobs for the region; and

WHEREAS, establishing a task force to provide recommendations to the Metro Council on developing and maintaining an inventory of Brownfields, characterization of sites and prioritization of cleanup areas would enhance the program and could be funded by a grant from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency ("Brownfields Task Force"); and

WHEREAS, a Brownfields Task Force should be composed of citizens from affected areas, experts in the Brownfields field, local governments and contain representation from all parts of the region; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED:

The Council directs the Metro Chief Operating Officer to prepare, by January 31, 2006:

1. A Brownfields Task Force strategic work program for 2006 to outline objectives, measures for success and integration with Metro's existing investments in parks and open space, centers and growth management in the Brownfields Program;
2. A draft membership list for review by the Metro Council; and
3. A notice soliciting membership.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 1st day of December, 2005.


Attest:



Christina Billington, Recording Secretary


David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to form:


Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney

Resolution No. 05-3644

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STAFF REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 05-3644, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM AND A BROWNFIELDS TASK FORCE

Date: November 16, 2005

Prepared by: Lydia Neill

INTRODUCTION

The Metro Council adopted Resolution No.05-3605, For the Purpose of Expressing Support for the Comprehensive Economic Strategy and Taking Action to Help Achieve the Region's Objective to Improve the Economy of the Metro Region on July 28, 2005. Resolution No. 05-3605 also outlined a short-term strategy for completing several projects that were both within the agency's core competencies and would have positive economic impacts on the region. One of the short-term items was developing a proposal to address the problem of brownfields in the region.

To proceed on fulfilling these economic development initiatives, staff is preparing two Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield grant applications. A 10-day letter was forwarded to Council and no comments were made at that time and as a result staff is proceeding with the grant application process. If funded, two EPA grants would provide Metro with resources for brownfields assessment and site characterization to determine levels of contamination and develop plans to move sites towards cleanup and redevelopment. Staff is proposing to concentrate efforts in economically distressed parts of the region and to build on work that has already been completed by the City of Portland, Clackamas County and the City of Gresham. The highlights of the grants are summarized below. Staff is preparing two grants for \$200,000 each; one for hazardous waste and one for petroleum.

EPA Brownfields Grant Applications will allow Metro to complete the following work:

1. Complete a region-wide inventory of brownfields;
2. Focus site characterizations (Phase I and II assessments) in areas that are economically distressed; Phase I and II assessments are required before clean-up funding can be sought in successive grant cycles; site characterization could lead to redevelopment of industrial sites, redevelopment for mixed uses and/or affordable housing;
3. Form a Brownfields Task Force (BTF) to establish a mechanism to inform and engage the public when the grant is received;
4. Develop a strategy to assess and prioritize sites, focus cleanup, convene and create partnerships to actively encourage redevelopment; and
5. Develop a bank of sites that could be used for redevelopment in centers and possibly for affordable housing.

Resolution No. 05-3644 will provide direction to staff to develop a brownfield program and guidance in forming the BTF. The BTF will provide outreach opportunities for the program, links to communities where the work will be focused and technical expertise on brownfields.

ANTICIPATED EFFECTS

In order for Metro to be successful in the submittal of a grant to EPA, the proposals must be provided to the public and an adequate comment period be established. A news release as well as the draft grant proposals will be circulated to the Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) and the Metro Policy

Advisory Committee (MPAC) and announced for public comment at the December 1, 2005 Metro Council meeting.

LEGAL ANTECEDENTS

The Brownfields program is consistent with Metro Council Resolution No. 05-3605, adopting the community economic development strategy.

BUDGET IMPACTS

Staff resources for this program will be provided from staff assignments that are in the 2004/2005 budget for economic development. If the grants are successful, grant funds are proposed to be set aside for interns; data resource center staff time to support mapping; communications efforts and consultants to complete this work.

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