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## **U.S. EPA awards \$400,000 brownfields cleanup grant for San Francisco public park**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that the City and County of San Francisco will receive \$400,000 in federal funds to clean up the site of a future public park in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood. San Francisco is among 147 communities nationwide receiving funding to assess and clean up historically contaminated properties, also known as brownfields, for reuse and development.

“EPA is committed to helping communities strengthen their local economy and neighborhoods by cleaning up abandoned industrial and commercial properties – places where environmental cleanups and new jobs are needed most,” said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA’s Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. “San Francisco will use these funds to transform a formerly contaminated property into a park and add an important link in the city’s Blue Greenway.”

San Francisco Department of Recreation and Parks will use the brownfields funds to clean up the contaminated property along Innes Avenue, which will later be developed into a public park. The project builds on work completed by the city with previous EPA brownfields grants and technical assistance. The park will help close a gap in the San Francisco Blue Greenway, a proposed multi-purpose path through parks, public open space and recreation areas along 13 miles of waterfront from AT&T Park in China Basin south to the city limits past Candlestick Park. The trail will serve as a connector between the southeastern neighborhoods and downtown, and provide much-needed open space for recreation in Bayview Hunters Point.

Since the inception of EPA’s brownfields program in 1995, cumulative program investments have leveraged more than \$22 billion from a variety of public and private sources for cleanup and redevelopment activities. This equates to an average of \$17.79 leveraged per EPA brownfields dollar expended. These investments have resulted in approximately 105,942 jobs nationwide. EPA’s brownfields program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields sites.

More information on EPA’s brownfields program: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

More information on the Blue Greenway: <http://www.sfparksalliance.org/our-work/blue-greenway>

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