

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BROWNFIELD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM SEEKS INTERESTED SITES

Impacted properties may qualify for free environmental studies

In 2023, the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) formed a partnership that received \$1,000,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support the revitalization of brownfields located in any of the following counties: Skamania, Klickitat, Sherman, Hood River, or Wasco. These funds can provide no-cost environmental studies to help overcome environmental barriers leading to underdevelopment.

Property owners who suspect they have a site with contamination can nominate their property for assessment. Assistance includes environmental studies to research past uses and sampling of soil, groundwater, and/or building materials suspected to contain asbestos, lead paint, or petroleum. Technical advice is also available to plan for cleanup and to develop re-use strategies. MCEDD has hired Stantec, an environmental consulting firm, to conduct these assessments. Assistance will only be provided with the property owner's consent.

Once nominated, a site will be reviewed for eligibility and alignment with the project's priorities. Priorities for these funds include the following:

- Promote the development of new housing, with a focus on attainable housing and multi-family rentals;
- Resolve environmental barriers on employment/industrial land;
- Provide benefits to underserved members of our communities;
- Align with regional goals that are outlined in the [Columbia Gorge Economic Development Strategy](#); and
- Align with local community goals/priorities in the city or county where the project is located, when available.

MCEDD's brownfield coalition will hold a public meeting on Monday, September 16 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. on Zoom to share information and answer questions. Contact Lindsay McClure, MCEDD Energy & Project Manager, at lindsay@mcedd.org or (541) 296-2266 ext. 1008, for login details and to RSVP.