

Executive Summary

DruidsHome Inc. seeks \$250,000 in EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant funding to address blight and environmental uncertainty in Susanville, California. Over three years, the project will inventory and assess abandoned and underutilized properties through Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, supported by consultant services and coalition-driven outreach. This effort will provide reliable data to reduce redevelopment barriers, improve public health and safety, and strengthen local coalitions focused on youth wellness and homelessness prevention. With proven capacity in compliance, coalition-building, and grant management, DruidsHome will deliver assessments that lay the foundation for safe, equitable, and sustainable redevelopment in the community.

Project Narrative – DruidsHome Inc.

1. Community Need

Susanville, California, faces persistent challenges from abandoned and underutilized properties that contribute to blight, environmental uncertainty, and economic stagnation. As a rural community, resources for environmental assessment and redevelopment are limited, leaving residents vulnerable to health risks and reduced opportunities for growth. These conditions disproportionately affect youth and families experiencing housing insecurity, compounding social and economic stress.

DruidsHome Inc. seeks to address these challenges by conducting community-wide Brownfield assessments. This effort will provide clarity on environmental conditions, reduce barriers to redevelopment, and support coalition efforts focused on youth wellness and homelessness prevention.

2. Project Description

Over a three-year period, DruidsHome will implement a structured assessment program:

- **Year 1:** Develop a site inventory, prioritize properties of concern, and initiate Phase I Environmental Site Assessments.
- **Year 2:** Conduct Phase II Environmental Site Assessments on high-priority sites and expand community engagement activities.

- **Year 3:** Finalize reports, share findings with coalition partners, and prepare redevelopment strategies aligned with community needs.

Funds will be used for consultant services, technical assessments, supplies, travel for site visits, and community outreach.

3. Benefits to the Community

This project will:

- Provide reliable data on environmental conditions, reducing uncertainty for redevelopment.
- Improve public health and safety by identifying and mitigating contamination risks.
- Support economic revitalization by making properties more attractive for investment.
- Strengthen coalitions addressing youth homelessness and wellness by integrating land use planning with social services.

By clarifying environmental risks, DruidsHome will empower Susanville to pursue redevelopment that is safe, equitable, and sustainable.

4. Organizational Capacity

DruidsHome Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit with demonstrated expertise in coalition-building, compliance, and grant management. The organization actively partners with schools, law enforcement, youth groups, and local agencies to address systemic challenges.

Leadership has experience navigating federal registration systems, drafting contracts, and managing donation logistics. This capacity ensures DruidsHome can responsibly manage federal funds, coordinate technical consultants, and document outcomes for EPA reporting.

5. Budget Justification

The requested **\$250,000** will be allocated as follows:

- **Personnel (\$60,000):** Staff time for project management, coalition coordination, and reporting.

- **Fringe Benefits (\$15,000):** Health and retirement contributions.
- **Travel (\$10,000):** Site visits, coalition meetings, and EPA trainings.
- **Supplies (\$5,000):** Office and field supplies for assessments.
- **Contractual (\$120,000):** Environmental consultants for Phase I/II assessments.
- **Other (\$20,000):** Community engagement activities and outreach materials.
- **Indirect (\$20,000):** Administrative overhead at the 10% de minimis rate.

This budget aligns with the SF-424A and supports the technical and community engagement goals of the project.

6. Conclusion

DruidsHome's Brownfield Assessment project will provide the foundation for safe redevelopment, community resilience, and youth wellness in Susanville. By combining technical assessments with coalition-driven outreach, the project will reduce blight, improve public health, and open pathways for sustainable economic growth.

Coalition Development Statement – DruidsHome Inc.

Coalition Development

While DruidsHome Inc. is currently serving as the lead organization for this Brownfield Assessment project, we are actively developing partnerships with schools, local agencies, and community groups to strengthen future implementation. As a small nonprofit, DruidsHome has the capacity to initiate assessments and manage federal funds independently, while laying the groundwork for formal coalitions that will expand community engagement and sustainability. This proactive approach ensures that the project can begin immediately under DruidsHome's leadership, with the flexibility to integrate new partners as they are established.



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
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Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SUPPORT OF A UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FY26 BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANT APPLICATION FOR \$250,000

Dear Ms. Hanusiak,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) of the California Environmental Protection Agency acknowledges and supports DruidsHome's application for a United States Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Assessment Grant (USEPA Grant) for properties in Lassen County and the surrounding rural Northern Sierra region of California (Sites). DruidsHome is requesting a funding amount of \$250,000 to cover the cost of environmental assessment activities at Sites within the target area.

The region consists of sparsely populated towns in the northeastern portion of California along the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountain ranges with a history of farming, mining, and lumber industries. DruidsHome is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Susanville whose mission is to support rural and underserved residents in Lassen County by providing practical assistance, community-focused programs, and partnerships that strengthen local resiliency to meet community needs and improve quality of life in the Northern Sierra region. Lassen County and the surrounding rural Northern Sierra region consist of underserved communities that face geographical barriers, significant economic hardship, limited environmental health resources, and a high concentration of aging or underutilized properties. As a small nonprofit organization, DruidsHome is in need of external resources like the USEPA Grant to help assess brownfield properties and carry out vital reuse planning. Community

organizations, local residents, and regional partners have expressed strong support for efforts to identify and address potential brownfield Sites.

With the USEPA Grant funding, DruidsHome would like to conduct Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments as well as community engagement, Site inventory development, reuse planning, and prioritization of Sites with potential environmental concerns. DruidsHome will leverage partnerships with local agencies, community groups, and regional planning organizations to support outreach, data collection, and redevelopment planning. No specific Sites have been proposed within the target area at this time. Site identification will occur during the grant period based on community need, environmental risk, redevelopment potential, and stakeholder input.

DTSC looks forward to the possible award of the USEPA Grant to DruidsHome to facilitate the success of the environmental assessment of Sites within in the target area. DTSC is ready to provide the necessary technical support and regulatory oversight, as needed, for Sites covered by the USEPA Grant. If you need further information or assistance regarding specific brownfield sites, or any of DTSC's brownfields programs, please feel free to contact me via phone at (916) 255-3657 or via email at Abraham.Serrato@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Abraham Serrato
Regional Brownfield Coordinator
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: (via email)

Maryam Tasnif-Abbasi
Brownfield Development Manager
Site Mitigation & Restoration Program
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