

REPORT FROM

**OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

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Date: October 10, 2024

CAO File No. 0130-02162-0000

Council File No. 21-1015

Council District: ALL

To: The City Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer

Subject: **FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT APPLICATIONS: AUTHORITY TO APPLY FOR TWO U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NATIONAL BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM GRANTS - PART A: COMMUNITY-WIDE ASSESSMENT GRANT FY 2025 AND PART C: CLEANUP GRANT FY 2025**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Council, subject to approval of the Mayor:

1. Authorize the Director of the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN), or designee, to prepare and submit grant applications for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Brownfields Program Part A: Community-Wide Assessment Grant FY 2025 and Part C: Cleanup Grant FY 2025; and,
2. Instruct the Director of the LASAN, or designee, to report back if the City is awarded the grants, to request authority to accept the grant awards, and to request approval for any related actions to implement the grant awards.

**DISCUSSION**

The Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) submitted project prioritization forms in response to notification of funding opportunities from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for two of its National Brownfields Program grants. The two programs are under the same grant and have the same eligibility and cost sharing/matching fund requirements.

On September 3, 2024, the EPA, Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization released a notice of funding availability for its National Brownfields Program (Brownfields) - FY 2025 grants. The Brownfields grant will provide funding to support the revitalization of brownfield sites through site assessment and cleanup. Brownfield sites are defined as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, controlled substances, petroleum or petroleum products, or is mine-scarred land. A critical part of EPA's Brownfields Program is to ensure that residents living in communities historically affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and environmental contamination have an opportunity to benefit from brownfields redevelopment. Application submissions for the Brownfields grants are due on November 14, 2024.

This Office received two project proposals from LASAN, one for Part A: Community-Wide Assessment Grants - FY 2025 - for their LASAN FY 2025 Community-Wide Assessment Grant Project and one for Part C: Cleanup Grants FY 2025 - for their 94th Street and Broadway EPA Cleanup Grant Project.

Part A: Community-Wide Assessment grant

LASAN will apply for funds in the amount of \$500,000 for their FY 2025 Community-Wide Assessment project to conduct Environmental Site Assessments, area-wide inventories, and create cleanup plans for sites in Environmental Justice areas in need of remediation. This will mitigate the impacts of potential hazards and the safety of the surrounding community. This project will benefit underserved communities including those with low-income households and low community engagement.

Part C: Cleanup grant

LASAN will apply for funds in the amount of \$4 million for its 94th Street and Broadway EPA Cleanup project located at 9402 South Broadway in Council District 8. Previous environmental investigation identified soil contamination at the site and cleanup is needed to ensure that the site is safe for reuse. Lead and arsenic impacted soils have been removed from the site through another grant previously awarded, but additional soil vapor contamination has been identified that needs to be removed and mitigated. Through this grant, remediation activities will be implemented with an approved Soil Management Plan and installation of a Vapor Intrusion Mitigation System as required by the regulatory oversight agency, the Los Angeles County Fire Department. This property is City-owned and is located in a high poverty area with the highest pollution burdens. It is slated for mixed-use including a grocery store and affordable housing.

The estimated duration for each project is four years with a potential completion date of October 2029.

Applicant Eligibility and Availability of Funding

Applicants eligible to receive financial assistance to fund activities under the Brownfields grants include:

- General Purpose Unit of Local Government (i.e. county, municipality, city, school district, etc).
- Land Clearance Authority or another quasi-governmental entity that operates under the supervision and control of, or as an agent of, a General Purpose Unit of Local Government.
- Government entity created by State Legislature.
- Regional Council established under governmental authority.
- Redevelopment Agency that is chartered or otherwise sanctioned by a State.
- State.
- Federally recognized Indian Tribe other than in Alaska.
- Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Village Corporation, and Metlakatla Indian Community.
- Nonprofit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Limited liability corporation or limited partnership in which all managing members, sole members, or general partners are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.
- Qualified community development entity as defined in section 45D(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

All entities, including different departments of the same City, may only submit one application for each Brownfields grant.

EPA anticipates awarding an estimated 92 Community-Wide Assessment grants for an estimated total of \$46 million, and an estimated 63 Cleanup grants for an estimated total of \$100 million, subject to availability of funds.

#### Cost Sharing Requirements

There is no matching fund or cost-sharing requirement.

#### Required Approval to Accept Award

In accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 14.6(a), all departments are required to seek Mayor and Council approval before accepting and receiving a grant award. It is therefore recommended that LASAN report back to the Mayor and Council upon award notification to request authority to accept and receive the grant award and confirm that there is no additional General Fund impact.

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Approval of the recommendations in this report will not result in a General Fund impact. There is no matching funds requirement for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Brownfields Program grants. However, upon notification of a grant award, a reassessment on the General Fund impact should be completed as it relates to either lower than requested grant award amounts, verification of local match requirements, or front-funding for grants on a reimbursement basis.

### **FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT**

The recommendations in this report comply with the City's Financial Policies.

Attachment: Proposed Grant Projects

*MWS/PJH/JVW:JAS:10250086*

*cc: CAO Grant Coordination*

**ATTACHMENT 1 – PROPOSED GRANT PROJECTS**

Grant Administrator: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 Name of Grants: National Brownfields Program Part A: Community-Wide Assessment FY 2025  
 National Brownfields Program Part C: Cleanup FY 2025  
 NOFO Release Date: September 3, 2024  
 Award Date: October, 2025  
 Performance Period: 4 years

Lead Department	Project Name	Brownfields Program Part A: Community-Wide Assessment Grant Project Description	Total Project Budget (in millions)	Total Grant Request (in millions)	Local Match (in millions)	Planned Completion Date
Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN)	FY 2025 Community- Wide Assessment Grant Project	The project will conduct Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments, area-wide inventories, and cleanup plans for sites in need of remediation.	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$0.0	4 years (10/2029)

Lead Department	Project Name	Brownfields Program Part C: Cleanup Grant Project Description	Total Project Budget (in millions)	Total Grant Request (in millions)	Local Match (in millions)	Planned Completion Date
Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN)	94th Street and Broadway EPA Cleanup Grant Project	Remediation activities to remove and mitigate soil vapor contamination at 94th Street and Broadway will be implemented through an approved Soil Management Plan and installation of a Vapor Intrusion Mitigation System.	\$4.0	\$4.0	\$0.0	4 years (10/2029)