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**Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council to Receive \$300,000 to Clean up and Redevelop Contaminated Brownfields Sites**

**ATLANTA** – Today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council will receive \$300,000 to clean up and redevelop contaminated brownfields sites in Florida.

Nationally, approximately \$13.2 million in supplemental funding to help transform communities by cleaning up contaminated Brownfields properties. Supplemental funding of the Revolving Loan Funding (RLF) will be given to 31 successful RLF grantees helping 44 communities carry out cleanup and redevelopment projects. These projects will help communities create jobs while protecting people's health and the environment. Many of the RLF cleanups are in under-served and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods - places where environmental cleanup and new jobs are most needed.

"These funds – granted to communities who have already achieved success in their work to clean up and redevelop brownfields – will help boost local economies, create local jobs and protect people from harmful pollution by expediting Brownfield projects," said Mathy Stanislaus, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. "The RLF supplemental recipients are some of the nation's top performers. Collectively, these communities have already leveraged more than \$5 billion in clean up and redevelopment investment – the RLF funding announced today will help sustain that incredible progress."

The RLF grantees provide a level of funding for cleanups that isn't available through traditional financing options or through other brownfield grants, serving as the critical gap financing needed to jump-start the redevelopment process. RLF funding is often the last key piece of funding needed to make the cleanup and reuse of the property happen. RLFs specifically supply funding for loans and sub-grants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. When these loans are repaid, the loan amount is then returned to the fund and re-loaned to other borrowers, providing an ongoing sustainable source of capital within a community for additional cleanup of brownfield sites. The supplemental funding to each grantee ranges from about \$250,000 to \$700,000.

EPA continues to engage and help new communities address barriers to redeveloping sites which are plaguing their communities. All of the grantees selected for funding have significantly depleted their RLF funds and need supplemental funding in order to recapitalize their loan pool to continue making loans and subgrants to clean up brownfields properties. The supplemental funds help keep the cleanup momentum going so that more cleanups can be completed. To date, RLF grantees have completed over 400 cleanups, leveraged approximately 15,000 jobs and over \$5 billion of public and private funding.

The grantees receiving supplemental funding this year continue to demonstrate a high-level of preparedness to undertake specific shovel ready projects and have the committed leveraged funds necessary to move projects forward. This year's supplemental funds will support an array of cleanup and redevelopment projects across the country.

There are an estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated sites in the United States. EPA's Brownfields program targets these sites to encourage redevelopment, and help to provide the opportunity for productive community use of contaminated properties. Since the inception of the EPA's Brownfields Program in 1995, cumulative brownfield program investments have leveraged more than \$23.3 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 brownfield dollar expended. These investments have resulted in approximately 109,787 jobs nationwide.

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

More information on Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grants:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/rflst.htm>

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