



Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI)

FY 2024-25 Annual Report to Legislature



SB 158 Mandate

The Board of Environmental Safety is required to:

- Conduct an analysis of the expenditure of funds for the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI)
- Identify the subsequent uses of sites that have undergone investigation or cleanup
- Evaluate the public health benefits that those investigations or cleanups have created for the communities in which the sites are located
- Make recommendations to the Legislature on future expenditures of state funds for cleanup

CVCI Programs

- Equitable Community Revitalization Grant
- Discovery & Enforcement
 - Orphan sites
 - Community Benefit Agreements
- Workforce Development
- Technical Assistance Grants

Overview

- DTSC was allocated \$189M for fiscal years 2021-22 through 2024-25
- Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative is not currently funded for fiscal year 2026-27
- Approximately 150,000 – 300,000 contaminated sites, or Brownfield sites, exist in California
- Brownfield sites are disproportionately located in vulnerable communities

Equitable Community Revitalization Grant – Essential Findings

- \$131M has been granted across 34 counties, supporting an assortment of projects ranging from rural parks to housing
 - Community-wide assessments: 15 grants; \$4.2M
 - Site-specific investigations: 37 grants; \$35M
 - Site-specific cleanup: 38 grants; \$91M
- Equitable Community Revitalization Grant is funding environmental investigations and cleanups that will support development of nearly 5,000 affordable housing units

Discovery & Enforcement – Essential Findings

- Approximately 7,500 known active and inactive dry-cleaning sites are located in California
- 184 dry cleaner sites were identified for Discovery investigation based on location and CalEnviroScreen (CES) score
- At least 50 sites have contamination that warrants further action
- Approximately two-thirds of the sites are in Southern California
- Small business owners lack resources to address contamination

Workforce Development – Essential Findings

- DTSC developed a statewide Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative Student Internship Program
- Four of the six interns secured professional work in the public or non-profit sector
- Student Internship Program will transition to a statewide Environmental Remediation Training program
 - Training and job preparedness program

Technical Assistance Grants – Essential Findings

- 18 applications were received for hiring a technical advisor to assist with cleanup sites
- 15 applications were accepted for awards for grantees representing Environmental Justice communities
- Three grants were awarded to grantees in Southern California, and 12 awarded in Northern California

Conclusions

- California contains hundreds of thousands of brownfield sites
- Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative budget was reduced by more than half
- The Initiative has managed to steadily make progress in addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities, particularly through Equitable Community Revitalization Grant and Discovery & Enforcement
- Ongoing Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities work is funded through existing awarded grants and contracts

Recommendation

- State should adopt a permanent and long-term funding stream for Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative to ensure continued success