

ECRGrantee City of Barstow

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City of Barstow: ECRG-Funded Environmental Assessment Drives Revitalization in Barstow



With support from the Equitable Community Revitalization Grant (ECRG), the City of Barstow is making significant strides in identifying and assessing contamination across multiple properties through two community-wide environmental assessment grants. This work is unlocking opportunities for safe redevelopment by identifying

sites with environmental challenges from past industrial, commercial, and institutional uses.

Unlike assessments focused on a single property, a community-wide assessment allows Barstow to evaluate a range of sites across the city. This includes an old historic hospital and an old golf course, both of which may have contamination tied to their former uses — such as hazardous chemical storage, underground tanks, or pesticide and fertilizer applications. By assessing these sites, the city is proactively identifying risks and preparing for cleanup to support future reuse.

On March 20th, 2025 Barstow hosted a community event attended by 200-300 residents, local leaders, and representatives from the community hospital, BNSF Rail, the Sheriff's Office, and the community college. Elected officials from the city, county, and state also participated, showing strong support for the city's revitalization efforts. At the event, city staff shared updates on the ECRG-funded assessment, provided information to property owners about participating in the program, and encouraged new and returning landowners to engage in the process.

Attendees received resources tailored to their needs, from introductory materials to detailed site-specific discussions. Through ECRG funding, Barstow has already completed several Phase I environmental site assessments, which review historical records and current site conditions to flag potential contamination. For properties where Phase I findings indicated environmental concerns, the city is now preparing for Phase II environmental site assessments, which may involve sampling soil, soil vapor, or groundwater to confirm contamination. These assessments are essential steps toward ensuring future redevelopment is protective of public health and the environment. The historic hospital and old golf course are among several properties under evaluation that could ultimately be cleaned up and reused to meet local needs, such as housing or community facilities.

The community event marked an important milestone, reinforcing Barstow's commitment to working with residents, property owners, and local institutions to revitalize underused land. Photos from the day captured the collaborative spirit fueling this work. With continued ECRG support, Barstow is making meaningful progress toward a cleaner, safer, and more vibrant community.

