

BUSINESS

Barstow businesses can apply for special community revitalization grants



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Key Points

Barstow businesses can apply for Equitable Community Revitalization grants for environmental soil testing related to development projects.

Funding for the grants comes from the Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields program and aims to support development spurred by the new BNSF Railway Barstow International Gateway.

Barstow businesses can apply for special Equitable Community Revitalization grants through the city if they anticipate development and need soil testing for environmental purposes.

City officials announced that with the soon-to-be-constructed BNSF Railway's Barstow International Gateway "set to uplift the region's supply chain," the potential exists for businesses to thrive more sustainably.

To support the transition, [Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields grants](#) were awarded to the city with the goal of using them to promote development and for the betterment of land within city limits.

Money will be used to test the old golf course property as well as the vacant hospital site and business park sites, city officials stated. Leftover funds are intended to be used for local landowners, specifically to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental testing.

Through environmental testing and remediation efforts, landowners can:

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Unlock property potential: Identifying and addressing environmental concerns can help businesses move forward with expansion, redevelopment, or new construction projects.

Increase property value and marketability: Properties that meet modern environmental standards are more attractive to buyers, investors, and tenants.

Support long-term sustainability: By taking proactive measures now, businesses can position themselves for success in a rapidly growing and evolving market.

Access expert guidance & resources: The city of Barstow, along with strategic economic development partners, will assist businesses in navigating the grant process and leveraging resources for redevelopment.

The initiative is part of the city's commitment to ensuring the local community benefits from the upcoming changes while maintaining high environmental standards.

“Our commitment to the Barstow community, businesses, and environment is one of our biggest priorities,” Barstow City Manager Rochelle Clayton said. “By offering these grants, we are developing the economy in a way that is beneficial for many and helps to facilitate the growth and development process for those who move into our market.”

City of Barstow Economic Development Specialist Genesis Crank noted that the city's vision is to enhance the quality of life for residents, create meaningful job opportunities and position the city for sustainable growth. To achieve this, city staff has prioritized the redevelopment of key areas, with a particular focus on the Barstow Downtown Corridor/Main Street.

“These efforts will breathe new life into underutilized properties, fostering business growth and creating spaces that support our community's needs,” Crank said. “As a

property or business owner, your participation is essential to this vision. By redeveloping your property as part of the ECRG program, you'll contribute to the revitalization of Barstow's economic landscape while unlocking the potential of your property for future uses."

Crank added, "The program offers resources to assess and remediate environmental challenges, paving the way for business expansion, higher property values, and a stronger local economy. For absentee property owners, now is the time to reconnect with Barstow's bright future. Your property has the potential to be part of the transformation that will benefit both you and the community. The window of opportunity is limited, and we urge you to act now."

To find out if a business is eligible for land or soil testing through the ECRG grants, individuals can fill out the survey at barstowbig.com/brownfieldsurvey, or contact Genesis Crank at gcrank@barstowca.org or 760-255-5152.

For more information, visit BarstowCA.org.