



# Brownfields 2008 Grant Fact Sheet

## *Yauco, PR*

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The Municipality of Yauco was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Yauco (population 46,384) is located in Puerto Rico's southern coastal plain. The municipality has several valuable natural resources, including the island's largest aquifer and two lakes, which provide hydroelectric energy and flood control to the region. The economy has been adversely affected during the past several years by factory closures and the lack of job opportunities in the area. Over 55 percent of residents live in poverty, and the unemployment rate is more than 76 percent. The municipality has minimal resources to undertake assessment projects on its own. Brownfields assessment is expected to assist the municipality with its economic development strategy by providing opportunities for redevelopment.



### Assessment Grants

New  
2008

**\$200,000 for hazardous substances**  
**\$200,000 for petroleum**

EPA has selected the Municipality of Yauco for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct seven Phase I and at least five Phase II environmental site assessments, a site inventory, and community outreach and education activities. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 2 Brownfields Team  
212-637-4309  
<http://www.epa.gov/region2/brownfields>

Grant Recipient: Municipality of Yauco, PR  
787-267-4008

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.