



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Houston Land Bank Awarded \$5.5 Million in EPA Brownfields Grants for Major Environmental Assessment and Cleanup Projects

Houston, Texas - The Houston Land Bank (HLB) has been selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the largest grantee in Region 6, receiving a significant financial boost with \$5 million allocated for the cleanup of the former Velasco Incinerator site and an additional \$500,000 for community-wide environmental assessments. This funding is part of the Biden-Harris administration's recent announcement of over \$300 million in brownfield grants to revitalize sites nationwide.

The Velasco Incinerator Cleanup Project, spearheaded by HLB, is set to transform a historically underutilized and contaminated property into a valuable community asset, aligning with the broader mission of the Houston Land Bank to foster urban renewal and sustainable community development. This project is a prime example of effective public-private collaboration and community engagement, ensuring that the redevelopment efforts meet the needs and expectations of the local community.

Christa Stoneham, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Houston Land Bank expressed her gratitude and outlined the project's significance: "The Velasco Incinerator Cleanup Project represents a significant step forward in the Houston Land Bank's efforts to transform underutilized and contaminated properties into valuable community assets. We are grateful to the EPA for this funding and the strong support of this project by the local community, the City of Houston, our dedicated team and Board of Directors, and elected officials. With this collective support, HLB can ensure that we not only meet cleanup objectives and regulatory compliance but also align project outcomes with the community's needs and expectations. We are committed to continuous engagement and transparency throughout this project, ensuring that our efforts lead to long-term benefits for the community."

As part of its commitment to transparency and community involvement, the Houston Land Bank encourages the public and interested stakeholders to visit <http://bankingvelasco.org> for ongoing updates and more information about the project.

HLB will use the community-wide assessment grant to identify, assess, and conduct cleanup and reuse planning on blighted, abandoned, and contaminated properties in East End and Northeast Houston neighborhoods. To learn more about HLB's existing brownfields program, please visit <https://houstonlandbank.org/brownfields-program/>.

This funding from the EPA will enable the Houston Land Bank to further its mission of revitalizing neighborhoods and enhancing the environmental and economic health of the

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region. The EPA's Brownfields Program continues to provide the necessary resources to tackle environmental challenges and foster sustainable community development.

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About Houston Land Bank:

The Houston Land Bank (HLB) is a local government corporation and a 501c-3 nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing and redeveloping underutilized and vacant properties in Houston. HLB collaborates with public and private stakeholders to strategically acquire, manage, and dispose of properties that foster community development and enhance the city's quality of life.

