

## Mahoney Announces Treasure Coast Economic Development Grant

(Stuart, FL)

- Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) announced today that the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council has been awarded a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grant in the amount of \$350,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency. The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council was one of 16 local and state governments selected to receive supplemental funding for additional capitalization of their RLF grants.

Congressman  
Commends Program's Positive Environmental and Economical Implications

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"Economic development and environmental protection go hand in hand when you have effective leadership and community participation," said Congressman Mahoney. "This Brownfield grant comes at a time where our local economies are struggling and I am pleased that the federal government has recognized the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's commitment to Florida through resourceful redevelopment."

"The RLF supplemental funding will greatly enhance Council's existing EPA-funded brownfield assessment program by serving as a catalyst for cleanup of redevelopment sites in the Treasure Coast Region's redevelopment areas in Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties," said Gregory Vaday, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council Economic Development Coordinator.

Brownfields are sites where expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants. EPA's brownfield program encourages cleanup and redevelopment of America's estimated 450,000

abandoned and contaminated waste sites.

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council has been actively working on community redevelopment through its brownfields program launched in 2004, with project sites ranging from the Glades communities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay to West Palm Beach and Ft.

Pierce. This year's program focuses on potential brownfield redevelopment projects encompassing one or more of the following areas: workforce housing, mixed-use development, health and welfare, job creation and creation of parks and open space. Through this year's grant, the Council will have the ability to award subgrants to local governments and low-interest loans to private businesses for redevelopment. Examples of potential projects include the Coral Square Shopping Center in Ft. Pierce and the decommissioning of the H.D. King power plant in downtown Ft. Pierce.

RLF grants provide funding for state and local governments to provide low-interest loans and subgrants for cleanup activities at brownfields sites. Since the initial RLF grants were awarded in 1997, RLF grant recipients have executed 135 loans and made 26 subgrants to support brownfields cleanup totaling more than \$68 million. RLF grants have reported leveraging more than \$1.7 billion in funding from other sources. The grants also have enabled the leveraging of 3014 jobs in cleanup, construction and redevelopment.

For more information on the Brownfields program, visit Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council at

<http://www.tcrpc.org/Brownfields/home.html>  
or the EPA at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

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