

For immediate release: July 30, 2009

Contact: Casey Pleskun, Project Director, by email at PleskunC@kccha.org or Kathleen Byrne-Barrantes, Grants Consultant, by email at grantsolutions@comcast.net or phone 360-697-5815

Comments sought on cleanup alternatives for Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority Brownfields project in Port Orchard

(Port Orchard) – The Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority (KCCHA) received a \$173,104 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2007. Grant funds will be used to remove sources of surface and subsurface contamination where a garage formerly used by the Port Orchard Fire Department is located.

The KCCHA is currently requesting public comments for a period of 14 days regarding the Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA). The ABCA will be available on the KCCHA website located at www.kccha.org and the City of Port Orchard website located at www.cityofportorchard.us through August 14, 2009. All comments will be compiled and provided to the Mitchell Avenue Brownfield project team for consideration.

The project consists of legal parcels located at 980 Mitchell Avenue formerly municipal/industrial and residential properties, a Kitsap County Road District maintenance facility, Port Orchard Fire Department storage garage, and a former RV waste dump. Redevelopment plans have included building a “Phase II” to the adjacent existing senior housing located north of the site (subject of a 2002 clean up action).

Several investigations have been performed since 2004 to characterize the contamination and the information collected has been provided in various Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) reports. KCCHA was a recipient of an EPA Brownfields cooperative agreement in 2004 and a Phase 2 assessment was completed in 2006 by ALKAI Environmental Consultants, LLC. For this grant, submittals from three qualified contractors were evaluated and ALKAI, LLC of Silverdale was selected for this project. A cleanup contractor will be selected by competitive bid once the preferred cleanup alternative has been determined and bid documents are developed.

The nature and extent of contamination associated with the Mitchell Avenue site exceeding regulatory standards includes metals (arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, and mercury) concentrations in surface soils, and co-mingled Petroleum Hydrocarbons, Volatile Organic Compounds, Metals, and Poly-Aromatic-Hydrocarbons (PAH) Concentrations in Subsurface Soils. Although caution will be exercised in any cleanup activity, there is no evidence that these materials have migrated off the site and are presumed to be contained in these soils.

“We’re anxious to get this site cleaned up not only to eliminate the obvious health hazards, but considering the location, this property has the potential to add something unique to our City,” stated Port Orchard Mayor Lary Coppola.

Cleanup recommendations have included: full source removal and excavation of contaminated soil which includes metal debris and commingled petroleum products; collection of confirmation samples, disposal of the soil by thermal desorption at an appropriate facility; recycling metal debris; and disposal of remaining debris at a landfill. It is estimated that there is between 700 and 900 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris at the site.

The KCCHA are working closely with the Kitsap County Health District and state Department of Health (DOH) and will develop site specific safety plans taking into consideration potentially sensitive populations (e.g. children, pregnant women, infirm, etc). The site will be controlled to avoid traffic problems, prevent risk of unauthorized entrance while activities are taking place, and use appropriate signage. Particular attention will be focused on ensuring that construction is mitigated on site with no effect on adjacent properties or air emissions.

The goal of this grant project is to complete cleanup activities necessary so that risks of exposure to human and ecological receptors are eliminated. The remedial planning will evaluate alternatives for cleanup of the contamination. The KCCHA will keep the community informed and involved in the process. Monitoring will follow to determine the effectiveness of the cleanup and detail the nature or extent of any remaining contamination.

You may review responses to questions and comments on the ABCA on the KCCHA's (www.kccha.org) website or links on the City of Port Orchard's official website located at www.cityofportorchard.us. Once the public comment period ends on August 14, the KCCHA will review all comments received and incorporate suggested changes as appropriate or provide response to affected parties.

Please send your comments by August 14, 4PM to the following project contacts:

Casey Pleskun, Project Director, by email to PleskunC@kccha.org or phone 360-535-6130 and Kathleen Byrne-Barrantes, Project Manager, by email to grantsolutions@comcast.net or phone 360-697-5815. You may also send comments by mail to the following address: Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority (KCCHA), **Attention: Casey Pleskun**, 9307 Bayshore Drive NW, Silverdale, WA 98383.

The KCCHA will hold a public meeting from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm on Tuesday Aug. 25 at the Port Orchard Vista Senior Apartments located at 920 Mitchell Avenue (adjacent to project site) to discuss cleanup alternatives, process/steps the KCCHA has taken to arrive at the preferred cleanup alternative, and benefits to the community, habitat, and groundwater that the cleanup will provide.

A formal project kick-off presided by the Mayor, Project team, and EPA project manager will also be announced on the KCCHA and City of Port Orchard websites and the public will be invited to attend.

Project Kick-off and Future Public Meetings will be announced through project fact sheets, press releases, on-site community notice board, and website www.kccha.org