Commentary

Redevelopment of urban brownfields key to smart growth, sustainable development

By JAMES L. JEROMIN (Columnist)

The Daily Transcript

San Diego's Business Daily
Thursday, March 25, 2004 | LEI 127 No. 62

The challenge faced by San Diego County and other urban jurisdictions is to develop brownfields—abandoned, under-developed, or redeveloped for other purposes—into valuable land parcels for new development while protecting the public from hazardous substances.

Urban development is one of the eight national priorities identified by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The priorities include:
1. Promoting smart growth
2. Enhancing economic competitiveness
3. Improving public health and safety
4. Protecting and enhancing the environment
5. Protecting and enhancing the quality of life
6. Increasing access to affordable housing
7. Promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency
8. Promoting sustainable urban development

The Action Plan calls for the following initiatives:
1. Developing a comprehensive plan for the development of brownfields
2. Establishing a database of brownfields
3. Identifying potential redevelopment sites
4. Encouraging the use of innovative financing mechanisms
5. Providing incentives for the development of brownfields

San Diego City Councilman Dave Almancon believes that the Redevelopment of urban brownfields is key to smart growth, sustainable development, and protecting the environment. He proposes that the city should develop a comprehensive plan to address the issue of brownfields in the city.

Almancon recommends that the city develop a comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of brownfields. This plan should identify potential sites, develop financing mechanisms, and encourage the use of innovative financing strategies.

San Diego's Redevelopment Agency (SDRA) is already working on a comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of brownfields. The agency has identified several sites for potential development and is working on developing financing mechanisms.

San Diego's experience with the development of brownfields is impressive. The city has already successfully redeveloped several sites, including the old Navy Yard on the city's waterfront.

Almancon believes that the development of brownfields is key to smart growth, sustainable development, and protecting the environment. He proposes that the city should develop a comprehensive plan to address the issue of brownfields in the city.