



# City of Tigard Press Release

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## **Brownfields Grant Provides Opportunity for Hands-on Learning to PCC Students**

The City of Tigard is partnering with Portland Community College (PCC) environmental consultants Amec Foster Wheeler, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on a brownfields site undergoing testing. A brownfield is land that is vacant or underused because of the actual or perceived presence of a hazardous substance or contaminant.

On Nov. 8, a PCC environmental science class will observe field work being done at Highway 99W and SW Hall Boulevard. Amec Foster Wheeler will be conducting geoprobe drilling funded through an EPA brownfields grant that provides funds to conduct environmental site assessments (ESA) on eligible properties.

“The city’s ongoing work with property owners to assess properties and promote the redevelopment of brownfields provides a great opportunity to work with PCC and take the classroom into the field for an up-close look at environmental science work,” said Sean Farrelly, the city’s redevelopment project manager.

In May 2014, the EPA awarded the city two grants worth \$400,000 to help assess and plan for the cleanup of brownfields sites and promote continued redevelopment in commercial, industrial and mixed-use areas. Eight Tigard property owners have been assisted with funds for site assessments. Additional funding is still available for eligible properties.

An ESA involves a contractor inspecting a site for risk of contamination. If that identifies possible contamination, then samples of soil, water and soil gas are taken to identify possible contaminants.

An anticipated 30 students will be on-site for 90 minutes, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Students rotate through three 20-minute stations including: a lecture, lab and on-site viewing of the sampling procedure.

The class will also stop at local Tigard business Apex Laboratories, where the soil and groundwater samples will be analyzed.

Farrelly and representatives of the EPA and DEQ will provide the group presentations about brownfields and will explain the respective goals and perspectives of their organizations.

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