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Huntington Park agrees to revitalization project

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By Arnold Adler, Staff Writer

HUNTINGTON PARK — The city will work with a local environmental group to revitalize an area in the northwest part of the city in a brown-to-green project.

The City Council Aug. 19 agreed to the goal with Communities for a Better Environment, based here.

At this time, there is no city cost involved, City Manager Rene Bobadilla said. He said the city and members of the environmental group will compile a specific plan for the area and seek funding sources.

Bobadilla noted that **Communities for a Better Environment** received a federal Brownfields Area-wide Planning Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2010 that called for community input in revitalizing contaminated sites along with areas that include redevelopment of land where new construction could be hampered by various pollutants or hazardous substances.

The organization has followed the grant mandate by conducting public meetings and workshops on the issue and has set its sights on about 110 acres of land generally south of Slauson Avenue and north of Gage Avenue with Cottage Street and Albany Avenue on the east and Wilmington Avenue to the west, Bobadilla said in a written report prepared by Housing Manager Manny Acosta and Public Works Director James A. Enriquez.

The area in the past has been dominated by heavy industry uses that have resulted in soil and ground water contamination, they said.

Bahram Fazili of Communities for a Better Environment said his group has zeroed in on three sites. They are:

- The former Southland Steel site, a vacant city-owned parcel located at the northwest corner of Alameda and Randolph streets, which could be cleaned up and offered for light industrial use.
- An office/retail building called the Festival Site, at the southeast corner of Alameda and Slauson, owned by the Festival Development Company, an attractive area which could be used for retail shops and restaurants but which is currently “challenged by the high cost of rent, \$2.50 per square foot, and its location near contaminated sites.

- And a semi-active rail corridor along Randolph between Cottage and Wilmington, with a potential for open space, Fazili said.

Goals of the city and Communities for a Better Environment are to attract clean industries that offer quality jobs and ownership opportunities, attract community oriented retail businesses and provide cultural and recreational space.