## Old Landfills: Racing to a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Finish in Redevelopment



#### Nicole Garcia, ASP Allison Amram, PG Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County

# Establishment of EPC

Chapter 67-1504, Laws of Florida

The Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County (EPC) was created in 1967 by a special act of the Florida Legislature to control and regulate activities which are or may reasonably be expected to cause pollution or contamination of air, water, soil and property, or cause excessive and unnecessary noise.



# What is our Purpose?

- Mission: To protect our natural resources, environment, and quality of life in Hillsborough County.
- **Vision:** Environmental excellence in a changing world.
- ✓ Values: Environmental stewardship, integrity, transparency, and accountability
- Core Functions: Citizen Support & Outreach, Ambient Air and Water Quality Monitoring, Permitting, Compliance Assurance, Enforcement

# What Makes EPC Unique!

Real Hillsborough County Commissioners (7) serve in a separate capacity as the Board of EPC

Jurisdiction includes unincorporated Hillsborough County, City of Temple Terrace, Plant City, and Tampa



# Major Permitting Programs Delegated to EPC (15)

- Petroleum Cleanup Program (1987)
- Petroleum Compliance Verification Program (1989)
- Minor Source Industrial Air Permits (1993)
- Asbestos Notification & Inspection Program (1993)
- Title V Major Source Industrial Air Pollution Permits (1995)
- Domestic Wastewater Facility Permits (1995)
- Domestic Wastewater Collection/Transmission Systems Permits (1995)
- Approval of Completion of Construction for Collection/Transmission Permits (1995)
- Industrial Wastewater Facility Permits (2000)
- Brownfields Redevelopment Program (2004)
- Mangrove Trimming Permits (2006)
- Professional Mangrove Trimmer Authorization Program (2006)
- Port Tampa Bay Minor Work Permits (2009)
- Single Family Home & Coastal Activities ERP (2011)
- Army Corp Minor Work Authorizations (2013)

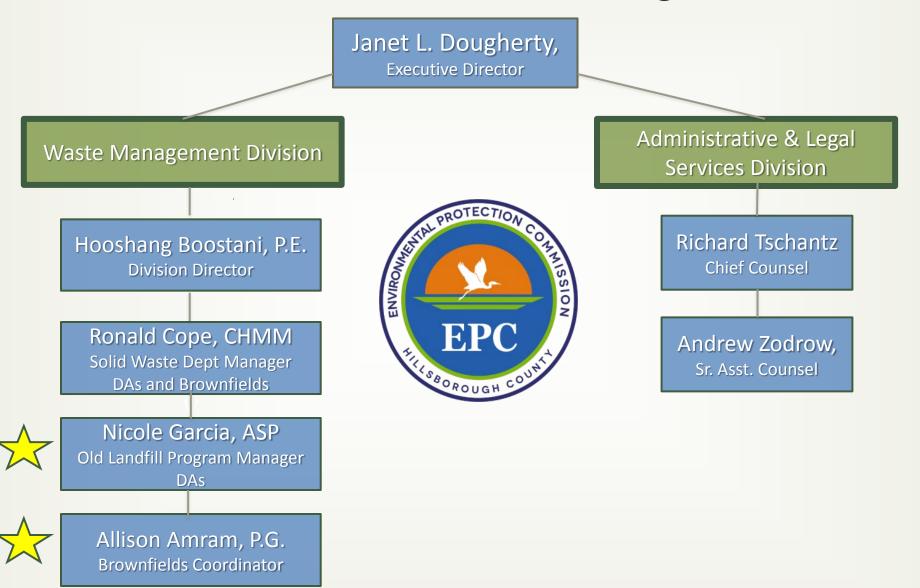


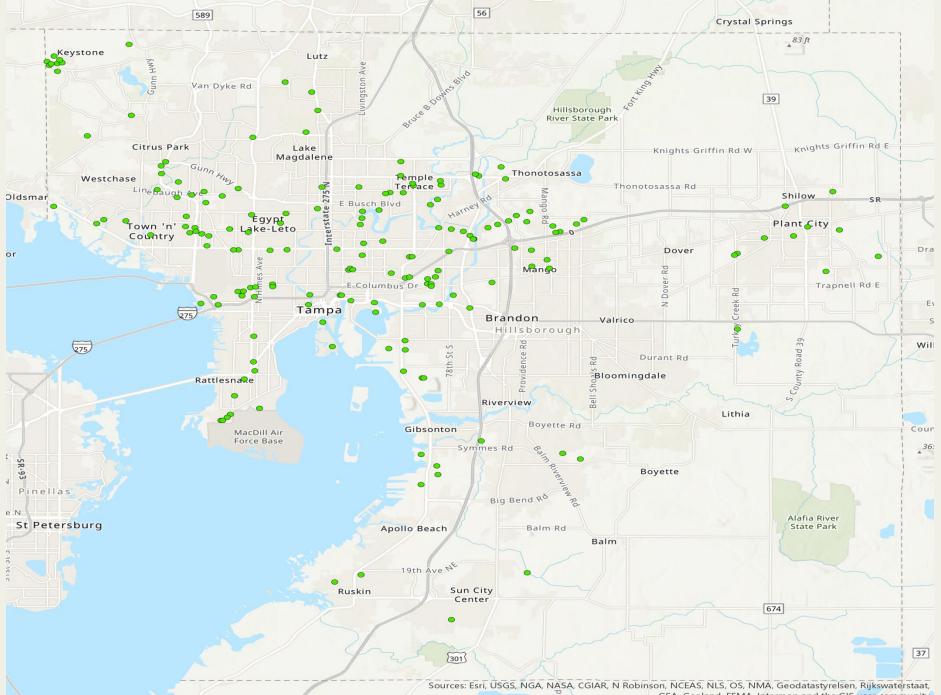
## Programs for Redevelopment of Old Landfills

**Director's Authorization** – **Required** for any construction over waste, or disturbance of waste to ensure public safety and environmental protection.

**Brownfields Program** – **Optional** for redevelopment of OLFs. Requires full Chapter 62-780 FAC site rehabilitation, but provides financial incentives and liability protection.

## Staff Involved in the Programs





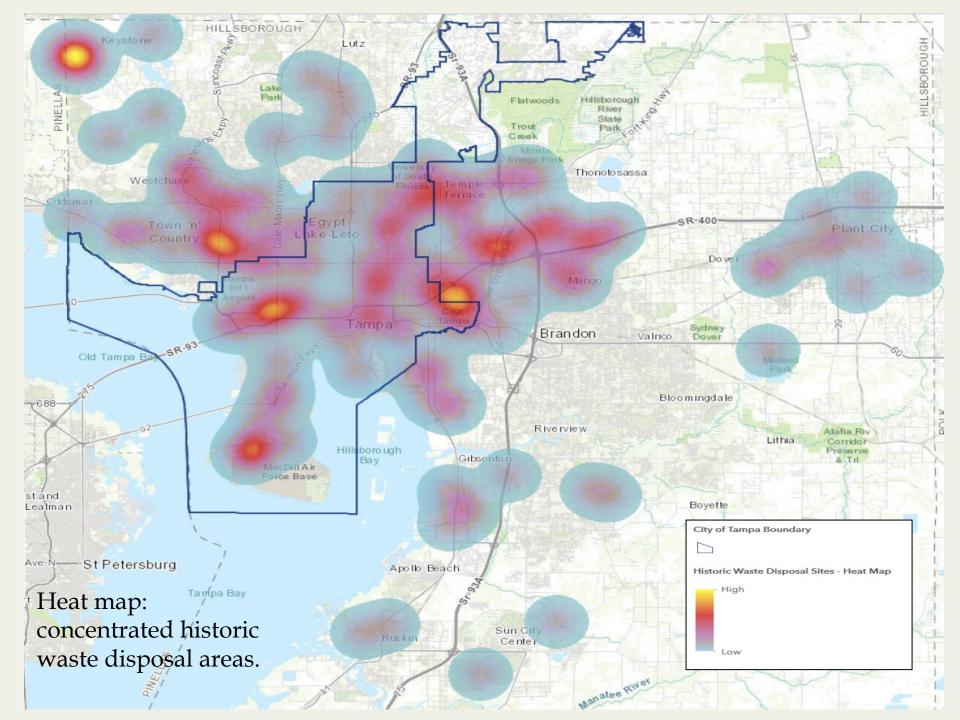
GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community

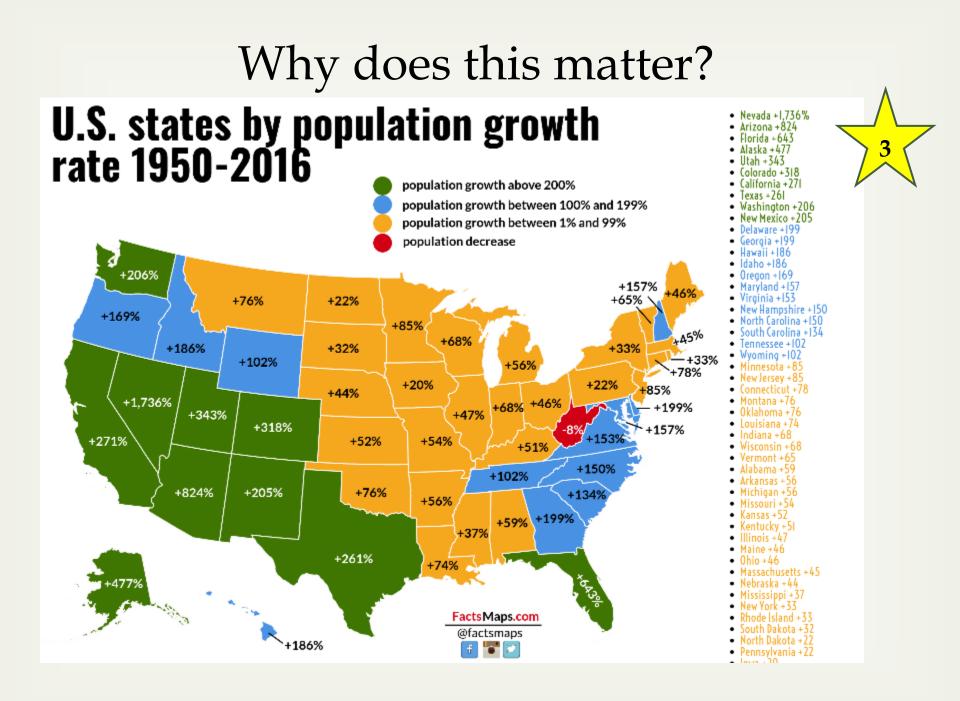
## Old Landfills: Historic Waste Disposal Areas

- Why are there so many OLFs in Hillsborough County? (no written regulations, exemptions, uses)
- Early 1980s, EPA requested States >Local governments to identify old landfills
  - -1984 City of Tampa inventory included 49
  - -1984 Hillsborough County inventory included 16
  - -1985 EPC inventory included 98 sites
  - \*Additional sites identified through EPC activities

\*Current inventory includes 176 sites

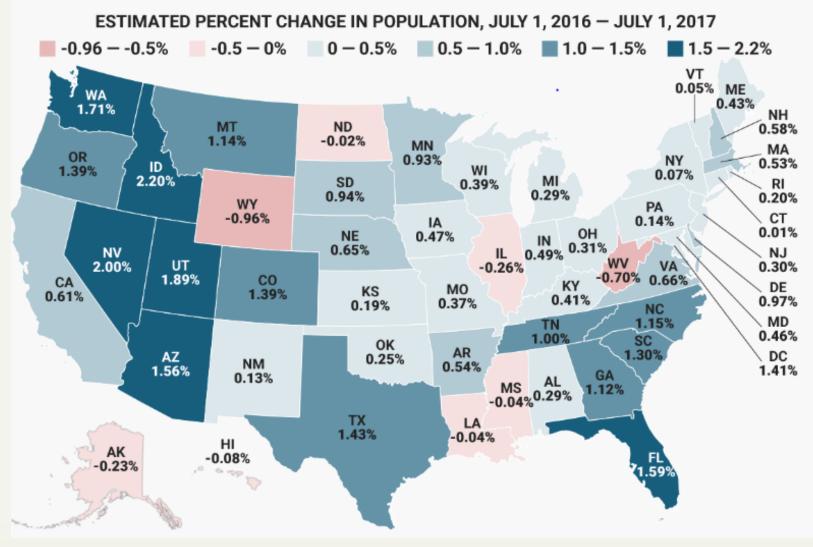
○ OLFs were located at the edge of existing development. With growth, OLFs are now prime land for redevelopment



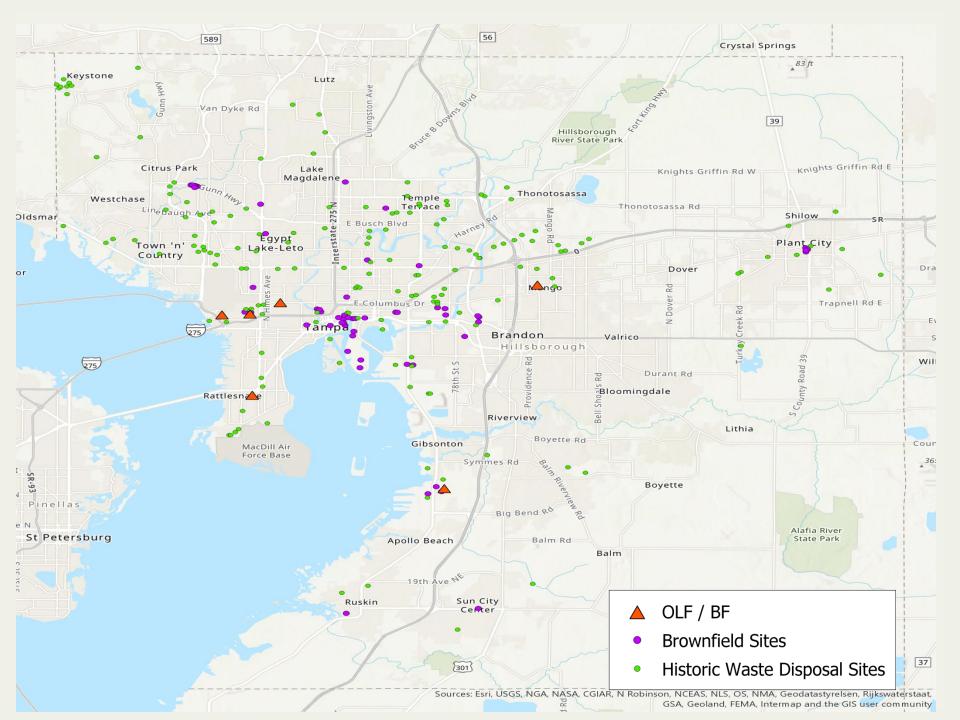


#### Urban infill redevelopment makes sense!

**POPULATION CHANGE** 



Source: U.S. Census Bureau



# What's involved for a Director's Authorization OLF Redevelopment?

#### ∝ D.A. is Required in Hillsborough County.

∝ EPC Rules 1-1 , 1-6, and 1-7

- ☆ Historic Solid Waste Disposal Area" means a property, group of properties, portion of property or localized area at which solid waste is disposed through burial and for which no federal, State or local permit for such disposal had been obtained or had been required at the time of solid waste disposal or at the time of site closure or completion.
- <u>"Old Landfill</u>" is a term commonly used and has the same meaning as "Historic Solid Waste Disposal Area".

Chapter 1-7 Rules of the Environmental Protection Commission allows and encourages redevelopment of Old Landfill sites but requires appropriate environmental safeguards, controls and monitoring.

#### RSM Reuse

- material characterization required
- groundwater impacts prevented
- direct exposure controlled
- landfill generated gas mitigated

#### 

• required in 100% of redevelopment projects

#### 

- slab integrity ensured
- sealed/protected slab (LFG)

#### 

- impacted soils controlled
- RSM controlled
- waste left in place controlled

#### 😪 Storm Water Design

- no uncontrolled impoundment
- waste removal required
- lined ponds/sealed vaults required
- plastic or impervious conveyance piping required

#### Restrictive Covenants

• Required in 99% of redevelopment projects

## **Examples of Engineering Controls**



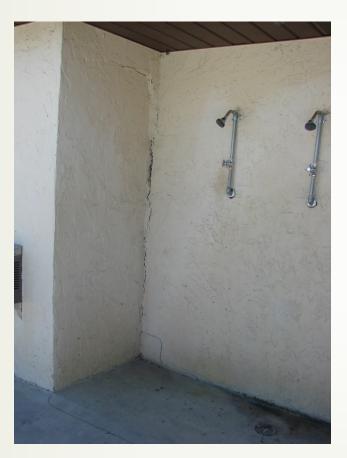
#### **Examples of Engineering Controls**



## Why's this important? Potential hazards from not addressing

**Settlement & Buckling issues** 

LFG



Pool house: cracks, outside shower area





#### LFG Explosion Hazards



## **Unexpected Complications**





#### Site Specifics of a Hillsborough County Park



- Site inspection revealed historic debris warranting further site investigation
- Soil Analyses confirmed As, Ba, [B(a)P], B(a)P equivalents > SCTLs
- Groundwater analyses confirmed Iron>GCTL



### Happy Endings to a Successful Redevelopment









What does the Florida Brownfields Program offer for OLF redevelopment?

#### **Incentives!!**

 Financial incentives and liability protection



 Site Rehabilitation Completion Order (SRCO) goal for contaminated sites
 BUT...

Must complete Ch. 62-780 site rehabilitation!!

#### Financial Incentives – VCTC "Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credits"



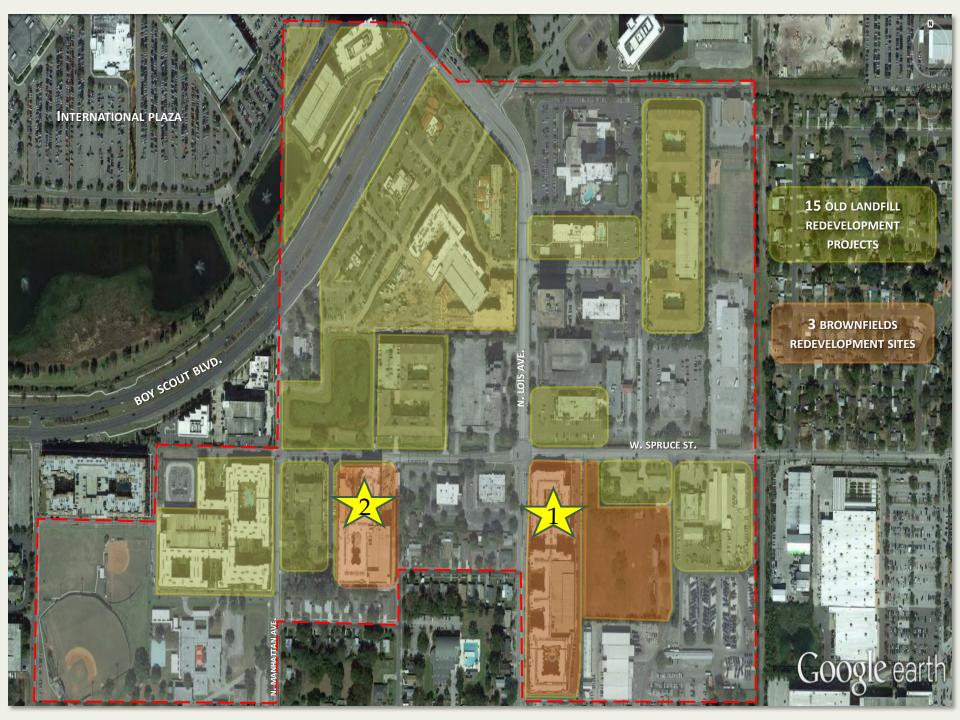
**Solid Waste Incentive** 

**VCTC** = 50% of these costs, capped at \$500,000

Removal  $\rightarrow$  Processing  $\rightarrow$  Transportation  $\rightarrow$  Disposal

To qualify, need to show that the OLF was never permitted, never operated for money. Rule reference: **FS 376.30781(3)(e)** 

VCTCs are issued as credit for Florida's Corporate Income Tax



## Varela Brownfield Site Spruce & Clark Streets

CR DA started November 2002; new DA 2007

Brownfield
program
entered
December
2008



#### Varela: Good Outcomes

- From the DA: Safe redevelopment
- From the BF: SRCO with conditions, VCTCs for solid waste removal and site rehabilitation; liability protection



#### Varela: Not-As-Good Outcomes

No VCTC for Engineering Controls because the RSM was not characterized (tested)



#### **Redeveloped: Varela Apartments**



### **Spruce Street Brownfield Site**

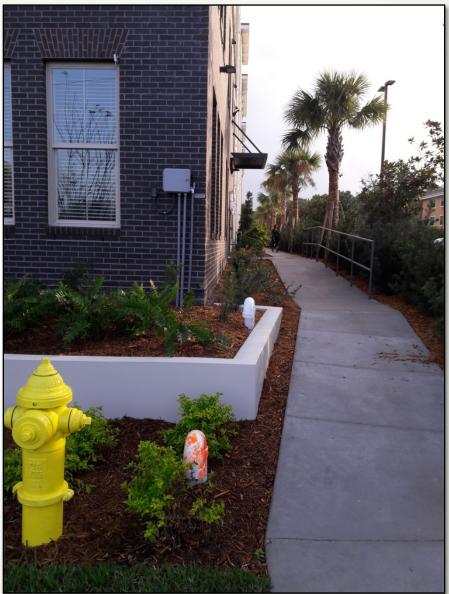
# DA and BF in 2014

- All Solid Waste Removed
- No RSM used
- 3.5 acres landfill surrounded by landfill



#### **Spruce Street Brownfield Site**

Landfill gas vents to prevent intrusion from waste left on adjacent parcels



#### **Contaminated Site Definition**

A "*Contaminated Site*" means any contiguous land, sediment, surface water or groundwater areas that contain contaminants that may be harmful to human health or the environment. FS 376.79(6)



#### Spruce Street Redeveloped: Novus Westshore Apartments



#### Former Tampa Jai Alai



## Former Tampa Jai Alai

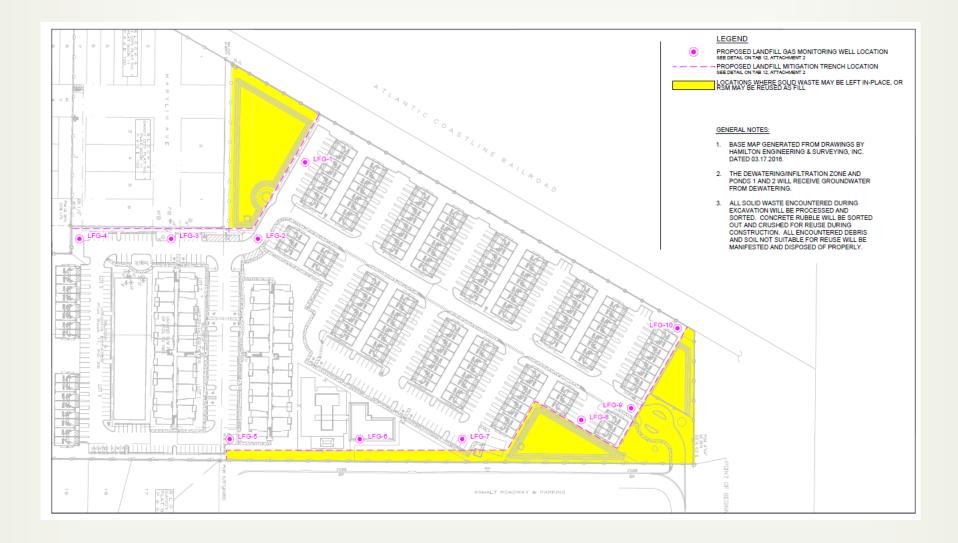


#### Site grading, former Tampa Jai Alai

Waste removed and processed; land surface elevated more than 2 feet.



## **RSM Layout and Engineering Controls**



## **EPC's Authorization vs. Brownfields Program**

#### **Director's Authorization**

- Required for development of solid waste impacted properties
- Onsite assessment only not a cleanup program
- Landfill gas systems and monitoring are required
- No Closure Order issued, no liability protection

#### **Brownfields Program**

- Optional for redevelopment over solid waste
- Must do 62-780 assessment; may go offsite. May be more \$\$ and longer time frame than DA.
- Sign a BSRA, get Brownfield benefits VCTC for up to \$500K for waste removal
- VCTC only available for EC for documented contamination
- SRCO issued; liability protection
- No monitoring after SRCO

### Why sign a BSRA for an OLF??

VCTC for Solid Waste Removal, Site Assessment and placement of Engineering Controls

## When does it REALLY Pay Off?

When your Brownfield site includes the entire former solid waste disposal area

5

ARRANGES !!

Real When you remove solid waste

∝ When you don't have to chase groundwater contamination offsite.

## Old Landfill Redevelopment Project Flow in Hillsborough County

Row that each site has different conditions of concern

- Be in the KNOW-- Contact EPC with Redevelopment proposal for old landfill area

- Consider using both programs to meet your specific redevelopment plans.





**Questions**?

**Old Landfill Redevelopment** 

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Visit us at <u>www.epchc.org</u>

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On behalf of EPC of Hillsborough County, Thank you!