

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION/OPERATIONAL STATEMENT:  
SITING, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE PERMANENT  
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CENTER  
TO SERVE RESIDENTS OF FRESNO COUNTY**

**Nature of Proposal/Operation – Phase I (to be completed by June 2021)**

***(See Phase II & Phase III on page 8)***

The County of Fresno, proposes to site, construct and operate an approximately 20,000 square foot permanent regional Environmental Compliance Center (Center) within the metropolitan Fresno/Clovis area. The purpose of the Center is to provide a safe and convenient means for Fresno County residents (Residential Participants) and small quantity business generators (Business Participants) to dispose of household waste items not allowed for regular disposal.

These household waste items consist of:

"...small quantities of a variety of materials that are the by-products of the operation and maintenance of a place of residence and which exhibit one or more of the following characteristics: toxicity, ignitability, reactivity and corrosivity." (Health and Safety Code, section 25218)

With few exceptions, the majority of these household waste items accepted at the Center can be found in the average garage, under the kitchen sink, or for sale at a local "home store." The applicable State regulations also allow a business that generates small quantities of these items to utilize this center and participate in some of its programs, if that business is able to qualify as a Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (limited to generation of 27 gallons or 220 pounds of these materials monthly). For illustrative purposes only, a generic list of some of the most common items managed at the environmental compliance center appears in Table 1.

**Table 1**

<b>Household Waste Items</b>		<b>Universal Wastes (UW)</b>	
Cleaners & Polishes	Pool chemicals	VCR/DVD players	Printers
Automotive products (including batteries)	Hobby supplies (art supplies, photographic chemicals, etc.)	Household batteries (alkaline & rechargeable)	Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)
Paints & related materials	Medical sharps (needles & lancets)	Small electronic appliances	Cell phones & telephones
Thinners & solvents	Aerosol Cans	Fluorescent tubes	Radios
Adhesives	Treated Wood	Fax machines	Televisions
Aerosol products	Waste oil & oil filters	Copy machines	Computer monitors
Pesticides and fertilizers	Small tanks (BBQ gas, extinguishers)	Hair dryers, curling irons	Cordless battery-operated tools

In addition to accepting and managing household waste items brought to the Center by Residential and Business Participants, the Facility will:

- Operate a Reuse Center (for the distribution of useable household products brought to the Center);
- Serve as:
  - A Certified Used Oil & Automotive Fluids Collection Center
  - A Designated Sharps Collection Point
  - A battery collection point; and
- Participate in the PaintCare Program for the recycling of acceptable paints.

Additionally, a variety of off-site programs will be operated out of the Center, allowing household waste items to be collected and brought back to the Center for consolidation and management. Off-site programs may include, but are not limited to:

- A Door-To-Door (DTD) Program, to serve the homebound and the infirm;
- A Mobile Program, to provide periodic temporary collection events, primarily at locations outside of the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area; and
- A Drop-off Program, utilizing local businesses within Fresno County to collect various types of Universal Waste (UW).

As specified in the applicable regulations, some of the programs described above will be “Full-Service,” dealing with all types of household waste items, and some programs will provide “Limited Service,” dealing only with UW and/or specific waste streams such as sharps. Additional programs (such as that being developed for recycling solar panels, with an anticipated minimum amount of one pallet of approximately ten (10) panels per pallet accepted per month) may be added as applicable state regulatory requirements change and the county complies accordingly.

No household waste items will be buried at the proposed site; no household waste items will remain on the site when the Center is no longer operational. All household waste items that are brought to the Center will be sorted, consolidated, and shipped out to appropriate management/recycling facilities on a regular basis by properly licensed haulers throughout the life of the Center, in accordance with Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 22. The County has budgeted sufficient funds in Org. 9015 to meet State Closure/Financial Assurance Plan (Plan) requirements. The Plan for the Center will regulate and ensure that adequate funding is available for the removal of all household waste items from the Facility at closure.

### **Proposed Operational Time Limits**

The Center is anticipated to operate within the following Hours/Days of Operation:

- Center open 12 months per year; operating Monday – Saturday from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm
- Initially open to Residents Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm (except Holiday weekends), however, the days available for residential use will be amended as the participation level increases; open for Small Businesses on Friday and Saturday by scheduled appointment only, as with the residential program, as participation increases, the days available for use by Business Participants will be amended.

## Number of Customers/Participants

At the current Center, the majority of program participants (Off-Site Participants) rarely visit the Center because of the large distance from the Fresno/Clovis Metropolitan Area. Their household waste items - mostly UW is collected at off-site locations throughout the County and transported to the Center by staff (Local Network Sites). Several factors unique to this Center are reflected in the Participant Count projections provided in Table 2. These factors include:

**Table 2**

Participant Counts								
Participant Type	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Annual Total	Weekly Average
<b>Currently</b>								
Residential	0	0	0	0	0	30-40	1,732	~35
Business	0	0	0	0	0-1	0	26	~0.5
<i>Total Customers</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>1732</i>	<i>1,758</i>	<i>~35.5</i>
<b>Projected By 2025</b>								
Residential	~10	~20	~20	~30	~30	~50	~8,000	~160
Business	~2	~2	~2	~2	~2	0	~500	~10
<i>Total Customers</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>~1,100</i>	<i>~1,100</i>	<i>~1,600</i>	<i>~1600</i>	<i>~2,500</i>	<i>~8,500</i>	<i>~170</i>

## Visitors

From time to time individuals and small groups of people (Visitors) may be granted access to participate in a variety of outreach, educational and/or training programs, including an occasional Center tour or committee meeting, by appointment only, during normal operating hours. The number of visitors is anticipated to average no more than 25 individual guests on any day of the week. One or two groups of 10 to 25 visitors each could be accommodated by appointment.

It is anticipated these visitors will utilize passenger vehicles (cars and small trucks) to access the site. Personnel from fire, health and police departments may occasionally access the site at any time for inspections or enforcement-related reasons, and/or to dispose of household waste items collected in the line of duty.

## Numbers of Employees

The current Center contracts approximately four personnel (Facility Staff) to manage and staff the Facility (including the Reuse Center) and to collect from the Local Network (e.g., DTD, Mobile Event, Drop-off Programs and Sharps Collection). Center Staff will be scheduled to work within the proposed operational time limits described in Section 2. Subject to changes in customer demand, it is anticipated that initially, there will be one “full-time” (eight hours a day) employee, working five days per week, throughout the year and three part-time employees, working hours and days as needed. At full capacity, there may be as many as ten (10) employees, some working full-time and others part-time weekly throughout the year. There will be no on-site live-in caretaker.

## **Service and Delivery Vehicles**

It is anticipated that the Primary Hauler will come to the Center in a large tractor-trailer an estimated twelve times per year (e.g., one truck pick-up per month) during the first year the Center is fully operational. The number of visits required could increase to two to three times that amount over the next five years in order to remove the material from the site as required. Certain service and maintenance vehicles will make periodic site visits, anticipated to be less than 2 to 3 vehicles monthly.

## **Site Access**

The Center will be designed for public traffic flow, allowing queuing of approximately 10 to 20 vehicles on-site, with the collection area able to service two or more vehicles at a time. In addition, the bulk of the Facility's traffic will initially be confined to Saturdays, which is a relatively slow day for most industrial businesses. Participants will take a paved drive with signage, drive through the open Entrance Gate that will take them directly to the Center. Upon reaching the Center, Participants will pull up onto the concrete pad to the designated Unloading and Collection area where staff will unload their household waste items. Participants must remain in their vehicles when dropping off their household waste items. After staff remove the materials, vehicles will proceed past the Reuse Center and exit out from the Center on the paved Exit Drive and through the Exit Gate. Participants visiting the Reuse Center shall be required to park in the designated parking spaces provided, then exit via the drive to the Exit Gate.

## **Parking**

Approximately nine (9) standard and one (1) handicap accessible parking space(s) are anticipated to be provided. During Center Hours, parking will be used by Center Staff and by Participants wishing to visit the Reuse Center. Service providers, vendors and Haulers will load and unload their vehicles in the covered Unloading and Collection area during normal operating hours.

## **No Products Produced or Sold**

The primary function of the Center is to collect and properly manage household waste items generated by residents of Fresno County for shipping and proper recycling/disposal at an off-site approved facility. No products will be produced or sold at the site. No processing will be undertaken, although materials collected (and/or their containers) will be separated, consolidated, packaged, and/or similarly handled to make them more manageable, reusable or recyclable. Whenever practical, items including, but not limited to, packaging, cardboard boxes, empty containers, and office paper that may be generated at the site will be consolidated and sent to a recycling facility/program.

Residential household waste items shall be collected from Residential Participants at no charge. Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) Waste will be collected from Business Participants (appointment required) during normal operating hours. Business Participants shall be required to reimburse the Center Operator for the cost of

recycling/disposal at the rates specified in the Consultant Agreement. The Primary Subcontractor shall provide free cost estimates to Business Participants.

## Major Equipment, Materials and Supplies

Minor equipment at the Center shall include, but not be limited to a forklift and/or pallet jack, small power tools, shop vacuum, and a small commercial scale. Appropriate storage units will be provided for items such as hand tools, solid waste, UW, recyclables and supplies, including but not limited to personal protective gear, cleaning equipment, packaging materials, storage boxes/drums, wiping cloths, brooms and absorbent. Paper goods and hand soap serving the toilet and hand wash sink shall be scheduled for restocking weekly or sooner as needed.

Specific major on-site equipment is anticipated to include, but not be limited to (sizing and number of units are anticipated at initial opening of the Center):

- Two (2) 8'-0" x 40'-0" ISO (Seatrail) storage units to store E-Waste and Universal waste, not to exceed four (4) units at full capacity
- One (1) 500 gallon used oil storage tank with secondary containment (Not to exceed 2 at full capacity)
- One (1) 300 gallon antifreeze storage tank with secondary containment (Not to exceed 2 at full capacity)
- Several transportable items such as two (2) roll-off bins for trash and recycling, and multiple pallets or crates for packaged e-waste (these will be placed inside the ISO containers for storage until pick up by authorized hauler)
- One (1) 6' x 4' Automobile Battery storage unit, not to exceed four(4) at full capacity
- One (1) emergency eye wash/shower station, not to exceed two (2) at full capacity
- One Storage unit for items such as protective gear, packaging, absorbent and cleaning materials, lab materials, empty packing cartons and drums. Increase in size up to 8'0" x 40", no more than four (4) units at full capacity

## Noise, Glare, Dust and Odors

Given the size and nature of the Center, it is unlikely that the small increase in noise, glare, dust and odors due to Center operations will reach detectable levels beyond the perimeter of the Center.

**Noise** - The primary activities to take place at the Center (collection, consolidation and storage) are not inherently noisy. Some of the noise will be attributable to the use of hand tools (e.g., impact wrenches, rubber hammers) and the forklift. However, this noise is anticipated to be intermittent and of relatively short duration. Traffic noise associated with the arrival and departure of the estimated Participant vehicles during Business Hours should not be significant. Periodically, service providers, regulatory agencies and/or Visitors vehicles may enter the Center. Congestion, emissions, noise and odors should not be an issue given the small number of such vehicles.

**Dust** - None of the proposed activities associated with the Center are anticipated to increase the generation of dust. Household waste items handling protocols to be used at the Center are designed to prevent the disbursement of friable materials. Absorbents used are designed to be as dust-free as possible. Given that most of the Center's area is paved and covered, this project should result in an overall reduction rather than any increase in the potential for dust creation.

**Glare** - Center pole mounted security and fluorescent task lighting shall be hooded to shield light from neighboring properties and roads.

**Odor** - Center operating procedures require most packages to not be opened. Oil-based and latex paint, as well as other materials, will not be opened or consolidated on site. No organic material other than small amounts of treated wood will be collected. Therefore air and odor emissions associated with this project should be well below regulatory limits, as well as undetectable by neighbors and any sensitive receptors in the area.

### **Generation of Liquid and Solid Wastes**

**Liquid Wastes** - All liquid waste generated at this Center shall be collected and contained within underground containment tanks and vaults. The toilet will be connected to the sanitary sewer system. Discharged emergency eye wash/shower liquid shall be diverted to the onsite underground tank. A licensed contractor, under contract with the County of Fresno, shall conduct pumping of all underground tanks and vaults. Water shall not be used for managing the household waste items. All program-related clean up is conducted with absorbents and wiping cloths, which are then incorporated with the household waste items and transported to appropriate off-site management facilities or programs.

**Precipitation** - All waste handling activities shall occur either within a storage module equipped with secondary containment devices or beneath the Center roof. The storage units and the roof protect the household waste items from exposure to the elements, as it is unloaded and sorted, as well as for all stored materials and equipment. With potential contaminants protected and all spills quickly contained and remediated, rainwater will not “take-on” contaminants from the Center and should be safely and legally incorporated with similar rainwater run-off generated by neighboring businesses.

**Solid Waste** - Solid waste may be generated while collecting household waste items from the public, including empty boxes, buckets, containers and bags. In addition, empty oil and antifreeze containers will be added to the solid waste as Center staff will be bulking these items directly into above-ground storage tanks. Solid waste designated for disposal will be placed into one or two small debris boxes on site for subsequent periodic disposal by the private solid waste hauler that serves the Center. Empty boxes along with small quantities of office paper, plastic bottles and cans, deemed recyclable, will be collected in a separate debris box for recycling.

### **Water**

Water for the Center shall be supplied to the site from the City’s existing water service. Approximate water usage is estimated to be 100 gallons per week initially, increasing to up to 400 gallons per week at full capacity.

### **Advertising and Signage**

Signage identifying the Center, along with directional and informational signage as required by law and as needed to ensure that Participants have a safe, and productive experience will be posted. The placement of directional signage is anticipated to be at the main entrance, and adjacent access roads. Additional needed signs will be placed within the site to meet various regulatory and logistic requirements (e.g., “No Smoking”, “Stay in your vehicle”, “Keep Right”). All signage shall be designed and placed in such a manner as to comply with all applicable regulatory and development standards. Pavement marking signs will assist in Participant traffic control.

## **Existing Structures**

Currently, there are no structures on the site. The site consists of ungraded, unimproved land.

## **Proposed Structures**

All new structures within the Facility are planned to be temporary, easily relocated structures to be removed at the time of Center Closure. New structures within the Center are anticipated as follows (sizing and number of units are estimated for time of opening):

- One (1) portable 8'-0" x 20'-0" modular office equipped with electrical power, lighting and electrical heating/cooling air conditioner unit.
- One (1) prefabricated 12'-0" x 12'-0" concrete unisex vault toilet equipped with water closet, hand washing lavatory, electric hand dryer and associated paper goods. Toilet vault shall be equipped with a high-level alarm.
- Two (2) 8'-0" x 40'-0" Hazardous Materials storage containers equipped with explosion relief panels, dry chemical fire suppression system, interior lighting and secondary containment system. An approved Alarm Company under contract with the County of Fresno shall monitor the dry chemical fire suppression system. Not to exceed 4 at full capacity.
- One (1) 13'-6" x 10'-0" Hazardous Materials storage unit for collection and storage of used automotive oil (to hold 500 gallon used oil tank listed in Equipment section on page 5) and one (1) 8' x 20' Materials storage unit to hold a 300-gallon antifreeze tank as listed in the Equipment section on Page 5. Not to exceed 2 of each at full capacity.
- One (1) 12'-0" x 20'-0" Reuse Center hazardous materials container equipped with explosion relief panels, dry chemical fire suppression system, interior lighting and secondary containment system. An approved Alarm Company under contract with the County of Fresno shall monitor the dry chemical fire suppression system. Not to exceed 2 containers at full capacity.
- One (1) 80'-0" x 80'-0" permanent metal roof equipped with skylights, fluorescent task lighting, and a fire suppression system serving the Unloading and Collection area.

## **Modular Conference/Education Center**

A modular office structure of approximately 36' x 60' will be added to the site and placed on an appropriately sized concrete pad, and utilities routed to this structure. This building will serve as a Conference and Education Center for meetings and Group Education such as high school field trips, etc. Additional parking and driveway access will be included in the site plan.

At Center Closure, all structures, underground tanks and utilities shall be dismantled and removed from the site. Abandoned paved roads, onsite paved areas and demolished concrete slabs shall be hauled away and recycled. Testing of the abandoned site for soil contamination will be conducted to confirm the abandoned site area is free of Center-generated contaminants.

## **Outdoor Lighting and Sound Amplification**

**Lighting** - The Center is anticipated to have approximately ten - 20-foot high pole-mounted photocell-controlled 2-stage LED security lights spaced evenly around the Center perimeter. Photocell activated fluorescent lighting fixtures are anticipated to be provided below the roofed area. Fluorescent task lighting is anticipated to be located above the emergency eye wash/shower. All lighting is anticipated to be hooded to direct the light down and away from

adjacent properties and roadways. All lighting shall conform to California Energy Efficiency Standards for outdoor lighting.

**Sound Amplification** - An outdoor public address sound amplification system shall be installed at the Center to address Participants and Visitors when needed. In most cases, Participants will be addressed individually by staff members without the use of the amplification system. Staff members will communicate with each other and outside the Center via cell phones or handheld radios.

### **Landscaping and Fencing**

Landscaping will be designed to integrate with neighborhood landscape standards and will be water efficient. The perimeter of the Center is anticipated to be enclosed with a galvanized, 8-foot high chain-link fence equipped with three strands of barbed wire (total approximately 10 feet high). The fence is also anticipated to have a pair of 8-foot chain link rolling gates at the Customer Entrance and a pair of 8-foot chain link rolling gates at the Customer Exit to the Center. The exit gate will serve as a delivery/transport truck entrance/exit on non-customer use days.

### **Phase II – Addition of Storage Warehouse Building (Estimated to be completed by June 2023)**

In Phase II of the Center Construction, after the Modular Conference/Education Center has been completed, A metal storage warehouse building of approximately 50' x 100' will be added to the site with an appropriately sized concrete pad with grading and drainage to an underground 1,500 gallon sump tank. The Storage Warehouse will include a man door and two roll-up doors to accommodate loading and unloading of hauler/supplier trucks, and access by employees and forklift. It will also include a fire suppression system, alarm system and surveillance cameras.

### **Additional Information**

The definitions, regulations and detection thresholds pertaining to hazardous household waste items are constantly being revised by a variety of regulatory agencies. The Center does not intend to be limited to managing only those items in Table 1. Nor does the Center have any obligation to accept every item as defined. For example, the Center will not accept radioactive or explosive material. Only small cylinders of compressed gases, such as those used for barbecues or camp stoves, and fire extinguishers, will be accepted. Items such as ammunition and fireworks are directed to law enforcement for management elsewhere. Small quantities of treated wood waste (e.g., railroad ties, utility poles) may be accepted from Participants who abide by all current regulations applicable to this waste stream. The Center will ONLY accept household waste items that are manageable by the Center staff. The required Operations/Emergency Plan will provide detailed information on how the Center will manage both acceptable and unacceptable waste streams, including but not limited to procedures for initiating tracking of any items turned away.

Household waste items brought to the Center by each Participant will be limited to household quantities. Health and Safety Codes limit County Residential Participants from transporting more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds of these materials to the Center from their place of residence. Business Participants, also known as Conditional Exempt Small Quantity Generators or CESQGs, are limited to bringing 27 gallons or 220 pounds of these materials



from their place of business on a monthly basis. Large commercial or industrial generators of these materials are prohibited from using this Center. The Center will accept small quantities of abandoned household waste items brought for management by "first responders," such as the County Public Health Department, as well as fire and police personnel.

Residents dropping off household waste items at the Center are required to remain in their vehicles. Acceptable materials are removed from vehicles by Center staff within the roof-covered Staging Area, transferred to the sorting area within the material storage units, sorted, and then appropriately packaged into Department of Transportation (DOT) approved shipping containers.

Most of the household waste items collected will be stored in the original containers unless the container is found to be unsound or leaking. This method allows for tertiary storage of the container contents within the packing drum and modular unit providing additional levels of security.

Waste oil and used antifreeze will be directly bulked appropriately into large capacity containers located inside a regulated materials container, equipped with secondary containment. These bulk wastes will be stored until the volume approaches maximum capacity, at which time transportation to the appropriate reclamation collection facility will be arranged using a licensed hauler.

Home-generated sharps will also be accepted in approved containers. Staff will subsequently place the sharps containers inside a medical waste container. When full, they will be transported by a Medical Waste Transporter to an appropriate certified management facility.

A key element to operating a cost-effective collection program is maximizing the reuse of these household waste items. Materials eligible for reuse by the public includes, but is not limited to paint, fertilizer, household cleaners, stain, varnish, automotive products, garden products and aerosol products at least half full with an operating nozzle. Reusability of a product will be determined by the Center staff and will depend upon factors such as age, amount of product remaining, potential hazard and demand. Items selected will be in the original container with readable labels and judged by the staff to be uncontaminated. All participants electing to take reuse materials will be required to sign a waiver of liability. Items brought to the Center, which are suitable for reuse, will be placed in the prefabricated modular material storage unit designated as the Reuse Center. Under the direct supervision of staff, Participants will be allowed to select items to take home from the Reuse Center during Business Hours.

The Center will store household waste items on site until enough is collected to warrant pick-up by the certified hauler. As soon as enough household waste items have been accumulated to warrant a pick-up, it will be removed from the Facility by an appropriate Hauler. Most waste streams will be removed once a month. However, no specific unit of these materials is allowed to remain on site more than one year (without special dispensation from the local enforcement agency).

It is anticipated that On-site Participants will bring the bulk of the household waste items directly to the Center. In addition, household waste items managed at off-site locations, which are brought to the Local Network Sites by the public, will be transported to the Center by staff for consolidation, storage and management.

Security of the Center is addressed in multiple ways. When closed, the Center will be monitored by an alarm/surveillance system. An eight-foot high chain link fence, topped with

barbwire will surround the Center itself. There will be perimeter lighting to facilitate surveillance after hours. The storage units on-site are constructed of reinforced steel and are secured at all times with an appropriate security-locking device when Center staff is not present.

Day-to-day operations of the Center will be subcontracted (Primary Subcontractor). Besides collecting, identifying, sorting, consolidating, packing, tracking and reporting the household waste items, the Primary Subcontractor will be responsible for maintaining a contract with a licensed management company (Hauler) to collect the household waste items from the Center and take it to approved/permitted facilities for management. The Hauler is anticipated to provide service at least once a month. Frequency of service will increase as needed. (Please note that the Primary Subcontractor must have the ability to request service from the Hauler as frequently as needed, in order to remove the manifested material from the Facility as required by law.) The initial Primary Subcontractor shall be Stericycle, Inc., who currently operates the American Avenue Permanent Regional Facility, its associated off-site programs, and the Local Network Program, as well as similar programs for various jurisdictions throughout California. Stericycle currently utilizes its own vehicles to remove the household waste items to approved/permitted recycling and appropriate management facilities.

The County of Fresno has operated the Permanent Regional HHW Facility at the American Avenue landfill for 4 years without any accidents or incidents to date. The distance from county residents, approximately 25 miles west of the Fresno County population center, has been prohibitive to resident participation. That site will no longer be available for use by this facility (the landfill needs the site for solid waste disposal). For these reasons, the County of Fresno and the 15 incorporated cities within the county are looking to site, build and operate an Environmental Compliance Center within the Fresno area, where the majority of the County population resides. This will provide a safe and convenient place for residents and small businesses to bring their Household Waste items for proper handling, storage, and shipping out for proper disposal.

Our statistics for 2017 were as follows:

Annual Participants:	1,732 residents	26 businesses
Annual Facility weight collected:	164,005 lbs.	
Annual Event weight collected:	93,753 lbs.	
Total Annual weight collected:	257,758 lbs.	

The statistics for the future at the new site are anticipated to increase over time, doubling within the first one to three years of operation.

Anticipated participation by 2025:

Annual Participants:	5,000 residents	75 businesses
Annual Center weight collected:	500,000 lbs.	
Annual Event weight collected:	100,000 lbs.	
Total Annual weight collected:	600,000 lbs.	