

August 8, 2023

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL SUBMISSION**

Fresno County Public Health Department  
1221 Fulton Street,  
Fresno, CA 93721

**Re: Public Records Act Request**

Dear Freedom of Information Officer:

Judicial Watch, Inc. (“Judicial Watch”) hereby requests that the Fresno County Public Health Department, Fresno, California, produce the following records pursuant to the California Public Records Act (CPRA).

Records and / or communications maintained by the Fresno County Public Health Department, including emails, email chains, email attachments, text messages, meeting minutes, interviews, voice recordings, video recordings, photographs, correspondence, statements, letters, memoranda, reports, briefings, affidavits, inspections, presentations, notes, or other form of record, regarding Prestige BioTech and Universal Meditech Inc.

Please provide records from April 1, 2023 to present.

**Definitions**

“COMMUNICATION(S)” means every manner or method of disclosure, exchange of information, statement, or discussion between or among two or more persons, including but not limited to, face-to-face and telephone conversations, correspondence, memoranda, telegrams, telexes, email messages, voice-mail messages, text messages, meeting minutes, discussions, releases, statements, reports, publications, and any recordings or reproductions thereof.

“DOCUMENT(S)” or “RECORD(S)” mean any kind of written, graphic, or recorded matter, however produced or reproduced, of any kind or description, whether sent, received, or neither, including drafts, originals, non-identical copies, and information stored magnetically, electronically, photographically or otherwise. As used herein, the terms “DOCUMENT(S)” or “RECORD(S)” include, but are not limited to, studies, papers, books, accounts, letters, diagrams, pictures, drawings, photographs, correspondence, telegrams, cables, text messages, emails, memoranda, notes, notations, work papers, intra-office and inter-office communications, communications to, between and among employees, contracts, financial agreements, grants, proposals, transcripts, minutes, orders, reports, recordings, or other documentation of telephone or other conversations, interviews, affidavits, slides, statement summaries, opinions, indices, analyses, publications, questionnaires, answers to questionnaires, statistical records,

**August 8, 2023**

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ledgers, journals, lists, logs, tabulations, charts, graphs, maps, surveys, sound recordings, data sheets, computer printouts, tapes, discs, microfilm, and all other records kept, regardless of the title, author, or origin.

“PERSON” means individuals, entities, firms, organizations, groups, committees, regulatory agencies, governmental entities, business entities, corporations, partnerships, trusts, and estates.

“REFERS,” “REFERRING TO,” “REGARDS,” REGARDING,” “RELATES,” “RELATING TO,” “CONCERNS,” “CONCERNING” or “PERTAINS TO” mean containing, alluding to, responding to, commenting upon, discussing, showing, disclosing, explaining, mentioning, analyzing, constituting, comprising, evidencing, setting forth, summarizing, or characterizing, either directly or indirectly, in whole or in part.

Please determine whether to comply with this request within the time period required by FOIA and notify us immediately of your determination, the reasons therefor, and the right to appeal any adverse determination to the head of the agency or his or her designee. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(i). Please also produce all responsive records in an electronic format (“pdf” is preferred), if convenient. We also are willing to accept a “rolling production” of responsive records if it will facilitate a more timely production.

Judicial Watch also hereby requests a waiver of both search and duplication fees. We are entitled to a waiver of search fees because we are a “representative of the news media.” *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II); *see also Cause of Action v. Federal Trade Comm.*, 799 F.3d 1108 (D.C. Cir. 2015); *Nat’l Sec. Archive v. U.S. Dep’t of Defense*, 880 F.2d 1381 (D.C. Cir. 1989). For more than twenty years, Judicial Watch has used FOIA and other investigative tools to gather information about the operations and activities of government, a subject of undisputed public interest. We submit over 400 FOIA requests annually. Our personnel, which includes experienced journalists and professional writers on staff and under contract, use their editorial skills to turn this raw information into distinct works that are disseminated to the public via our monthly newsletter, which has a circulation of over 300,000, weekly email update, which has over 600,000 subscribers, investigative bulletins, special reports, [www.judicialwatch.org](http://www.judicialwatch.org) website, *Corruption Chronicles* blog, and social media, including Facebook and Twitter, among other distribution channels. We have authored several books, including *Corruption Chronicles* by Tom Fitton (Threshold Editions, July 24, 2012), and *Clean House* by Tom Fitton (Threshold Editions, Aug. 30, 2016). In 2012, we produced a documentary film, “District of Corruption,” directed by Stephen K. Bannon. Our “news media” status has been confirmed in court rulings. *See, e.g., Judicial Watch, Inc. v. U.S. Dep’t of Defense*, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 44003, \*1 (D.D.C. June 28, 2006); *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. U.S. Dep’t of Justice*, 133 F. Supp.2d 52 (D.D.C. 2000). As a tax exempt, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, we have no commercial interests and do not seek the requested records for any commercial use. Rather, we intend to use the requested records as part of our on-

Fresno County Health Department

**August 8, 2023**

**Page 3 of 3**

going investigative journalism and public education efforts to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in government and fidelity to the rule of law.

Judicial Watch also is entitled to a waiver of both search fees and duplication fees because “disclosure of the information is in the public interest.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Disclosure of the requested records undoubtedly will shed light on “the operations or activities of the government.” *Cause of Action*, 799 F.3d at 1115 (*quoting* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii)). Disclosure also is “likely to contribute significantly to the public understanding” of those operations or activities because, among other reasons, Judicial Watch intends to disseminate both the records and its findings to “a reasonably broad audience of persons interested in the subject” via its newsletter, email updates, investigative bulletins, website, blog, and its other, regular distribution channels. *Cause of Action*, 799 F.3d at 1116 (*quoting* *Carney v. U.S. Dep’t of Justice*, 19 F.3d 807, 815 (2d Cir. 1994)). Again, Judicial Watch does not seek the requested records for any commercial benefit or for its own “primary” benefit, but instead seeks them as part of its ongoing investigative journalism and public education efforts to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in government and fidelity to the rule of law.

In the event our request for a waiver of search and/or duplication costs is denied, Judicial Watch agrees to pay up to \$300.00 in search and/or duplication costs. Judicial Watch requests that it be contacted before any such costs are incurred, in order to prioritize search and duplication efforts.

If you do not understand this request or any portion thereof, or if you feel you require clarification of this request or any portion thereof, please contact us immediately at 202-646-5172 or [cnelson@judicialwatch.org](mailto:cnelson@judicialwatch.org).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson

Judicial Watch, Inc.

425 3rd St SW

Suite 800

Washington, DC 20024

[cnelson@judicialwatch.org](mailto:cnelson@judicialwatch.org)



## County of Fresno

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

David Luchini, Director

Dr. Rais Vohra, Interim Health Officer

#### **ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO FOR THE INSPECTION OF A FACILITY LOCATED AT 850 I STREET REEDLEY, CA 93654**

**April 21, 2023**

**Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Sections 120175.5 (b) & 101070 (b), the Health Officer of the County of Fresno orders as follows:**

1. This order is issued as a result of multiple attempts to communicate with Universal MediTech Inc, Prestige Biotech Inc (“business owners”) currently leasing space located at 850 I Street, Reedley, CA 93654 to confirm hazardous materials, biological specimens, and operational practices to ensure hazardous waste and medical waste are appropriately being disposed of in compliance with Federal and State requirements.
2. Attempts to communicate with business owners in regards to facility located at 850 I Street, Reedley, CA 93654 since December 19, 2022 from City of Reedley and other public agencies to ascertain contents and items at the facility have been unsuccessful.
3. City of Reedley building officials posted on March 3, 2023 an Unsafe to Occupy Notice in front of the building. Building has limited power source supplying refrigerators and freezers that are storing reagents, biological samples, appearance of containers used to culture virus(es), and multiple chemical containers. Items documented by City of Reedley officials.
4. Preliminary investigation into the business owners does not list them as a licensed laboratory under Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) under the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
5. City of Reedley reports business owners statements that they are conducting laboratory research on mice for COVID.
6. City of Reedley has documented inhumane treatment of mice on site.
7. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and California Department of Public Health, Food and Drug Branch (FDB) have been investigating the facility and business owners and have embargoed clinical testing kits at the facility due to non-compliance.
8. CDC has interest in the reagents being stored in the refrigerator/freezer that have been imported from outside of the United States which will require a federal permit which the business does not currently possess.

The Health Officer hereby orders an inspection, search, identification, and categorization of all chemicals, biological specimens, reagents, and other hazardous materials or biological materials to ascertain an inventory of items that may be a potential harm to the public if not handled and/or stored or transported appropriately in compliance with Federal and State regulations on April 21, 2023 and any necessary subsequent visits up to May 6, 2023.

***Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health***

1221 Fulton Street /P. O. Box 11867, Fresno, CA 93775

(559) 600-3200 • FAX (559) 600-7687

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I, as Interim Health Officer for the County of Fresno, encourage voluntary compliance with this Health Officer's Order. However, violation of this order is subject to fine, imprisonments or both (California Health and Safety Code Section 120295.)

Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is punishable by fine, imprisonment or both under various criminal statutes:

Cal. Penal Code section 148 makes it a misdemeanor to resist, delay, or obstruct a public officer, in the discharge of his or her duty. Sheriff deputies and city police officers are authorized to enforce health orders in the discharge of his or her duty.

Cal. Penal Code section 69 may be charged as a felony for the attempt, by means of any threat or violence, to deter or prevent an executive officer from performing any duty imposed by law, or to knowingly resist, by the use of force or violence, the officer, in the performance of the officer's duty. Sheriff deputies and city police officers are authorized to enforce health orders in the discharge of his or her duty.

Cal. Penal Code section 409.5 allows the health officer to close an area where a calamity has created an immediate menace to public health.

Copies of this Order shall promptly be (1) made available at the County of Fresno Department of Public Health office located at 1221 Fulton Mall, Fresno, CA 93721; and (2) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

Rais Vohra MD

4/21/2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rais Vohra, Fresno County Health Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Issuance of Order

#### NOTICE OF RIGHTS

1. If you object to this order, you have a right to arrange for your own legal representative.
2. You have a right to also file for judicial relief to seek release from the order.
3. All requests to contact the County Health Officer will be through the Fresno County Department of Public Health at (559) 600-3332 during normal business hours. After hours, weekends, and holidays notify FCDPH On-Call staff at (559) 352-7067. If no response, contact County Sheriff Dispatch at (559) 600-3111.



## County of Fresno

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

David Luchini, Director

Dr. Rais Vohra, Interim Health Officer

#### Ordered Closure and Abatement

#### HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR COUNTY OF FRESNO TO CLOSE BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND ABATEMENT OF BIOLOGICALS LOCATED AT 850 "I" STREET, REEDLEY, CA 93654

Please read this Order carefully. Violations of or failure to comply with this Order is a crime punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. Violators are also subject to civil enforcements actions including civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per violation per day, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and costs. (Health and Safety Code Section 120275; Penal Code Section 19; Government Code Section 25132.

Under the authority of California Health and Safety Code Section 120175, and 120275; Title 17 California Code of Regulations Section 2501; and Article XI of the California Constitution, The Health Officer of the County of Fresno ("Health Officer") Orders:

1. The business located at 850 "I" Street, Reedley, CA 93654, Assessors Parcel Number 368-010-64S ("Business") in the County of Fresno, whether public or private, and their ancillary use areas, which include but are not limited to parking areas, are hereby closed effective immediately and shall remain closed pending further Order of the Public Health Officer.

Entry to or use of Business, and their ancillary use areas, shall not be permitted by any person or group, regardless of membership status, admission cost, or party size.

2. This Order will permit the Fresno County Department of Public Health or its designee to abate all biologicals kept on premises of Business unless the following demands are met:
  - A. Within seven (7) days, the Business identified above must produce the names, titles, and contact information of all persons authorized by law to conduct business and assume financial responsibility of the Business in California. Such persons include corporate officers, directors, shareholders, or employees granted such abilities via board resolution.
  - B. Within seven (7) days, the Business identified above must produce a biological abatement and disposal plan for the transport of properly labeled and identified biological specimens consistent with Federal, State, and local regulations. This plan should include transporters with appropriate licensures and certifications as well as a demonstration of commitment from these vendors via a purchase order or binding commitment. All biological specimens in non-operating refrigerators, or specimens that are improperly labeled or unidentified shall be treated as medical waste and abated and disposed of as medical waste. Such transporters contact information must be provided for the Fresno County Department of Public Health to verify.
3. If the Fresno County Department of Public Health does not receive both of the above items or it does not approve the biological abatement plan, then they, or their designee, may immediately commence abatement of all biologicals found on the property.

#### ***Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health***

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4. This Order is issued as a result of the City of Reedley's attempts at gathering authorized representative contact information, repeated requests of complete lists of biologicals present, and an inspection pursuant to Health Officer Order dated April 21, 2023, which revealed biologicals in hazardous and non-compliant conditions, the presence of multiple infectious agents and pursuant to Title 17 California Code of Regulations Section 2500, and multiple City of Reedley building and fire code violations, including but not limited to, failing refrigeration, and documented out of compliance electrical additions.
5. Furthermore, the City of Reedley issued an Abatement Warrant on April 5, 2023, for the abatement of neglected laboratory mice, which revealed a persisting pest infestation at the premises.
6. This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing non-compliance with the City of Reedley by Business, and to protect the public from the risk of spread or of exposure to the identified infectious agents found on premises.
7. This order is made in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, including but not limited to: Health and Safety Code Sections 101030, et seq.; Health and Safety Code Sections 120100, et. Seq.; and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations Section 2501.
8. To the extent necessary, pursuant to Government Code Sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code Section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all Chiefs of Police in the County ensure compliance with and enforcement of this Order. Violators are also subject to civil enforcement actions including civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per violation per day, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and costs.
9. Copies of this Order shall promptly be (1) made available at the County of Fresno Department of Public Health office located at 1221 Fulton Mall, Fresno, CA 93721; (2) posted on the County of Fresno Public Health Department's website; and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.

10. Language Assistance Rights

The contents of this letter involve your property and may impact your legal rights. Your response to this letter is very important, failure to respond may have legal consequences. If you need language assistance to understand the contents of this letter, please immediately contact the County of Fresno – Department of Public Health by phone at (559) 600-3200 or by email at [dph@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:dph@fresnocountyca.gov) to be connected with a translator.

本函内容涉及您的财产，可能会影响您的合法权利。您对这封信的回复非常重要，未能回复可能会产生法律后果。如果您需要语言帮助来理解这封信的内容，请立即通过电话（559）600-3200 或通过电子邮件 [dph@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:dph@fresnocountyca.gov) 与翻译人员联系弗雷斯诺县代码执行部门。

11. The following shall constitute the notice of rights:
- a. If you object to this order, you have a right to arrange for your own legal representative.
  - b. You have a right to also file for judicial relief to seek release from the order.
  - c. All requests to contact the County Health Officer will be through FCDPH at (559) 600-3200 during normal business hours. After hours, weekends, and holidays notify FCDPH On-Call staff at (559) 352-7067. If no response, contact County Sheriff Dispatch at (559) 600-3111.

Rais Vohra MD

5/31/2023

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(Signature of Health Officer or Deputy Health Officer)

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(Date of Issuance of Order)



**County of Fresno**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Amended 6-9-2023

**Ordered Closure and Abatement**

**HEALTH OFFICER ORDER FOR COUNTY OF FRESNO  
TO CLOSE BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND ABATEMENT OF BIOLOGICALS  
LOCATED AT 850 "I" STREET, REEDLEY, CA 93654**

Please read this Order carefully. Violations of or failure to comply with this Order is a crime punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. Violators are also subject to civil enforcements actions including civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per violation per day, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and costs. (Health and Safety Code Section 120275; Penal Code Section 19; Government Code Section 25132.

Under the authority of California Health and Safety Code Section 120175, and 120275; Title 17 California Code of Regulations Section 2501; and Article XI of the California Constitution, The Health Officer of the County of Fresno ("Health Officer") Orders:

1. The business located at 850 "I" Street, Reedley, CA 93654, Assessors Parcel Number 368-010-64S ("Business") in the County of Fresno, whether public or private, and their ancillary use areas, which include but are not limited to parking areas, are hereby closed effective immediately and shall remain closed pending further Order of the Public Health Officer.

Entry to or use of Business, and their ancillary use areas, shall not be permitted by any person or group, regardless of membership status, admission cost, or party size.

2. This Order will permit the Fresno County Department of Public Health or its designee to abate all biologicals kept on premises of Business unless the following demands are met:
  - A. By June 11, 2023, the Business identified above must produce the names, titles, and contact information of all persons authorized by law to conduct business and assume financial responsibility of the Business in California. Such persons include corporate officers, directors, shareholders, or employees granted such abilities via board resolution.
  - B. By June 11, 2023, the Business identified above must produce a biological abatement and disposal plan for the transport of properly labeled and identified biological specimens consistent with Federal, State, and local regulations. This plan should include transporters with appropriate licensures and certifications as well as a demonstration of commitment from these vendors via a purchase order or binding commitment. All biological specimens in non-operating refrigerators, or specimens that are improperly labeled or unidentified shall be treated as medical waste and abated and disposed of as medical waste. Such transporters contact information must be provided for the Fresno County Department of Public Health to verify.
3. If the Fresno County Department of Public Health does not receive both of the above items or it does not approve the biological abatement plan, then they, or their designee, may immediately commence abatement of all biologicals found on the property.

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4. This Order is issued as a result of the City of Reedley's attempts at gathering authorized representative contact information, repeated requests of complete lists of biologicals present, and an inspection pursuant to Health Officer Order dated April 21, 2023, which revealed biologicals in hazardous and non-compliant conditions, the presence of multiple infectious agents and pursuant to Title 17 California Code of Regulations Section 2500, and multiple City of Reedley building and fire code violations, including but not limited to, failing refrigeration, and documented out of compliance electrical additions. The storage of biologicals in unsafe and unsanitary conditions constitutes a public nuisance.
5. Furthermore, the City of Reedley issued an Abatement Warrant on April 5, 2023, for the abatement of neglected laboratory mice, which revealed a persisting pest infestation at the premises.
6. This Order is issued based on evidence of increasing non-compliance with the City of Reedley by Business, and to protect the public from the risk of spread or of exposure to the identified infectious agents found on premises.
7. This order is made in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, including but not limited to: Health and Safety Code Sections 101030, et seq.; Health and Safety Code Sections 120100, et. Seq.; and Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations Section 2501.
8. To the extent necessary, pursuant to Government Code Sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code Section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all Chiefs of Police in the County ensure compliance with and enforcement of this Order. Violators are also subject to civil enforcement actions including civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per violation per day, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and costs.
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Rais Vohra MD

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(Signature of Health Officer or Deputy Health Officer)

6/9/2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of Issuance of Order)



**HEALTHY  
FRESNO  
COUNTY**  
Better Together

# Reedley Lab Update

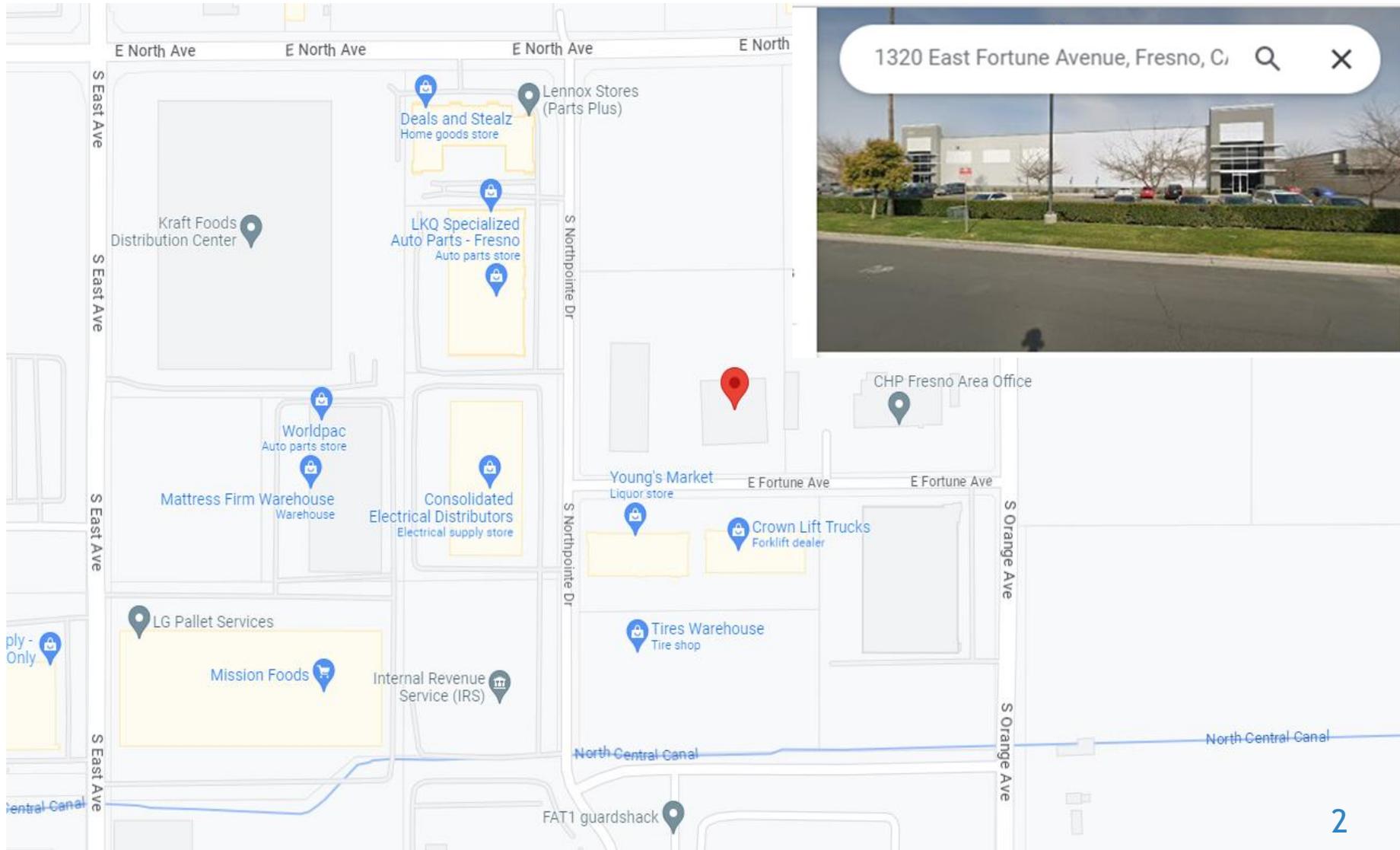
Joe Prado, Assistant Director

August 8, 2023



Department of Public Health  
[www.fcdph.org](http://www.fcdph.org)

# 2018 - 2022 Universal MediTech Site



# Date: 10/31/2022

## Photos Taken By City of Fresno



# Date: 10/31/2022

## Photos Taken By City of Fresno



# City of Fresno Chronology of Events

- ▶ **August 14, 2018** - Universal MediTech lab located at the Fresno's North Pointe Industrial Business Park.
- ▶ **August 26, 2020** - Universal MediTech location experienced a small fire.
- ▶ **August 31, 2020** - Environmental Health CUPA inspection performed at Universal Meditech at 1320 E. Fortune Ave #102 in Fresno.
  - ▶ EH Inspector conducted onsite visit and noted violations: failing to prepare and implement a hazardous materials business plan (HMBP) for storage of hazmat (ethanol) over state thresholds
  - ▶ Permit was completed and valid from 9-1-2020 through 8-31-2021. Inspections are every 3 years from initial inspection, unless complaint is received.

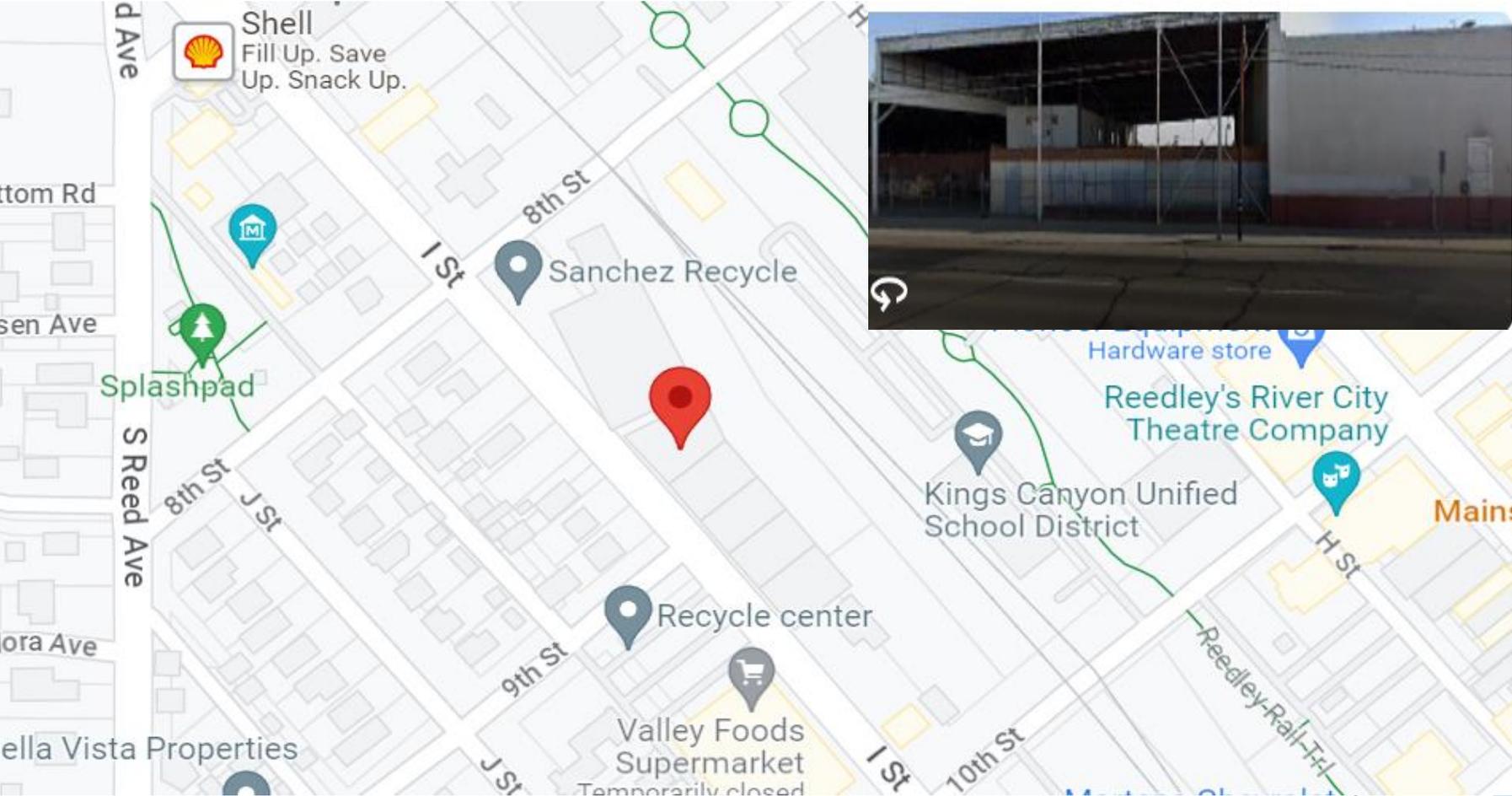
# City of Fresno Chronology of Events

- ▶ **October 31, 2022** - FCDPH staff received a complaint from City of Fresno Code Enforcement and City Fire Department regarding chemicals stored at the Universal MediTech facility in Fresno.
- ▶ **November 1, 2022** - FCDPH staff visited Universal MediTech site at 1320 E. Fortune Ave #102 in Fresno. Were not able to access facility.
- ▶ **November 3, 2022** - FCDPH staff met City of Fresno Code Enforcement officer and property management at facility.

# City of Fresno Chronology of Events

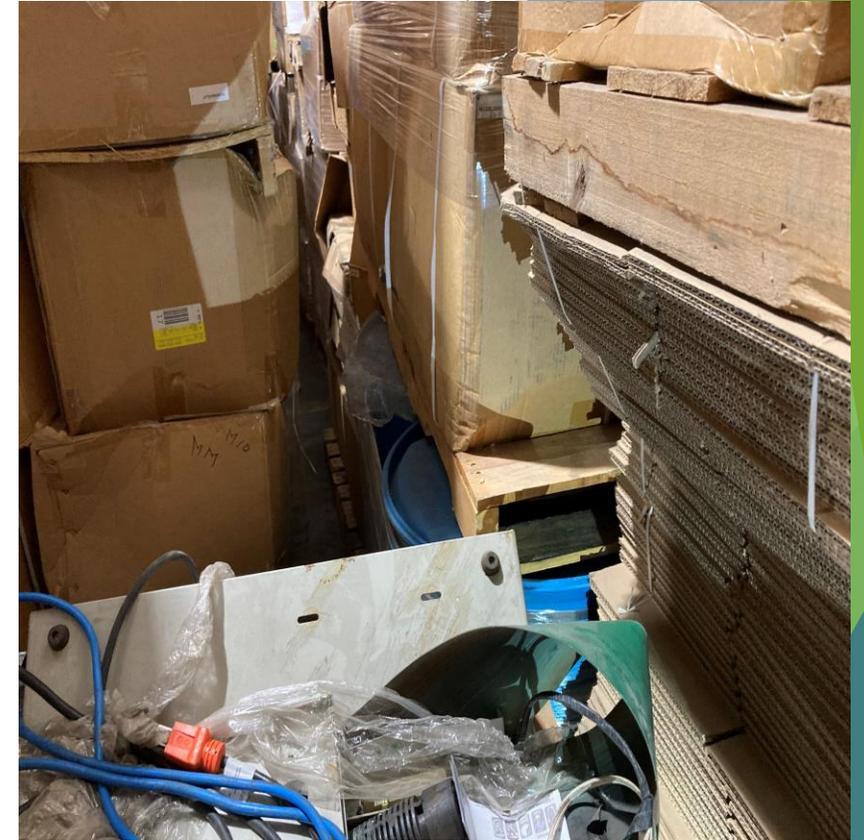
- ▶ **November 8, 2022** - No response from general manager. FCDPH staff again visited Universal MediTech site but were again not able to access facility.
- ▶ **November 8, 2022** - FCDPH staff received an email after visiting facility from Xiao Xiao Wang, President/CEO of Universal MediTech Inc. regarding status of facility.
- ▶ **November 10, 2022** - Email response to Xiao Xiao Wang regarding the hazardous materials storage and transportation requirements.
- ▶ **November 23, 2022** - No response back from operators or CEO/President. FCDPH staff visited Universal MediTech facility and were again not able to access facility.
- ▶ **November 29, 2022** - Phone call with property management regarding status of business.

# Reedley Site - 850 I Street Reedley, CA 93654





# Reedley Site



# Reedley Site



# Reedley Chronology

## December 2022 through January 2023

**December 19, 2022** -City of Reedley Code Enforcement Officer contacted FCDPH regarding business found operating at 850 I Street.

- ▶ **December 20, 2022** - Reedley Code Enforcement citing multiple code, building, and zoning violations for business, and had concerns regarding possible hazardous materials stored at facility.
  - ▶ Emails with the Reedley Code Enforcement, CDPH, and FDA to coordinate a response.
  - ▶ Reedley Code Enforcement and FCDPH contacted FBI regarding potential public safety risks.
- ▶ **December 20, 2022** - FCDPH contacted FDA and CDPH requesting assistance regarding suspicious medical test manufacturing company.
- ▶ **December 21, 2022** - FBI coordinated meeting with State, Federal and Local agencies and instructed the agencies to standby until conclusion of their investigation.
- ▶ **January 2023 through February 2023** - Ongoing regular communication with Federal and State agencies.

# Reedley Chronology

## February 2023

- ▶ **February 9, 2023** - FCDPH is informed by DTSC that FBI has given State and Local agencies approval to resume civil investigation.
- ▶ **February 9, 2023** - Universal MediTech issues a nationwide recall of its COVID-19 test kits.
- ▶ **February 24, 2023** - Multi-agency meeting to coordinate investigation of Prestige Biotech.
  - ▶ CDPH Food & Drug Branch to take lead on investigation of medical devices.

# Reedley Chronology

## March 2023

- ▶ **March 3, 2023** - FCDPH staff met at City of Reedley Fire Department with CDPH, DTSC, City of Reedley Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, and Building Inspector.
  - ▶ Conducted walk thru of facility.
  - ▶ No reportable amount of hazardous materials observed in accessible areas.
  - ▶ City of Reedley posted Unsafe to Occupy Notice on front door of building.
  - ▶ The site is contained and there is no imminent risk to the public.
- ▶ **March 6, 2023** - Received email that City of Reedley was granted access to facility by Prestige Biotech.
  - ▶ City of Reedley to obtain inspection by March 10<sup>th</sup> and include all agencies involved on inspection warrant.

# Reedley Chronology

## March 2023 CONT.

- ▶ **March 16, 2023** - FCDPH staff met with CDPH, DTSC, and City of Reedley and briefed on inspection warrant.
  - ▶ Met with Consultant for Prestige Biotech.
  - ▶ CDPH Food & Drug Branch staff went through and embargoed the unapproved medical test kits and medical supplies.
  - ▶ DTSC did not take any samples. They did not see hazardous waste generated.
  - ▶ The site is contained and there is **no imminent risk to the public.**

# Reedley Chronology

## End of March through April 2023

- ▶ **March 22, 2023** - FCDPH meets with Health Officer, CAO, and BOS member on the Reedley Lab situation.
  - ▶ State and Federal authorities stated that abatement is the County's responsibility
  - ▶ FCDPH emailed Prestige President requesting complete inventory of all materials onsite that pose a public safety risk.
    - ▶ Communication and requests for inventory continued through April with incomplete and delayed responses from business representative.
- ▶ **March 24, 2023** - FCDPH and City of Reedley coordinate with State Veterinarian contractor to provide water and distribute remaining food to lab mice.
- ▶ **April 21, 2023** - 1<sup>st</sup> Health Officer Order Issued
- ▶ **April 26, 2023** - FCDPH contacted Sheriff's to assess any potential explosion hazard associated with some chemicals found onsite.

# Reedley Chronology

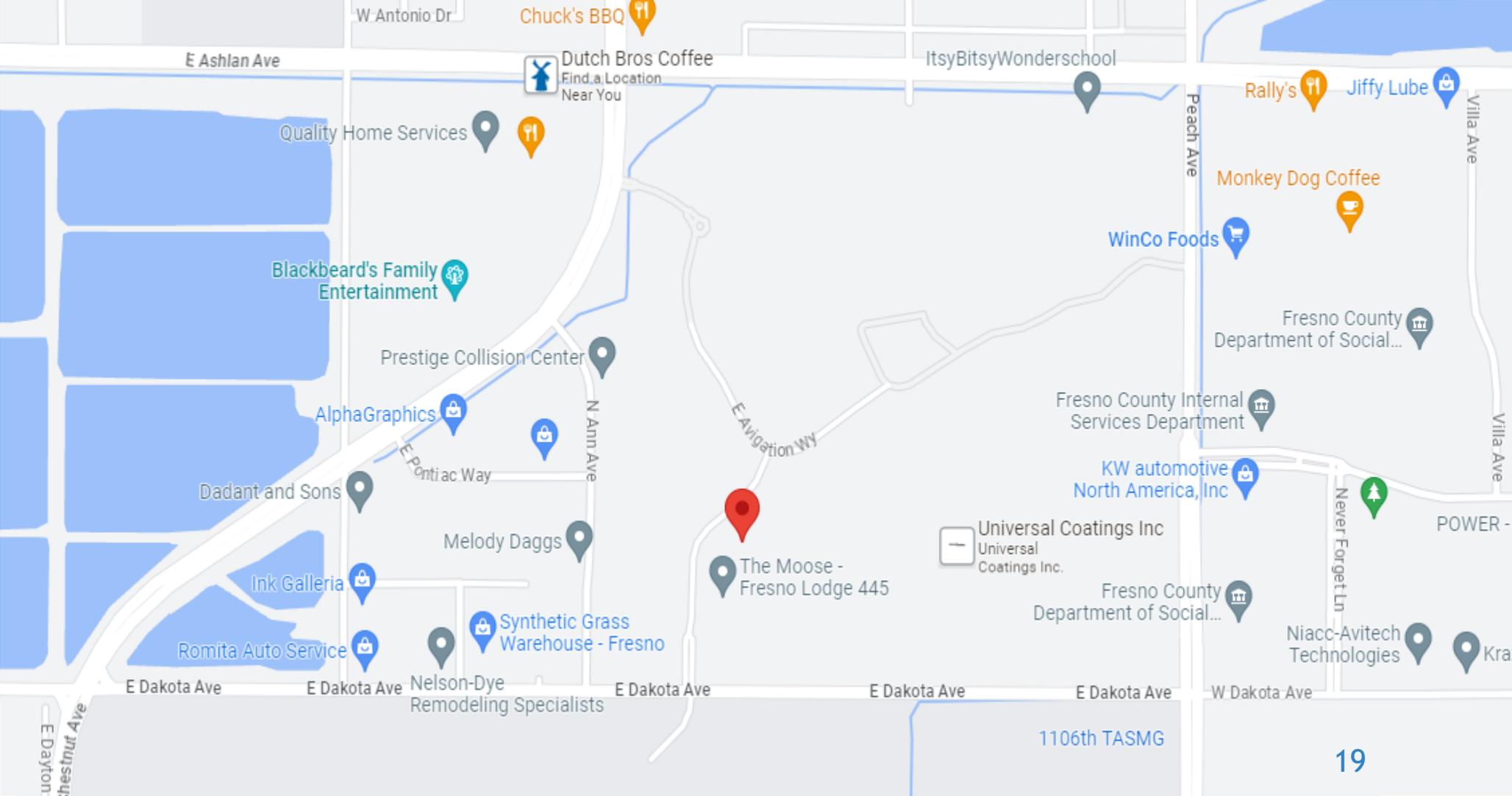
## May through July 2023

- ▶ **May 2-4, 2023** - Multi-agency onsite investigation conducted under Health Officer Order.
  - ▶ FCDPH, CDC, CDPH, FDA, and City of Reedley.
- ▶ **May 31, 2023** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Health Officer Order Issued Publicly - Closure and Abatement Order.
- ▶ **June 9, 2023** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Health Officer Order Amended to Extend Due Date.
  - ▶ Extension was granted to June 11, 2023.
- ▶ **June 15, 2023** - Filed with Superior Court an Abatement Warrant to destroy all biologicals.
- ▶ **June 23, 2023** - Judge of the Superior Court signs Abatement Warrant.
- ▶ **June 26, 2023** - Abatement warrant issued by Superior Court.
- ▶ **July 5-7, 2023** - Biological materials in approximately 36 refrigerators/freezers were properly removed and transported for destruction by licensed contractor.

# Reedley Site No Imminent Threat to Public Safety - Assessment Measures

- ▶ Onsite air testing was clear
- ▶ Water and wastewater testing found no issues
- ▶ Electrical power was maintained to refrigerators and freezers
- ▶ Syndromic Surveillance from all Fresno County emergency rooms did not show any anomalies
- ▶ COVID-19 Wastewater and Clinical Surveillance demonstrated normal variants circulating in the community

# Proposed Site - 3900 N. Blatella Lane, Fresno, CA 93727



# Next Steps

- ▶ We are aware of the ongoing investigation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, California Department of Public Health, Food and Drug Branch, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- ▶ Federal Bureau of Investigation is providing consultation as needed.
- ▶ The FCDPH cannot comment on criminal investigations by the federal, state, or local enforcement agencies.
- ▶ The FCDPH is supporting the City of Reedley to remove chemicals, equipment, and medical devices on site through their own City Abatement warrant.
- ▶ FCDPH has offered assistance and will continue to collaborate with City of Fresno on any issues with the proposed site.
- ▶ Opportunity for federal and state regulations to be evaluated on the regulation and oversight of privately funded research and development laboratories.

# Questions?



**Department of Public Health**  
[www.fcdph.org](http://www.fcdph.org)