



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

David Pomaville, Director
Dr. Sara Goldgraben, Health Officer

May 07, 2019

CO0046852
PE2270

Mr. Jeremy Johnstone,
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: **REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ACTION**

Dear Mr. Johnstone,

The County of Fresno, Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, requests assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 ("EPA") to conduct a removal action at the property located at: 2761 South Fruit Avenue, Fresno, California (APN: 328-050-20) located in the County of Fresno.

On October 19, 2018 this agency received a complaint for various properties located near South Fruit Avenue and East Annadale Avenue, Fresno California. The complaints ranged from solid waste disposal, hazardous waste storage, unpermitted structures and a homeless encampment. Our records also indicate that a previous investigation was conducted by this office on August 22, 2011, involving the unlawful storage/disposal of 55-gallon drums containing hazardous waste on the property located at 2761 S. Fruit, Fresno (APN: 328-050-20). The investigations revealed that approximately six hundred 55-gallon drums containing hazardous wastes were abandoned on the property. Mrs. Bonnie Rhodes, the property owner, stated that a trucking business previously operated on this property and abandoned the hazardous waste drums. Since obtaining multiple complaints, this agency has worked to resolve imminent environmental health issues. Solid waste has been removed, unpermitted structures have been removed and/or demolished, an adjacent homeless encampment was removed, and multiple properties are now fenced.

The only environmental concern remaining is the illegal storage of approximately six-hundred 55-gallon hazardous waste drums at the above-specified property. The hazardous waste (flammable and combustible characteristics) drums pose an environmental hazard and an endangerment to the residents, neighbors and the public. This office is concerned that the drums may leak and cause contamination to the ground and nearby irrigation canal. In addition, these drums pose a potential health hazard to the surrounding community, including the Buddhist temple located across the street. Homeless people frequent this area and a homeless encampment cleanup occurred recently on an adjacent parcel. This office has exhausted its means in resolving the issue and is requesting assistance from your agency in order to abate the

Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health

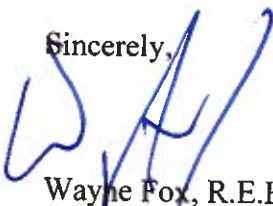
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hazard.

By making this Request, the Requesting Agency recognizes that with respect to this removal action EPA, or any other federal agency acting in conjunction with or on behalf of EPA, may use its authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C.A. §§ 9601, et seq., the National Contingency Plan ("NCP"), 40 C.F.R. Part 300, or any other federal statute, regulation or response program, to respond to and recover costs incurred in response to releases or threats of releases of pollutants and contaminants as deemed necessary in EPA's sole discretion to abate an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health or welfare or the environment at the location stated above. By making this Request, the Requesting Agency acknowledges that notice pursuant to Section 128(b)(1)(D) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9628(b)(1)(D), is not applicable with respect to this removal action. The signatory of this request is authorized to make this request on behalf of the State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Fox', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Wayne Fox, R.E.H.S.
Director of Environmental Health
Department of Public Health