



**HEALTHY  
FRESNO  
COUNTY**  
Better Together

# Reedley Lab Update

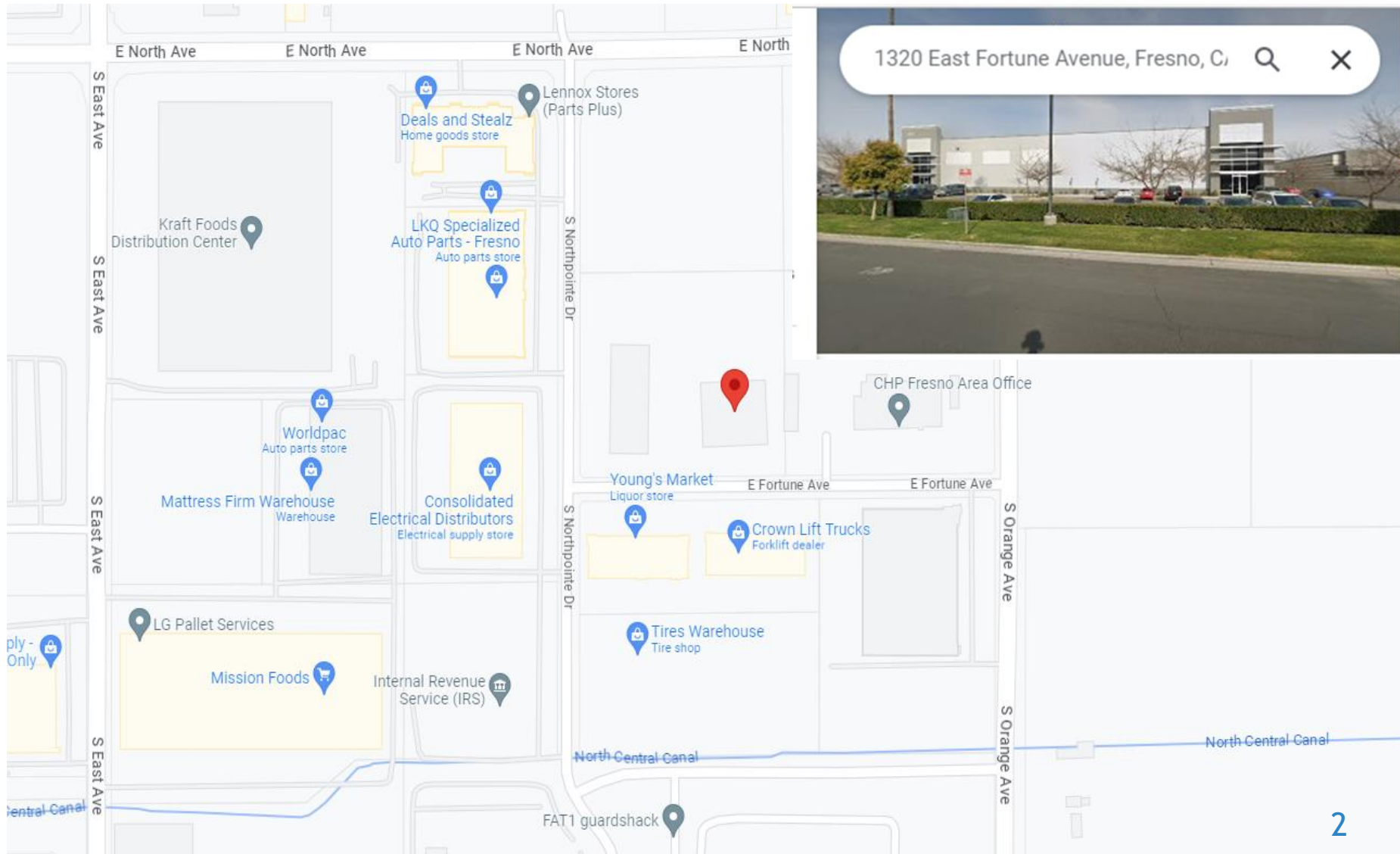
Joe Prado, Assistant Director

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.

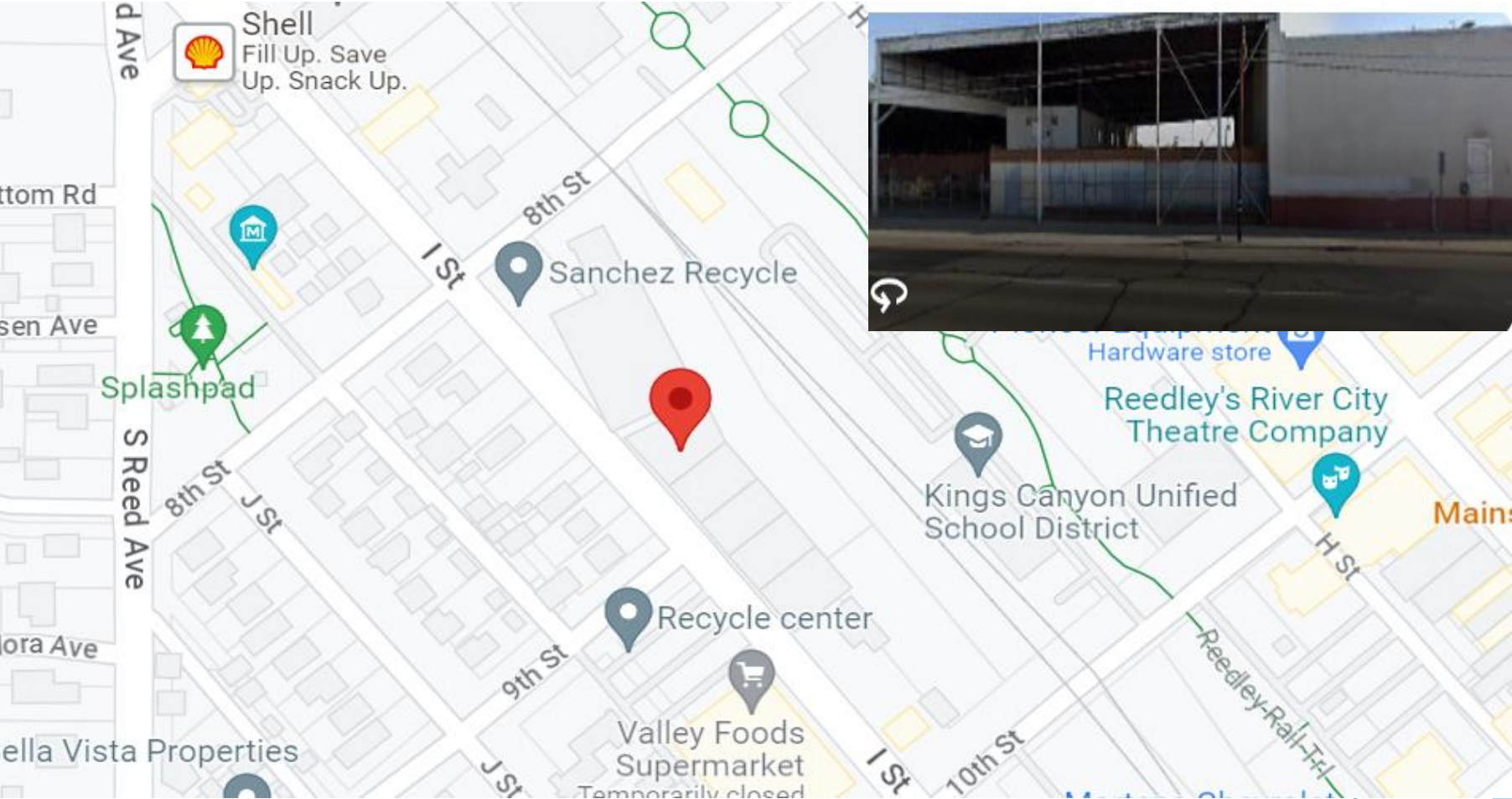
# City of Fresno Chronology of Events

- ▶ **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 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

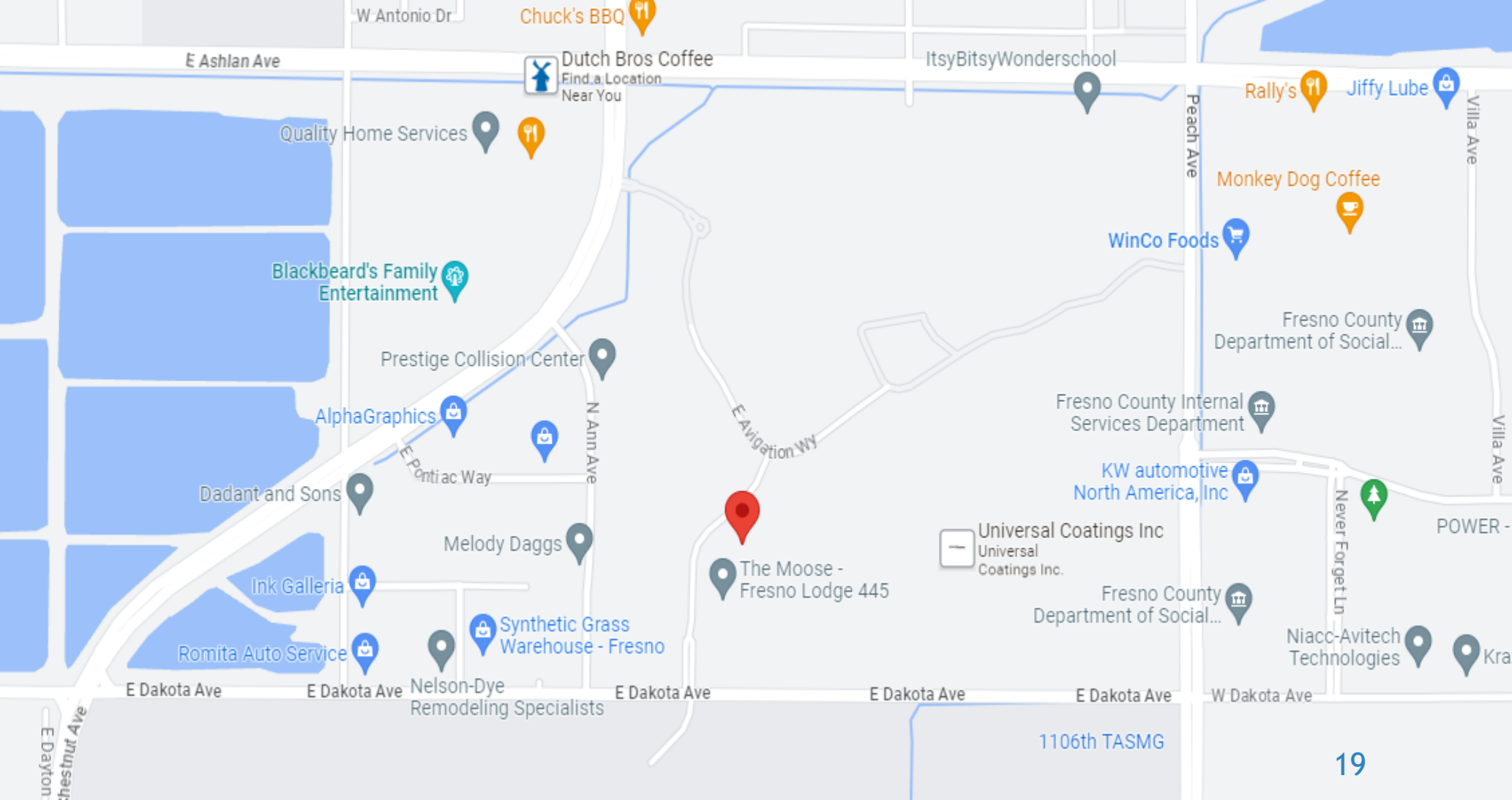
## May through July 2023

- ▶ **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?



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