



FY 2010–11

GRANT #

HD19-10-006

City of Palo Alto

Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program

Background

The City of Palo Alto (city) was awarded \$150,000 for a proposed expansion project to the city's existing Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (HHW). The original facility was comprised of three lockers—a three chambered locker to store HHW; a sharps and storage locker; and a pharmaceutical storage locker. All lockers were located on top of a concrete pad.



Grant Project Goals

This project was part of an improvement project to the city's existing HHW facility. By adding additional lockers the city hoped to increase the usability of the facility by expanding hours thereby increasing participation. The additional lockers would allow the facility to hold HHW for a longer period making it more cost effective.

Outcome and Accomplishments

- The improvements are expected to last for at least 20 years.
- The new sheds are being used to provide free reuse of household products.
- Items such as a sump, fire suppression system, lights, and driveway will help make the facility secure, safe, and usable for years to come.



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Challenges

At the time of the project the city did not have a prevailing wage requirement. The city had to reissue the invitation for bids with the prevailing wage provision as it was part of the grant requirements. Paying prevailing wages for labor added cost to the project. The city now requires all construction projects to follow the prevailing wage provision.

During the planning phase, Public Works was informed by the Fire Department that a fire sprinkler system would be required under the canopy structure. Since the original plans did not include fire sprinklers, plans had to be updated to include the new system.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

The city recommends paying close attention to details. Better planning would have been beneficial; more detail could have been provided about where each locker door was located and what it looked like. The orientation of the lockers could have also been placed better and it would have been nice to have a large area for the lockers to be centered around the drop-off area as opposed to them being placed side by side.

Due to the high cost of steel, the canopy structure had to be removed from the base bid. Luckily the city was able to include the canopy construction as an added alternative bid item.

Snapshot

Grant Program: Household Hazardous Waste

Grant Program Website:

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/Grants/default.htm>

Grant Number: HD19-10-006

Grant Type: Household Hazardous Waste

Year Awarded: 2011

Funding: Awarded \$150,000, spent \$150,000

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