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Missoula County

Media Release

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Hazardous Household Waste Collection Program May be Expanded

Missoula may soon have a new facility for its household hazardous waste collection program, and begin quarterly collection events, thanks to generous donations from Phillips 66, the City of Missoula and Republic Services.

Phillips 66 will donate \$125,000 to the design, construction and operation of the new facility. Republic Services will donate \$50,000. The City of Missoula, pending approval by the Missoula City Council, will provide use of City-owned land near the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and will provide paving, water, sewer and electrical hookups for the new facility. Additional funds will be provided by the Missoula Valley Water Quality District, pending approval of the District's budget for the upcoming year. Missoula County administers the Water Quality District, and will manage all contracts for design and construction of the facility. The Water Quality District has led the household hazardous waste collection program since 1993.

"We have long dreamed of constructing a dedicated facility for the collection program and conducting more frequent collection events throughout the year," Missoula Valley Water Quality District Supervisor, Peter Nielsen said. "The donations by Phillips 66, Republic Services and the City make it possible to move forward this year."

"Our employees volunteer to help with the city's annual hazardous waste collection events, so we wanted to help when we heard about the need for a new waste collection facility," Michael Kuntz, pipeline supervisor with Phillips 66, said. "It also aligns well with our company's goal of supporting safety and environmental initiatives in the communities where we operate."

Republic Services has supported the household hazardous waste program since it began in 1993, donating \$30,000 a year. Republic will donate an additional \$50,000 this year for construction and operation of the facility.

"Republic Services is a strong supporter of the household waste collection program," Chad Bauer of Republic Services said. "It keeps toxic materials out of the landfill, protects water quality and public health, and benefits the communities in which we do business."

The City of Missoula has supported the collection program each year since 1993. Recent events have been housed at the City Shops on Scott Street. The Missoula Wastewater Division provides \$10,000 a year, plus staff support for the annual collection events. The Missoula Fire Department also provides staff support every year to assist with the event. "Expansion of the household hazardous

waste collection program is another important step in our work to protect the community's water resources," said Dale Bickell City Chief Administrative Officer.

A new facility will provide for improved safety, traffic flow, waste segregation and secondary containment during collection events.

"We propose to increase the frequency of our collection events, which have been conducted annually for the past 23 years. We propose starting with a quarterly collection schedule, and hope to increase the frequency of events in the future. This will provide better convenience for local residents, and protect water quality, public health and safety," Nielsen said.

At its April 21 meeting, the Water Quality District Board will consider an interlocal agreement between the Board, City and County to cooperate in development of the new collection facility. This agreement will be considered by the City Council and County Commissioners over the next several weeks. Upon approval, the District would initiate architectural design.

The Water Quality District Board will consider the District's annual budget at a future meeting, which will include budgets for construction and operation of the facility in the coming fiscal year. This budget must also be approved by the City Council and County Commissioners. The District aims to complete construction of the facility later this year.

The meeting will be held at 12:15 p.m. in room 201 of the City-County Health Department Building, 301 W. Alder Street in Missoula.

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The Water Quality District protects and improves water quality in the Missoula Valley. Created in 1993 by the City and County, it is supported by annual fees collected on properties within the Missoula Valley. The district has conducted an annual household hazardous waste collection event each September since 1993, providing disposal of hazardous wastes such as pesticides, poisons, flammable liquids, waste oil and antifreeze.