



# Taos Clean Spaces, Strong Communities Request for Funding



January 15, 2025

CONFIDENTIAL

# CONCEPT

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Taos County, Town of Taos, Taos Regional Landfill Board, Taos Community Foundation, Taos Pueblo, Taos Ski Valley, Inc., and other local municipalities and organizations are collaborating via a public-private partnership to create an overall plan to implement and operate a best-in-class waste diversion and trash reduction program to clean up the Taos region.

This plan was created from, is in direct alignment with, and puts in action at a local level the State of New Mexico's Clean Spaces, Stronger Communities initiative (*Breaking Bad Habits*).



# STATE OF NM “CLEANER SPACES” PLEDGE

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New Mexico State's "Breaking Bad Habits"  
Anti-Litter Campaign



***Pick up litter:*** We pledge to pick up litter whenever we see it and dispose of it properly.

***Participate in community clean-up events:*** We pledge to participate in local clean-up events to help maintain Taos's natural beauty

***Recycle regularly:*** We pledge to recycle paper, plastic, glass, and metal products to reduce waste in our landfill.

***Reduce single-use plastics:*** We pledge to reduce use of single-use plastic products and opt for reusable alternatives whenever possible.

***Dispose of hazardous materials properly:*** We pledge to safely dispose of hazardous waste, such as batteries and chemicals, at designated disposal sites.

***Plant trees or native plants:*** We pledge to plant trees or native plants to help combat climate change and support local ecosystems.

***Avoid littering:*** We pledge to never litter and encourage others to do the same, ensuring our landscapes remain pristine.

# PLAN BENEFITS

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*We have limited land for landfills.  
Implementing more comprehensive and  
successful clean-up programs has broad  
benefit for communities and creates a brighter,  
cleaner, healthier future for all.*

- Waste stream reduction and sending less waste to landfills
- Minimizing community impact on the environment and climate change
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption and methane from food waste
- Improving water and air quality
- Increasing the number of recyclable materials in the circular economy
- Fueling the local and regional economy by creating jobs and increasing tax revenue
- Minimizing costs and saving money on waste management
- Moving toward sustainable growth in a community

# A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

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Taos County, Town of Taos, Taos Regional Landfill Board, Taos Community Foundation, Taos Pueblo, Taos Ski Valley, Inc., and other local municipalities and organizations are collaborating via a public-private partnership to create an overall plan to implement and operate a best-in-class waste diversion and trash reduction program to clean up the Taos region.

State funding with a 10% match for this public-private collaboration will provide capacity to build upon existing efforts.



# PLAN COMPONENTS

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## 1 – Centralized Recycle Center (Local Municipalities)

- Construction of a centralized Taos Regional Recycle Center
- Adding several local Collection Centers and expanding on existing County Transfer Stations

## 2 – Beautification (Resilient Communities working group)

- Awareness Campaign
- County Wide programs
- Clean-up Events
- Addressing illegal dumping
- Utilizing TEK practices (Traditional Ecological Knowledge)
- Reduce Single Use Plastics
- Tree Planting

## 3 – Composting Sites (Resilient Communities working group)

## 4 – Economic and Operational Sustainability (Cleaner Spaces Initiative Collaborative)

# 1 – FACILITIES – Taos Regional Recycle Plan

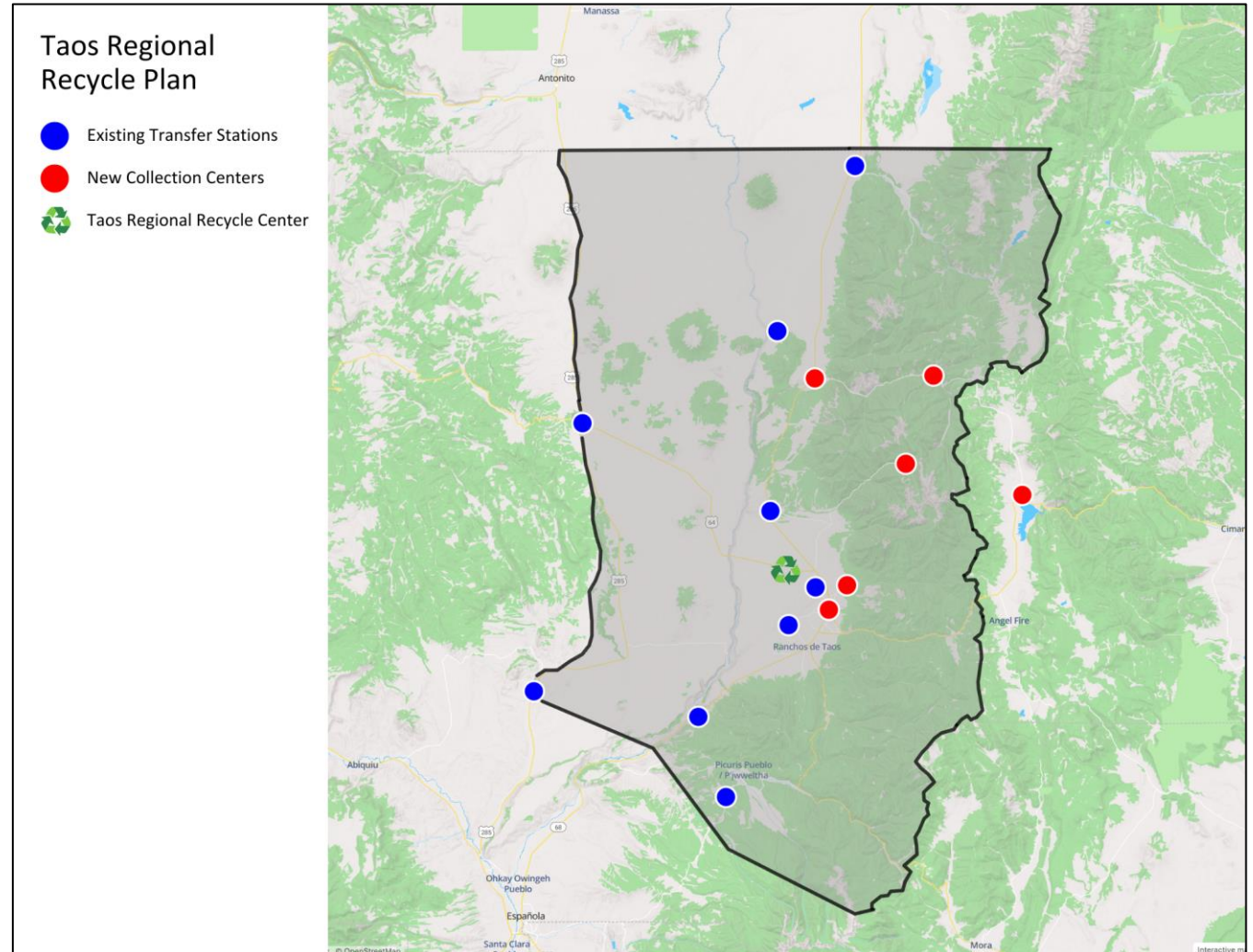
## New Taos Regional Recycle Center

### Six new local Collection Centers:

- Town of Taos
- Eagle Nest
- Taos Pueblo
- Questa
- Red River
- Village of Taos Ski Valley

### Upgrade and more adequately equip existing County Transfer Stations:

- Arroyo Hondo
- Cerro
- Chamisal
- Costilla
- Los Cordovas
- Ojo Caliente
- Pilar
- Tres Piedras



# 1 - FACILITIES – Taos Regional Recycle Center

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In prior attempts to develop a regional system the Town and County identified a 5-acre site at the Taos Regional Landfill for the development of a 3-bay collection, sorting and baling facility. A small grant was received to do preliminary civil engineering and geotech on the site and a design for a steel building, loading ramps, unloading bays, and leachate catchment system was completed.

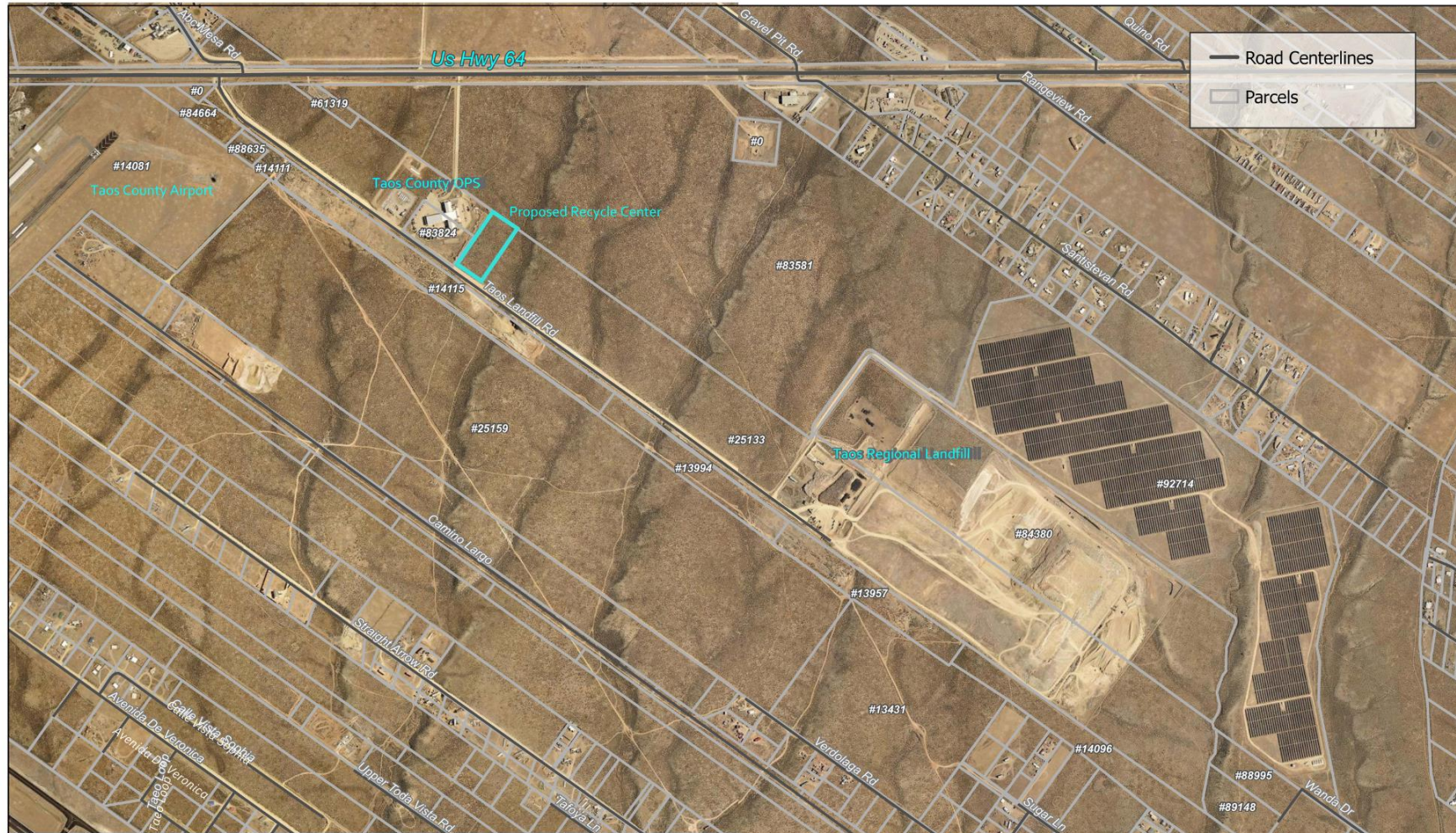
While the cost estimates would need to be updated, locating the center on the property line between the landfill and the County Public Works Operations Center greatly minimizes the need to move product multiple times between operations, with delivery, sorting, baling and diverting contaminated and unusable product to the landfill all able to occur at one location.

Additionally, the landfill site is already NMED permitted for collection and recycling of various products, including tires, mulch and green waste, glass, wood and other materials.

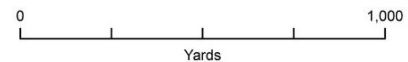


# 1 - FACILITIES – Taos Regional Recycle Center

Taos Regional Landfill - Site Map

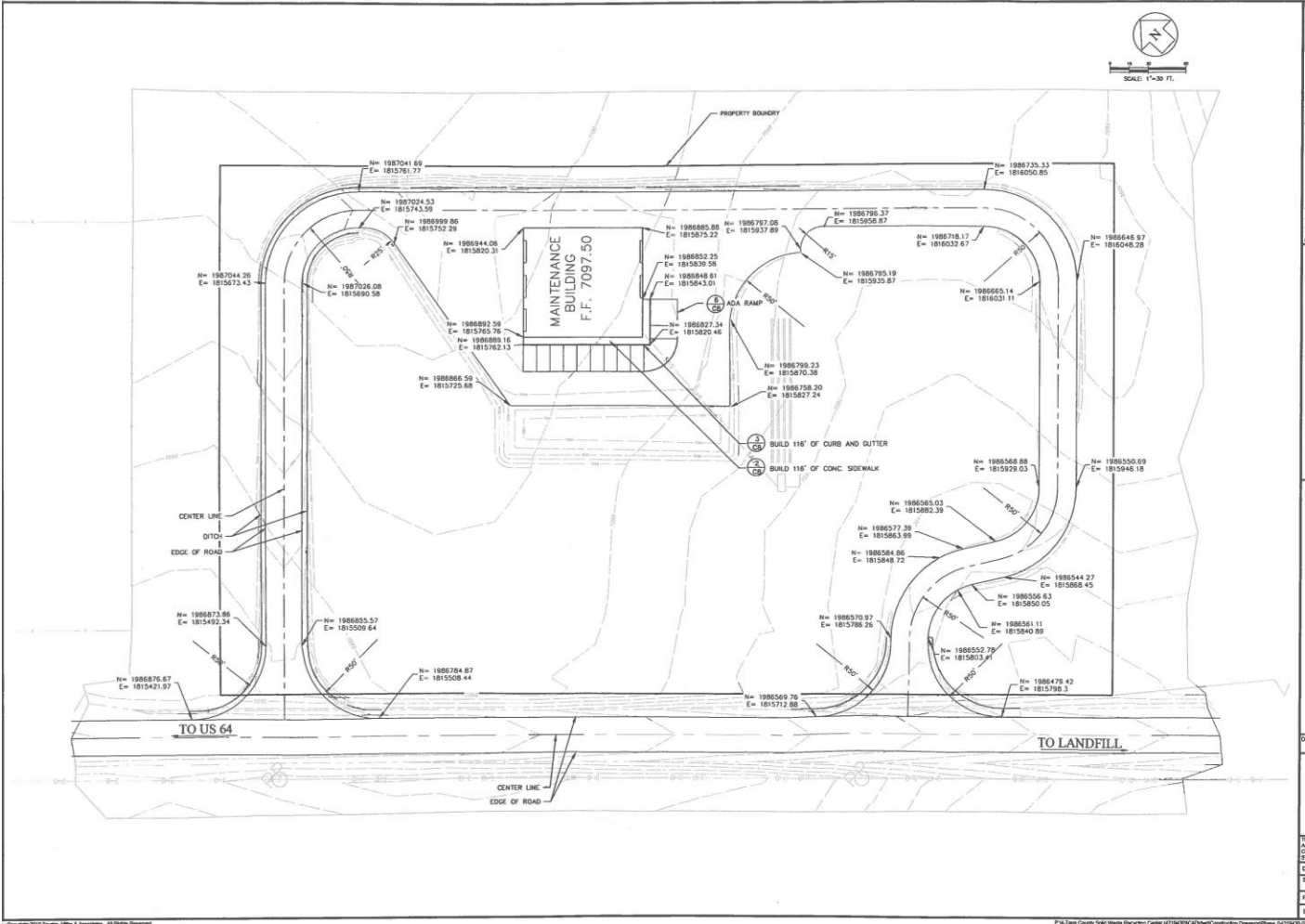


Author: Herb Olsen, Public Utilities Operator II/GIS Tech, Town of Taos  
Date: 1/2/2025  
Map: WaterValveCorrections Landscape Tabloid



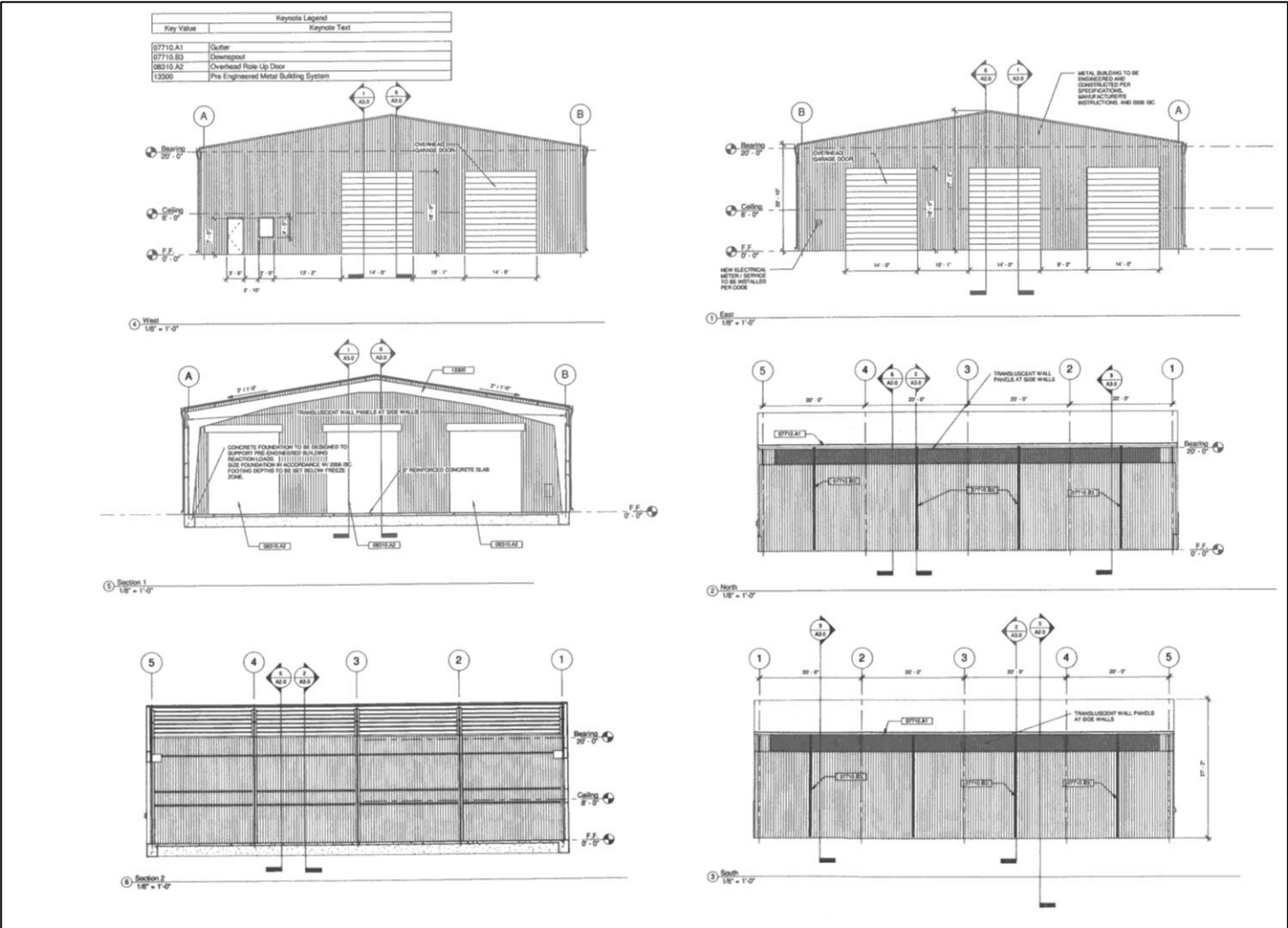
This data is for informational purposes only and should not be substituted for official title search, property appraisal, or survey work. It is provided as-is without warranty of any kind, expressed or implied, including but not limited to the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.

# 1 - FACILITIES – Taos Regional Recycle Center

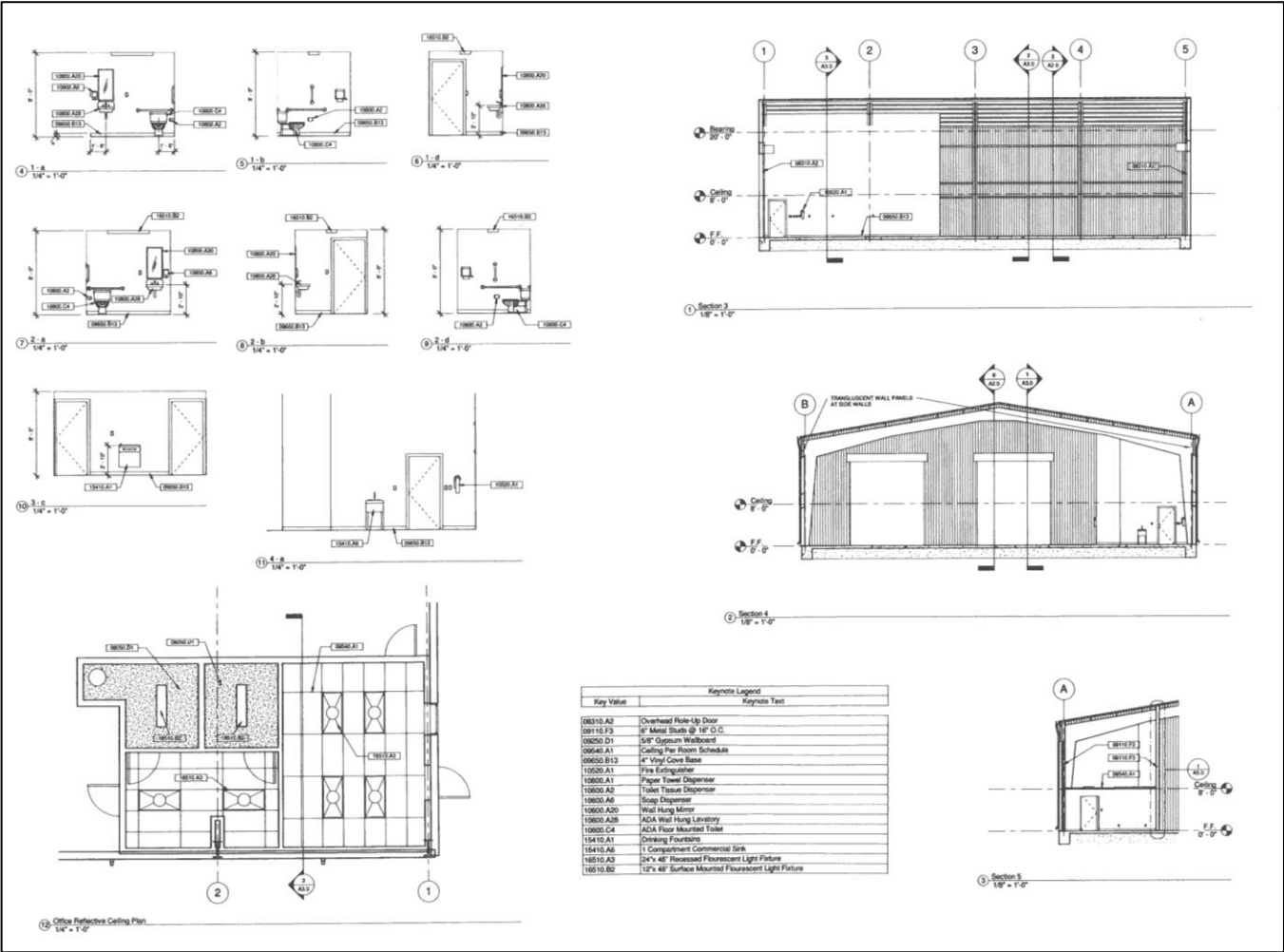


Copyright 2010 Source, Miller & Associates - All Rights Reserved. P:\4. Taos County, S&B Waste Recycling Center (4219402)\CAD\Design\Construction Drawings\Phase 1\21042010

# 1 - FACILITIES – Taos Regional Recycle Center



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# 1 - FACILITIES – Local Collection Centers - Equipment

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Local collection centers are to be located at the smaller municipalities where individuals bring their recycled goods creating a convenience and simplicity to the process. Local municipalities will then transport materials using heavy duty pickup trucks and sorting trailers to the centralized recycling facility for sorting, processing, and ultimate distribution to the material recovery facilities. Vehicles will eventually be powered by renewable diesel.



# 2 - BEAUTIFICATION

In support of the plan, the collaboration will develop a robust Litter Elimination Program which includes an education campaign for students, residents, visitors and business owners focused on the Keep New Mexico Beautiful pledge.

The education campaign will include indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in its programming in consultation with Taos Pueblo.

The collaboration will also implement an Environmental Beautification Plan that aligns with the State program. The plan will include:

**Reduce single-use plastics** - reduce use of single-use plastic products and opt for reusable alternatives whenever possible.

**Plant trees or native plants** - plant trees or native plants to help combat climate change and support local ecosystems.



Pick Up Litter



Participate in Community Clean-Up Events



Recycle Regularly



Dispose of Hazardous Materials Properly



Reduce Single-Use Plastic



Plant Native Trees or Plants

# 3 – COMPOSTING SITES

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Currently, 40% of waste going to the Taos landfill is food.

Under the leadership of the Taos Resilient Communities working group, entities will collaborate to develop a compost plan that builds on the successful operation at Taos Ski Valley to provide restaurants and Taos Pueblo the tools and training to divert food waste from the landfill and create rich soil amendments for the region.

The program will expand to include a rollout of the composting program to area schools and hospital.



# 4 - OPERATIONAL AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

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To ensure operational sustainability, the design, development, construction, and operation of the Taos Regional Recycle Center will be outsourced to an experienced private enterprise through a competitive RFP process.

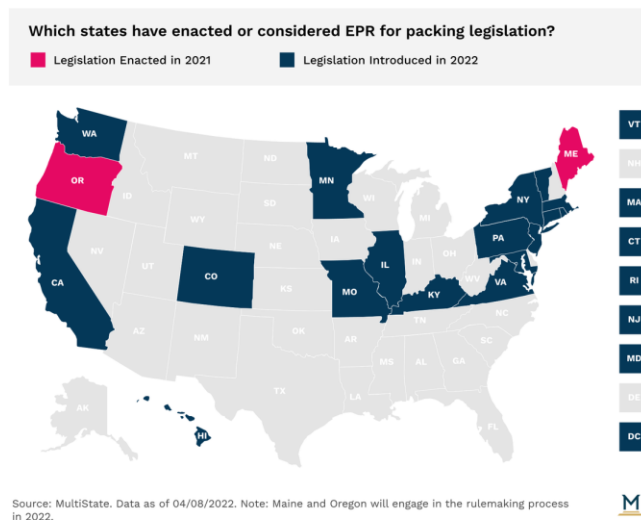




# 4 - OPERATIONAL AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

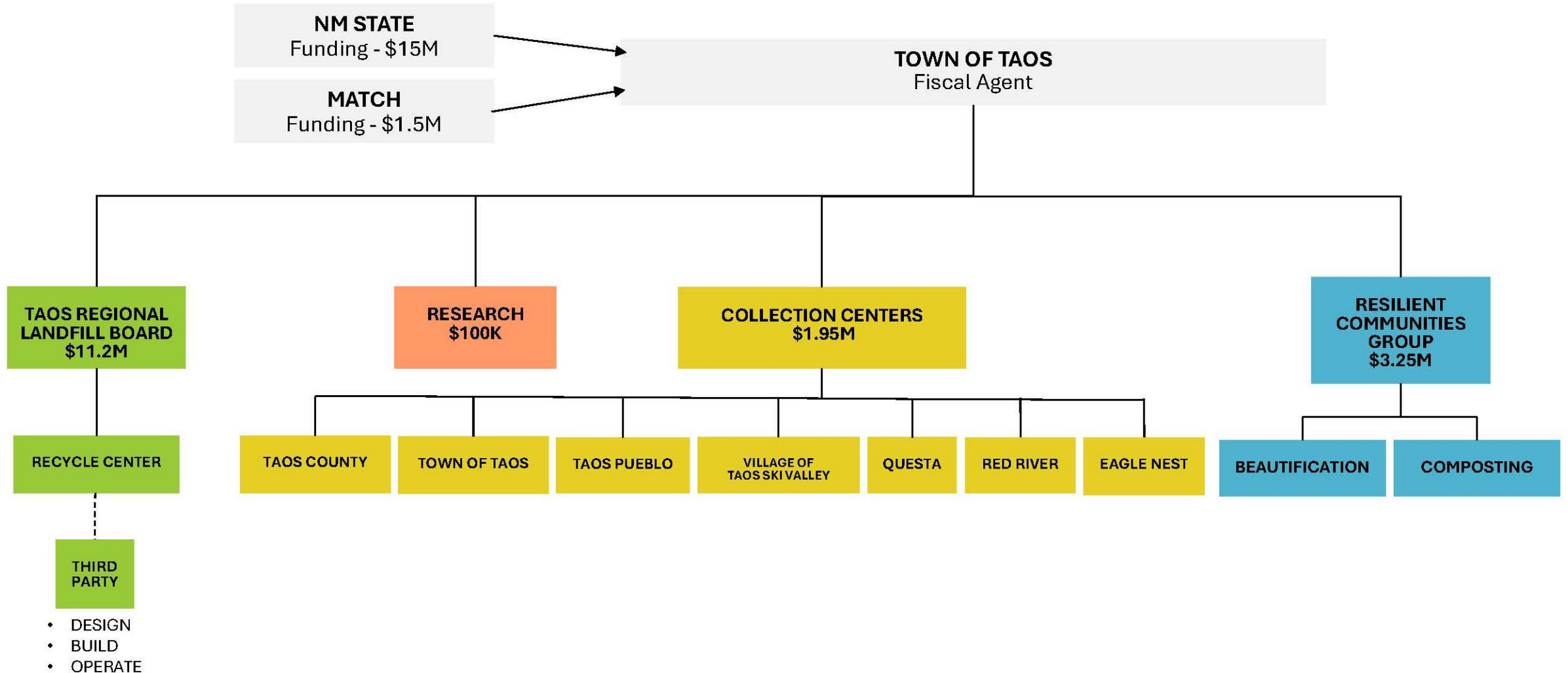
To ensure economic sustainability, public policy will be introduced, including these programs that have been proven successful in other states:

- Producer Responsibility Act – [www.recyclecolorado.org/producer-responsibility](http://www.recyclecolorado.org/producer-responsibility)
- Bottle Deposit Law (OR, ME, MI most successful recycling rates)
- Property Tax inclusive of recycling and disposal fees





# FUNDING STRUCTURE



# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

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## **Taos Regional Landfill Board (Recycle Center)**

The TRLB is a state recognized governmental entity created through a JPA that administers the solid waste district and landfill for the Taos County region. The one-county and five-municipality governing board relies on the Town of Taos as its fiscal agent, the recruiter and employer of landfill staff, and the day-to-day operator of the landfill property and operations.

Jointly, the governmental partners approve debt, set rates for members, commercial haulers and private entities using its services, are responsible for environmental and fiscal monitoring, planning for future cells and closure of exhausted cells, procurement of consultants and equipment, and the approval of new services to be conducted at the landfill.

The Landfill Board proudly wears the title as the first, most successful, and longest lasting joint activity by all of the Taos County political jurisdictions.

Landfill Board Members: Taos County; Town of Taos; Town of Red River; Village of Questa; Village of Taos Ski Valley; Village of Eagle Nest.

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

## Taos Resilient Community Working Group (Beautification & Compost )

The Taos Community Resilient Working Group is a collaboration of the anchor institutions in Taos focusing on sustainability efforts. It is comprised of representation from Holy Cross Hospital, Taos County, Town of Taos, state and federal representatives, the LOR Foundation, Centinel Bank, Kit Carson Electric Co-op, Taos Municipal Schools, UNM-Taos, New Mexico Business Excellence, Taos Ski Valley, Inc., Village of Questa, and others.

This group successfully collaborated to educate the public on winter energy efficiency tips and gave out LED light bulbs at the annual Town of Taos Halloween Event.

Building upon this success, this collaboration will focus its efforts on hosting community-wide litter clean up days, additional education in conjunction with community events, addressing illegal dumping in the community, and the composting program.

**6 SAVE MONEY WHEN YOU SAVE ENERGY!**  
**EASY ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS**

As winter approaches, it's time to take some simple steps to keep warm and comfortable – AND to reduce your energy costs.

- #1 USE ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING**  
Replace traditional bulbs with energy-saving LEDs that can handle colder temperatures.
- #2 SEAL GAPS AND CRACKS**  
Check windows and doors for gaps or cracks. Use weatherstripping and caulk designed for colder climates to seal these gaps.
- #3 MAXIMIZE SOLAR GAIN**  
We're lucky to have so much sun! Open curtains during the day to get warmth from sunlight. Close curtains at night to trap heat inside and insulate against cold nighttime temperatures.
- #4 MAINTAIN YOUR FIREPLACE OR WOOD STOVE**  
If you have a fireplace or wood stove, check that it's clean and the damper is closed when you're not using it.
- #5 UNPLUG ELECTRONICS WHEN NOT IN USE**  
Disconnect chargers, electronics, and appliances when not in use to prevent wasting energy.
- #6 LOWER WATER HEATER TEMPERATURE**  
Set your water heater to around 120°F (46°C) to save energy while ensuring you still have enough warm water.

**SPONSORED BY THE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE COALITION**

Logos for Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, LOR Foundation, Holy Cross Medical Center, Taos County, Centinel Bank, Chamber of Commerce, NMTAOS, Taos Municipal Schools, and Village of Questa.

Energy efficiency education - an award-winning community collaboration.

# EXPANDING EXISTING EFFORTS

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**Taos County** - brings to the table an intact, experienced solid waste and recycling staff, as well as an existing system of transfer/collection sites throughout the county, including a network of buyers for collected recycled products.

**Town of Taos** - owns equipment from the long-time central receiving station; the Taos Recycling Center and a site already NMED approved as an in-town drop-off location for the densest population in the county.

**Town of Red River, Village of Questa, and Village of Taos Ski Valley** - have all operated, or operate, recycling efforts now, or in the past, and have locations available that are familiar to their residents for recycling.

**Taos Ski Valley, Inc. resort** - has established itself as a B Corp., dedicated to the goal of 100% recycling and a net zero carbon footprint and, with an already established recycling program including food waste, and has committed to lend its corporate technical knowledge and expertise to this regional effort and, especially, in motivating participation in its fellow ski resorts, hotels and the commercial sector, forming a true public-private partnership.

# TIMELINE

	2025				2026				2027	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Funding	Go / No Go		Funding							
Central Recycling Facility		Design	RFP	Build	Build	Build	Test	Operate	Operate	Operate
Local Collection Centers		Pre-planning	Equipment	Test	Operate	Operate	Operate	Operate	Operate	Operate
Beautification		Pre-planning	Planning	Campaign	Activate	Activate	Activate	Activate	Activate	Activate
Composting		Pre-planning	Equipment	Test	Operate	Operate	Operate	Operate	Operate	Operate
Economic Sustainability			Research	Proposal	Legislative Review	Legislative Review	New Policy	New Policy	New Policy	New Policy
Celebration				Ground-breaking	Earth Day	Earth Day	Ribbon-cutting	Ribbon-cutting		

# 2026 CELEBRATION

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Join Us In Making a Difference!



Community Clean-Up



Sustainability Workshops



Tree Planting Ceremony



Eco-Fair



# THANK YOU

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