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To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Steven S. Carrigan, City Manager
Date: March 6, 2020
Re: City Council Information Report

STAFF MEETS WITH BITWISE DESIGN TEAM

City staff met with Bryan Feil, Bitwise Director of Real Estate Development; John Martin, Nuovo Real Estate; and Tom Bowe, WMB Architects to discuss the transition of the building located at 1635 M St. into office space, classrooms, and a business center. Discussion centered on building codes and building classification. Prior to the meeting, City staff toured the building to better understand the status of the current space and what it would take to re-use the facility. Other discussion topics included parking and incorporating a parklet along the W. Main Street frontage.



SUBCOMMITTEE TOURS FRESNO BREWERY DISTRICT

Michael Cruz, President of the Tioga-Sequoia Brewing Company, hosted the Council Downtown Subcommittee and City staff on a tour of Fresno's Brewery District and Downtown Fresno. The tour centered upon creating a sense of place and identification through the use of art and signs, mobile food vendors, parklets, outdoor seating, gathering places, and events. The Subcommittee and staff saw first-hand how design elements and places for people to gather solidified and connected the district.



TRENCH TRAINING

A state-certified trench/excavation training was led by the Fire Department for Public Works crews in the Sewer/Storm/Water Division. This 24-hour class, which started on Monday and ended Wednesday, included classroom discussion to work safely and efficiently in a trench rescue environment. The training covered topics such as: trench and excavation regulations, understanding soil, trench configurations, trench hazards, rescue team preparation, incident response, initial on scene and pre-entry operations, shoring systems and components, installation of shoring systems, victim rescue, recovery and incident termination.



ENGINEERING UPDATE

Water Well Site #21

Hobbs Construction is working on the building and grading the site.



Grogan Avenue Sidewalk

Taylor Backhoe finished sidewalks after noncompliant ADA sections had been removed and replaced.



Water Well Site #20

Clark Bros., Inc., is working on underground utilities at the building site.



Sidewalk Replacement Project Phase II

Witbro, Inc., DBA Seal Rite Paving and Grading, are removing and replacing sidewalks in the City.



DOWNTOWN PRESSURE WASHING

Public Works crews cleaned sidewalks in the area of R and 16th Streets this week. Staff used a machine that not only reduces the amount of water used, but also vacuums the spent water at the same time. Crews will continue these efforts as needed in this area.



TREE TRIMMING AT ALBERT LAWSON PARK

CDF crews assisted Public Works Tree staff with trimming and clearing trees and brush at the Albert Lawson Park (West 28th & I Street) this week.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Please find attached the legislative update from Townsend Public Affairs for the month of February.

INSPECTION SERVICES

Please find attached the Inspection Services reports for the month of February.

SPRING CLEANUP

Please find attached the flier for the 2020 Spring Cleanup.

SAVE THE DATE

March 12 – Courthouse Museum Exhibit Opening, 5-7 p.m.

March 12 – League Dinner, Castle Air Museum, 6 p.m. Social, 6:30 p.m. Dinner

March 20 – Farm Bureau Dinner, Fairgrounds, 5:30 p.m. Social, 6:45 p.m. Dinner

March 20-22 – Kiki Raina Tahiti Fete, Golden Valley High School

March 24 – City-County Dinner, Livingston, 5:30 p.m. Social, 6 p.m. Dinner

May 9 – Rescue Mission’s Dinner/Silent Auction, Gateway Church, 5:30 p.m.

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

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MEMORANDUM

To: City of Merced
Mayor and Council Members
Steve Carrigan, City Manager
Stephanie Dietz, Assistant City Manager

From: Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.
Christopher Townsend, President
Richard Harmon, Central California Senior Director

Date: March 2, 2020

Subject: Monthly Report—February 2020

SUMMARY

This memorandum is an overview of activities undertaken by Townsend Public Affairs (TPA) over the last month, working on behalf of the City of Merced, including the following subjects:

- **Legislative Activity and Updates**
 - *State Update*
 - Legislative Activity
 - LAO Report on Governor's Homelessness Plan
 - Governor's State of the State
 - Housing Update
 - Bill Introduction Deadline
 - State Surplus Property
 - LEAP Funding
 - *Federal Update*
 - Congressional Activity
 - Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations
 - PFAS/PFOA Update
 - Public Charge
 - Water
 - Transportation
- **Project Activity and Updates**
 - *Proposition 68 Grants*
- **Funding Program Updates**
 - *Proposition 68 Urban Flood Protection Program*
- **Upcoming Funding Opportunities**



LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY AND UPDATES

State Update

Legislative Activity

In February, State lawmakers were primarily focused on introducing legislation prior to the February 21 bill introduction deadline. Since the new year, 2,309 bills have been introduced. Additionally, there are 410 two-year bills that can be acted upon in 2020, bringing the total number of active bills in the Legislature to 2,719.

Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees have started their work on the Fiscal Year 2020-21 State Budget, beginning with evaluating the Governor's January Budget Proposal. Subcommittees are starting to hold hearings and are requesting additional information from State Departments, the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO), and various stakeholders.

Lastly, vote by mail ballots for the March 3 primary election have been sent out to California voters across the State. Governor Newsom also signed SB 207 (Hurtado, D-Sanger), an urgency bill that took effect on February 13 that allows voters to change their party preference or residence of record on their voter registration within two weeks of election day without having to re-register to vote.

Below is a list of upcoming legislative deadlines:

March 3: 2020 Primary Election Day

April 2: Spring Recess begins

April 13: Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess

April 24: Last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal bills to fiscal committees

LAO Report on Governor's Homelessness Plan

On February 11, the nonpartisan LAO issued a report on the Governor's homelessness plan that was included in his January Budget proposal. The report highlights both the 16 percent increase in the number of homeless individuals in the State from 2018 to 2019 (the total number now at approximately 151,000), as well as the increase in homelessness funding provided by local, state, and federal governments. It also highlights the \$1.2 billion investment from the State over the past two years to assist local governments in addressing the homelessness crisis.

Most notably, the report states that the "Governor's proposal raises key questions and falls short of articulating a clear strategy" for homelessness. The report also states that the "Governor's proposed approach is less likely to make a meaningful ongoing impact on the state's homelessness crisis." The LAO criticizes the Governor's plan to spend an additional \$750 million that would flow to regional administrators who would decide how the funds will be spent. The LAO instead credits local governments as the experts on the homeless challenges facing their communities.



This report was released approximately one week prior to the Governor's State of the State address which was focused on the issue of homelessness.

Governor's State of the State

On February 19, the Governor delivered his State of the State Address to a joint session of the Legislature. Much of the speech was dedicated to homelessness and the State's efforts to combat the issue by increasing funding and streamlining mitigation efforts. Notably for cities, the Governor highlighted new measures that he and his Homeless Task Force would be focused on, including holding local governments accountable to take action and a "do-it-or-lose-it" policy to hold local governments responsible and accountable for results.

Below is a summary of the Governor's key points:

- The State is focused on a "crisis-level response," including executive actions to deploy trailers for homeless individuals that have been sent to various cities and counties.
- The Governor is making 286 state properties, vacant lots, fairgrounds and armories available now to be used by local governments, for free, for homeless solutions.
- The Governor reiterated his focus on working with the Legislature to pass and sign legislation that will expand exemptions to the permitting process for all homeless shelters and supportive housing statewide.
- New homeless and mental health treatment policy framework which includes:
 - Revisiting mental health programs like Laura's Law and other conservatorships to lower the threshold for those with mental illnesses.
 - A renewed focus on integrating care, boosting preventative healthcare, and expanding the Whole Person Care Pilot programs statewide.
- The Governor stated that there is \$160 million in unspent Proposition 63 money that counties have not spent, and if those dollars were not spent by June 30, the State would be stepping in to spend the money on behalf of counties.
- The Governor stated his commitment to working with the Legislature on passing legislation that will increase housing production, eliminate red tape, eliminate delays for building affordable multifamily homes, and focus on building high-density housing near transit areas.

Housing Update

After SB 50 (Wiener, D-San Francisco) failed to pass the Senate, members of the Assembly and Senate have been weighing in on the statewide discussions regarding housing affordability, production, and local processes.

On February 24, Assembly Members Grayson, Chiu, Bonta, Gloria, and Gabriel were joined by representatives from Habitat for Humanity and California YIMBY for a press release on development impact fees and housing production. Members emphasized that in 2019, the Legislature was primarily focused on housing protection – 2020 is the year to focus on housing production. The Assembly Members released a legislative package focused on a variety of housing issues such as density bonuses, impact fees, production, and data.



Additionally, on February 26, the Assembly Local Government, Assembly Housing, Senate Governance and Finance, and Senate Housing Committees held an informational hearing to discuss housing and impact fees. Of note, in his opening comments, Senator Wiener emphasized the shortage of all types of housing, from affordable to market rate. The Senator recognized that impact fees are only part of the issue, and perhaps not the main issue in the statewide housing crisis.

Representatives from the LAO, special districts, local governments, and developers testified on the issue. The LAO stated that impact fees cannot be blamed as the only issue resulting in the high cost of housing development. Special district and local government representatives echoed that point while stating that fees are necessary for pre-development costs for agencies. Developer representatives pointed out that some fees are too high in certain areas while acknowledging the high costs of construction and the expensive market in California.

These housing bills and hearings will continue to evolve throughout the year, but they indicate potential changes in housing policy for local governments.

Bill Introduction Deadline

February 21 was the bill introduction deadline for lawmakers to introduce legislation to be considered in 2020. Bills that were introduced are not eligible for consideration for 30 days and many of them are “spot” bills which do not contain substantive language yet.

Below is a summary of some initial priority bills that have been identified by TPA:

AB 1907 (Santiago): California Environmental Quality Act: emergency shelters: supportive and affordable housing: exemption.

This bill would exempt from environmental review under CEQA certain activities approved by or carried out by a public agency in furtherance of providing emergency shelters, supportive housing, or affordable housing until January 1, 2029. **This bill has been referred to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.**

AB 1924 (Grayson): Housing Development: fees.

Would require that a fee levied or imposed on a housing development project by a city be proportionate to the square footage of the proposed unit or units. **This bill has been referred to the Assembly Local Government and Housing and Community Development Committees.**

AB 2093 (Gloria): Public records: writing transmitted by electronic mail: retention

This bill would require a public agency, for purposes of the California Public Records Act, to retain and preserve for at least 2 years every public record, as defined, that is transmitted by electronic mail. This is a re-introduction of AB 1184 from last year that was vetoed by the Governor. **This bill has been referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee.**



AB 3145 (Grayson): Local government: housing development projects: fees and exactions cap

Would prohibit a city or county from imposing a fee on a proposed housing project if the total dollar amount of the fee that a city or county would impose on a proposed housing development is greater than 12 percent of the city's or county's median home price unless otherwise approved by the Department of Housing and Community Development. **This bill has not yet been assigned to a Committee.**

SB 795 (Beall): Affordable Housing and Community Development Investment Program.

This bill creates the Affordable Housing and Community Development Investment Program for local agencies to use local property taxes for affordable housing and housing related projects. This bill is a re-introduction of SB 5 from last year that was vetoed by the Governor. **This bill has been referred to the Senate Governance and Finance, Housing, and Education Committees.**

SB 899 (Wiener): Density Bonuses

Current law requires a city or county to provide a developer that proposes a housing development within the jurisdictional boundaries of that city or county with a density bonus and other incentives for the production of lower income housing units, or for the donation of land within the development, if the developer agrees to construct a specified percentage of units for very low income, low-income, or moderate-income households. This bill would make a non-substantive change to that law. TPA will continue to watch this bill as statewide housing legislation discussions continue. **This bill has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SB 902 (Wiener): General Plan

Current law requires a planning agency of a city or county to provide by April 1 of each year an annual report to the Department of Housing and Community Development. The law requires that the annual report include the number of housing development applications received and the number of units approved and disapproved in the prior year. This bill would additionally require the planning agency include in the annual report whether the city or county is a party to a court action related to a violation of state housing law, and the disposition of that action. TPA will continue to watch this bill as statewide housing legislation discussions continue. **This bill has been referred to the Senate Housing Committee.**

SB 1289 (Chang): California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: housing projects.

Current law requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial effect on the environment. This bill would exempt from the requirements of CEQA housing projects that meet certain requirements until January 1, 2029. **This bill has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**



State Surplus Properties

On February 21, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the 286 State-owned properties available to local governments to use for homelessness solutions. The Governor called on local leaders to review the sites available in their regions and invited officials to work with the State to develop housing and shelter proposals that help move people off the streets. The State is offering local governments \$1 leases on State-owned-property, and the \$650 million in State Emergency Homeless Aid can be used to build out sites.

The Governor announced the release of these properties as part of his State of the State Address earlier in the week. They include vacant lots, fairgrounds, armories and other State buildings—and were identified as part of the Governor’s executive order requiring State agencies to take urgent action to make state properties and facilities available to rapidly increase housing and shelter options. The Department of General Services has developed an interactive map of the available properties, which will continue to be updated as it works with local governments on the suitability of parcels for temporary shelter.

In his State of the State Address, Governor Newsom called on all levels of government to step up their efforts to combat the homelessness crisis, and laid out his Administration’s five-part approach—reducing street homelessness quickly and humanely through emergency actions, a laser focus on getting the mentally ill out of tents and into treatment, providing stable funding to get sustainable results, tackling the underproduction of affordable housing in California, and doing all of this with real accountability and consequences.

LEAP Funding

On February 11, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) announced the release of the Local Early Action Plan (LEAP) grant NOFA. There is approximately \$119 million available for local governments statewide. This funding comes from the housing trailer bill (AB 101) that was signed into law last year.

The funding is for cities to help prepare for the upcoming Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) cycle. The funding is non-competitive, and awards will be based on population. Awards will range from \$65,000 for populations under 20,000 to \$1.5 million for populations over 750,000. Most mid-size cities are expected to receive between \$300,000 - \$500,000. The due date for applications is July 1, 2020.



Federal Update

Congressional Update

Congress concluded the impeachment trial of President Trump in February. The House voted to send the impeachment articles against the President to the Senate, which heard testimony from House-appointed managers as well as lawyers for President Trump. After nearly two weeks of deliberation from both sides, the Senate voted to acquit President Trump on the two articles of impeachment. The acquittal clears him of charges that he abused his power and also obstructed Congress when he reportedly asked the President of Ukraine for assistance with obtaining negative information on campaign rivals in a July 2019 phone call.

Democrats fell well short of the 67 votes or two-thirds majority required to convict and remove the President from office. The votes were mostly along party-lines, but included Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) voting to convict the President on abuse of power. Senator Romney's guilty vote marks the first time in history that a Senator voted to remove a President from the same party from office.

The acquittal is the final act in a trial that has spanned nearly four months. The trial originally began back in September when House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced an impeachment inquiry after lawmakers received an anonymous complaint from a whistleblower. With the end of this segment, Congress returns to regular duties, including the federal appropriations process and a multitude of priorities that may face impending delays in a presidential election year.

Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations

In February, the Trump Administration released its Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget proposal, outlining the President's tax and spending priorities over the next decade. Overall, domestic discretionary spending as a percentage of the U.S. economy would be cut in half over the course of a decade under President Donald Trump's budget proposal, with the Department of Commerce, Environmental Protection Agency and State Department seeing some of the steepest cuts. The Administration estimates that the \$4.8 trillion dollar budget would balance the federal deficit in 15 years and put debt on a downward path after 2022.

It should be noted that the President's budget request is not a piece of legislation and is not typically considered as-is in Congress. Thus, Congress will not adopt the recommended cuts wholesale and will be debating this for months to come.

Below is the stoplight chart with new proposed spending levels—green indicates level or increased funding, yellow unclear or negligible cut, and red indicates funding cuts.



	Program	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 President's Request	FY 2021 House	FY 2021 Senate	FY 2021 Enacted
HOUSING	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	\$3.43 billion	\$0			
	HOME Investment Partnerships	\$1.35 billion	\$0			
	Homeless Assistance Grants	\$2.8 billion	\$2.8 billion			
	Emergency Solutions Grants	\$290 million	\$280 million			
	Federal Housing Administration mortgage insurance programs	\$130 million	\$130 million			
	HUD-VASH Vouchers	\$83 million	\$83 million			
	Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program (includes Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing)	\$55 million	\$0			
	HUD Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	\$23.9 billion	\$18.8 billion			
	HUD Project-Based Rental Assistance	\$12.58 billion	\$12.64 billion			
	Public Housing Operating Fund	\$4.55 billion	\$3.5 billion			
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Economic Development Administration (EDA)	\$300 million	\$0			
	USDA Community Facilities grant	\$49 million	\$40 million			
	National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)	\$172 million	\$0			
	National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)	\$162.25 million	\$0			
	Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)	\$252 million	\$0			
TRANSPORTATION	Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants	\$1 billion	\$1 billion			
	Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants	\$1 billion	\$1 billion			
	Capital Investment Program (New Starts)	\$2 billion	\$1.9 billion			
	Public Transportation Security Grant Program	\$100 million	\$36 million			
	FTA Planning Programs	\$142 million	\$142 million			
	Federal Aviation Administration	\$17.6 billion	\$14.2 billion			
	Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)	\$325 million	\$330 million			
	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)	\$1.4 billion	\$0			
	Urbanized Area Formula Grants	\$4.929 billion	\$4.929 billion			
	Highway Infrastructure Programs	\$2.166 billion	\$0			



	Bus and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment	\$808 million	\$808 million			
PUBLIC SAFETY	Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)	\$235 million	\$99 million			
	Recidivism/Reentry Grants	\$90 million	\$87 million			
	Byrne JAG	\$547 million	\$411.7 million			
	Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction/Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)	\$20 million	\$40 million			
	Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) Grants	\$355 million	\$344.3 million			
	Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants	\$355 million	\$344.3 million			
	Disaster Relief Fund (including FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program)	\$17.35 billion	\$5.1 billion			
	Urban Area Security Initiative	\$665 million	\$426 million			
	National Flood Insurance Program (including Flood Hazard Mapping Program)	\$4.78 million	\$4.97 million			
		Head Start	\$10.6 billion	\$10.6 billion		
EDUCATION	Career and Technical Education (Perkins)	\$1.29 billion	\$2.05 billion			
	HEA Title III Part A Programs - Strengthening Institutions	\$108 million	\$0*			
	HEA Title V Grants - Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program	\$143 million	\$0*			
	GEAR UP	\$365 million	\$0*			
	TRIO	\$1.1 billion	\$950 million			
	IDEA Programs	\$13.9 billion	\$14 billion			
	Federal Work Study	\$1.18 billion	\$500 million			
	Pell Grants	\$24.5 billion	\$22.5 billion			
	Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants	\$865 million	\$0			
	Job Training and Employment/WIOA	\$70.679 million	\$70.679 million			
	CCAMPIS	\$53 million	\$15 million			
	Strengthening Community College Grant Program	\$40 million	\$0			
	Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers	\$1.2 billion	\$0*			
	Education Innovation and Research Grants – Dedicated STEM Funding	\$65 million	\$0*			
	Child Care and Development Block Grant	\$5.8 billion	\$5.8 billion			
	V A	Clean Water State Revolving Fund	\$1.64 billion	\$1.1 billion		



	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	\$1.13 billion	\$863 million			
	Bureau of Reclamation	\$1.66 billion	\$1.1 billion			
	WIFIA	\$60 million	\$25 million			
	WaterSMART Grants	134.246 million	18.152 million			
	Army Corps of Engineers	\$7.7 billion	\$6 billion			
ENVIRONMENT	Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Discretionary	\$484 million	\$0**			
	Brownfields Grants	\$89 million	\$80 million			
	BEACH Act Grants	\$9.2 million	\$0			
	Pollution Prevention Program	\$11.1 million	\$0			
	SAMHSA (Sober Living)	\$5.737 billion	\$5.598 billion			
	National Parks Facility Operations and Maintenance	\$2.58 billion	\$844.2 million			
	Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository	\$0	\$0			
	EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program (includes School Bus Replacement and Retrofit Rebates)	\$87 million	\$10 million			
	Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)	\$500 million	\$442.0 million			
WELFARE ASSISTANCE	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	\$67.9 billion	\$68.3 billion			
	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	\$6 billion	\$5.5 billion			
	Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	\$740 million	\$0			
	Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)	\$405 million	\$0			
	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	\$16.723 billion	\$15.715 billion			
SCI	National Science Foundation (NSF)	\$8.29 billion	\$7.7 billion			
	NASA Education	\$120 million	\$0			
	National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)	\$16.7 billion	\$19.9 billion			

*The Request would consolidate nearly 30 Federal elementary and secondary education programs into a single \$19.4 billion formula grant program

**LWCF was permanently reauthorized last year, meaning that there are \$900 million in permanent funding each year, no matter what happens in appropriations. This zeroing out reflects the transition from spending from discretionary to mandatory.



PFAS/PFOA Update

In February, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continued its quest to implement the Agency's PFAS Action Plan by proposing regulatory determinations for perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in drinking water. The initial determinations highlight an important breakthrough in EPA's extensive efforts under the PFAS Action Plan to help communities address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

With this most recent announcement, EPA is requesting public comment on its proposed regulatory determinations for eight contaminants listed on the fourth Contaminant Candidate List in the Action Plan. Additionally, the Agency is proposing to regulate two contaminants: PFOS and PFOA. EPA is also asking for information and data on other PFAS substances, as well as seeking comment on potential monitoring requirements and regulatory approaches EPA is considering for PFAS chemicals. EPA will seek comment on these preliminary determinations for 60 days after the notice is published in the Federal Register.

Public Charge

In February, the Trump Administration began enforcing the controversial "public charge" rule. After multiple legal barriers blocking the implementation of the new requirements were cleared by the Supreme Court, most green card applicants in the U.S. and abroad will now be subjected to a redefined "public charge" test. Under the rules by the Departments of State and Homeland Security, immigration officials have more power to deny applications from petitioners deemed as potential economic burdens on the country.

Under the new regulation, caseworkers would consider enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), certain federally funded Medicaid benefits, and a variety of forms of government-subsidized housing, including Section 8 vouchers. Officials would deem an immigrant a "public charge" and deny the application if they determine an applicant is likely to use one of the considered benefits for 12 months or longer over the span of three years. On certain occasions, those deemed a "public charge" could post a bond for an amount no less than \$8,100. To determine whether prospective immigrants are likely to become a "public charge," caseworkers would also take into account their income, assets, age, educational skills, English language proficiency, health and other factors. The sweeping policy change, one of the administration's top immigration priorities, is expected to block the entry of hundreds of thousands of immigrants.

Water

In February, the Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Peter DeFazio (D-OR), and Chair of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA) held a Members' Day Hearing to examine Members' priorities in development of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (WRDA).

This hearing was an opportunity for all Members of the House of Representatives to highlight issues of importance in their district as it relates to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Testimony



from this hearing will inform the Committee in the development of a new WRDA, which the Committee expects to approve this year.

Transportation

This month, Congress continued to make progress on options to pay for their highway bill. Leaders of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee are considering three options: a tax on electric vehicles, charging trucks more, and indexing the federal motor fuels tax. Panel Chairman John Barrasso (R-WY) did not confirm whether any of these options are on the table, and neither did Finance Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA), the leader of the committee charged with crafting a financing plan for the bill. Senator Barrasso has indicated in the past that he wants electric vehicle drivers to contribute in some way to the Highway Trust Fund, which is the primary funding mechanism for federal highway programs. Those drivers aren't contributing heavily right now because the primary funding source for the fund is the federal motor fuels tax.

In the House, Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA) indicated that he is still negotiating with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin about a funding stream for their broader \$760 billion infrastructure package, which covers highways, bridges, transit, rail, water, and broadband. The two have met twice recently on the topic.



PROJECT ACTIVITY AND UPDATES

Proposition 68 Grants

TPA and City staff continue to work on funding opportunities for park projects from Proposition 68. The California Department of Parks and Recreation is coordinating the **Statewide Park Program (SPP)—Round 3**, which the City applied for in August. A total of 480 applications were received, requesting more than \$2.2 billion in funding (there is \$254 million available).

We worked with City staff on applications for the development of several parks. The City has led efforts on the community-based planning and soliciting input for park design.

Three applications were submitted on August 5 and we received site visits on November 6. Unfortunately, we were not selected for funding, but will working on next steps for a new submittal later this year.

FUNDING PROGRAM UPDATES

Proposition 68 Urban Flood Protection Program

The Urban Flood Protection Program, funded by Proposition 68, will fund multi-benefit projects in urbanized areas to address flooding. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. This program emphasizes and gives priority to projects that serve the State's severely disadvantaged communities.

The deadline for application is March 25, 2020, and eligible applicants include local and state agencies, Native American tribes, joint powers authorities and nonprofit organizations.

Projects must address flooding in urbanized areas and provide multiple benefits. Eligible projects shall include, but are not limited to, stormwater capture and reuse, planning and implementation of low-impact development, restoration of urban streams and watersheds, and increasing permeable surfaces to help reduce flooding.

At least 20 percent of program funds will be allocated to projects serving severely disadvantaged communities.

Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Create green alleys or streets to reduce impervious areas, treat polluted stormwater runoff and mitigate localized flooding.
- Remove or improve culverts, bridges, at-grade stream crossings, or other structures that impede flood flows, block fish passage, or have other negative environmental impacts.
- Acquire lands to accommodate periodic flooding as part of a flood management plan or project



- Retrofit/naturalize a storm water detention basin by introducing trees, vegetation, and soils to slow, spread, and filter runoff, increase infiltration, and create wildlife habitat.
- Remove accumulated sediment in reservoirs to restore flood capacity, return associated dams to full operation, and protect downstream communities

Planning-only or operation and maintenance projects are not eligible.

Total program funding for two cycles is \$87.5 million, with a minimum award of \$200,000 and maximum award of \$6 million. There is also a 25 percent match requirement unless the project is located in or serving a disadvantaged community. Disadvantaged Community means a community with an annual median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average. Serving a Disadvantaged or Severely Disadvantaged Community means a project that is located within one mile of a disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged community and providing direct benefits to the disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged residents. "Direct benefits" include, but are not limited to, recreational and educational opportunities, training and workforce education, job opportunities, reduced pollution burden and increased resilience to climate change

Projects that leverage private, federal, or local funding will also be given priority.



UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Included below is a list of several upcoming grant programs, descriptions and due dates:

- **U.S. DOJ COPS Hiring Grant Program (March 11)**—The grant provides 75 percent of the approved entry-level salaries and fringe benefits of each newly hired and/or rehired full-time officer, up to \$125,000 per officer position, over the 3-year (36 month) grant period. The grant requires you to identify a specific crime and disorder problem/focus area and explain how CHP funding will be used to implement community policing approaches to that problem/focus area. Funds as many positions as possible for successful applicants; however, the number of officer positions requested by an agency may be reduced based on the availability of funding and other programmatic considerations. Additional consideration will be given to applicants who select the following problem/focus areas: Violent Crime, Homeland & Border Security Problems, and School Based Policing.
- **FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (March 13)**—The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations, and State Fire Training Academies (SFTA) for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.
- **Urban Flood Protection Grant Program (March 25)**—\$100 million from Proposition 68 shall be available to the Natural Resources Agency for competitive grants for the purposes of multi-benefit projects in urbanized areas to address flooding. Eligible projects shall include, but are not limited to, stormwater capture and reuse, planning and implementation of low-impact development, restoration of urban streams and watersheds, and increasing permeable surfaces to help reduce flooding.
- **Per Capita Park Grant Program (April 8)**—This program provides funding directly to states, units of local government, Indian tribes, and public agencies (including school districts and local law enforcement agencies) to be used to improve security at schools and on school grounds through evidence-based school safety programs. There is a total of \$50 million in funding with a \$500,000 max award and 25% match requirement. Eligible costs for this program include: Coordination with law enforcement—salaries and benefits for nonsworn personnel; Training for local law enforcement officers to prevent student violence against others and self; Equipment—Metal detectors, locks, lighting, school site alarm and protection systems; Technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency—communication technology, emergency alerts, laptops, maps of schools and bus routes, social media monitoring, tracking systems, video surveillance technology; Supplies—manuals, paper, pens, postage; Contracts/consultants for project implementation; and Other costs—allowable overtime, other office supplies.



- ***BUILD Discretionary Grant Program (May 18)***—Fiscal Year 2020 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grants are for planning and capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. BUILD funding can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation. Projects for BUILD will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, environmental sustainability, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership. The U.S. Department of Transportation intends to award 50 percent of BUILD Transportation grant funding to projects located in rural areas that deliver positive benefits for these communities, consistent with the Department’s R.O.U.T.E.S. initiative. For this round of BUILD grants, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$100 million can be awarded to a single State, as specified in the appropriations act.
- ***Per Capita Park Grant Program (Spring 2020)***—Funds are available for local park rehabilitation, creation, and improvement grants to local governments on a per capita basis. Recipients are encouraged to utilize awards to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and to address deficiencies in neighborhoods lacking access to the outdoors.
- ***Urban Greening Grant Program (Spring 2020)***—Eligible urban greening projects will reduce GHG emissions and provide multiple additional benefits, including, but not limited to, a decrease in air and water pollution or a reduction in the consumption of natural resources and energy. Eligible projects will result in the conversion of an existing built environment into green space that uses natural and green infrastructure approaches to create sustainable and vibrant communities. A competitive project will maximize opportunities to reduce GHG emissions through project design and implementation as well as incorporate green infrastructure solutions that improve the sustainability and function of existing urban hardscapes and landscapes.
- ***Local Partnership Program (June 12)***—Jurisdictions with voter approved taxes, tolls, and fees, or with imposed fees, will be eligible for this competitive grant program if the taxes, tolls, or fees are dedicated solely to transportation. The initial programming cycle will cover 2017-18 through 2019-20.
- ***Active Transportation Program (June 15)***—The Active Transportation Program was created to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as biking and walking. Pursuant to statute, the goals of the Active Transportation Program are to Increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking, increase the safety and mobility of non-motorized users, enhance public health, including reduction of childhood obesity through the use of programs including, but not limited to, projects eligible for Safe Routes to School Program funding, and ensure that disadvantaged communities fully share in the benefits of the program.



- **Transit-Oriented Development Housing Program (June 2020)**—Funded from Proposition 1, funding under the TOD program will support low interest loans available as gap financing for rental housing development that include affordable units, and as mortgage assistance for homeownership developments. In addition, grants are available to cities, counties, and transit agencies for infrastructure improvements necessary for the development of specified housing developments, or to facilitate connections between these developments and the transit station.
- **Storm Water Grant Program (June 2020)**—Funded from Proposition 1, funding will be available for multi-benefit storm water management projects which may include, but shall not be limited to: green infrastructure, rainwater and storm water capture projects and storm water treatment facilities.
- **Local Early Action Planning Grants (July 1)**—The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has released the Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) grants with approximately \$119 million in funding. LEAP grants provide funding to jurisdictions for the preparation and adoption of planning documents, process improvements that accelerate housing production, and facilitate compliance in implementing the sixth cycle of the regional housing needs assessment.



Inspection Services CI

For the period of February 10th through February 23rd, 2019, there were 18 New Single Family Dwelling Permits Issued.

The running total of New Single Family Dwellings in Plan Review is **735!**

Multi Family Permits in review:

Gateway Terrace Apartments located at 405 W 12th St, 1 Office/Lounge and 6, 2 story Apartments; 2 buildings have 16 units, 3 buildings have 30 units, and 1 building has 4 units.

Yosemite at Lake Apartments located at 2850 E. Yosemite Ave.; 15- 27,276 SF 3-story apartment buildings each with 15 units, and a 1,200 SF maintenance building.

Compass Pointe phase II: 128 units in 16, 8-plex buildings plus a clubhouse.

There were 0 multi-family permits issued during this period.

(No change since last report)

There were 0 new construction commercial permits issued.

There were 3 new tenant improvement permits issued during this period; one for a new cosmetics layout in Walmart located at 3055 Loughborough, one for phase II of construction including anchorage, utilities, and electrical for new equipment for Greif Containers Inc. located at 2400 Cooper Ave., and one for Valley Performance Physical Therapy located at 1180 W. Olive Ave.

There was 1 new commercial submittal during this period; for a new Starbucks located at 1665 R St.

There were 3 new tenant improvement submittals during this period; one for the installation of 2 interior restrooms at the Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 10260 Gove Rd., one for a remodel of DD's discounts located at 3158 R St., and one for a tunnel approach, POS system, and shade canopy for Mister Car Wash located at 1800 W. Olive Ave.

There were 0 CofOs issued for this period.

Inspection Services CI

For the period of January 27th through February 9th, 2019, there were 23 New Single Family Dwelling Permits Issued.

The running total of New Single Family Dwellings in Plan Review is **689!**

Multi Family Permits in review:

Gateway Terrace Apartments located at 405 W 12th St, 1 Office/Lounge and 6, 2 story Apartments; 2 buildings have 16 units, 3 buildings have 30 units, and 1 building has 4 units.

Yosemite at Lake Apartments located at 2850 E. Yosemite Ave.; 15- 27,276 SF 3-story apartment buildings each with 15 units, and a 1,200 SF maintenance building.

Compass Pointe phase II: 128 units in 16, 8-plex buildings plus a clubhouse.

There were 0 multi-family permits issued during this period.

(No change since last report)

There was 1 new construction commercial permit issued during this period; for the well site 20 pump house located at 887 S Tyler Rd.

There were 2 new tenant improvement permits issued during this period; one for an ice cream shop located at 1111 W. Olive Ave. Ste B., and one for the El Capitan Hotel extension building for their laundry, located at 627 W. Main St.

There were 0 new commercial submittals during this period.

There were 5 new tenant improvement submittals during this period; one for a new fitness center located at 1240 W. Main St., one for coolers and registers for online grocery pick up at Walmart located at 3055 Loughborough Dr., one for a remodel of the commercial kitchen for Church of Nazerene located at 1717 E. Olive Ave., one for LAGS outpatient surgical center located at 510 W. 25th St., and one for plumbing and drive-thru modifications at Starbucks located at 700 Carol Ave.

There was one CofO issued for this period; for a tenant improvement for Dollar General Market located at 1729 Hwy 140.

2020 Spring Cleanup Guidelines

Items Not Accepted

- ◆ No Household Hazardous Waste.
Such as: batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, bio-medical waste, and other hazardous materials.
- ◆ No LIQUIDS of any kind.
This includes oil and/or gas inside of any equipment.
- ◆ No construction or contractor debris.
- ◆ No trailers longer than 12 feet in length or large cargo trucks (such as Uhaul).
- ◆ No dumping debris on the ground.
- ◆ No tires larger than 24.5".
Tractor or semi-truck tires are not accepted.
- ◆ No loose brush.

PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF ITEMS
WHEN SITES ARE NOT OPEN

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Information

The following Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is accepted daily at the Highway 59 Landfill, 7040 N. Highway 59, at no cost from residents only (not businesses):

Antifreeze, Batteries (automotive and household batteries), Electronics, Fluorescent tubes & CFLs, Latex liquid paint, Mercury-containing thermostats, Used motor oil/filters.
Hours of operation at the Highway 59 Landfill are Monday – Friday: 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.; Saturday: 8 a.m. – noon; (Closed Sundays and holidays).

Other types of Household Hazardous Waste are accepted at the landfill during Quarterly HHW Collection Events only. The next event is on Saturday, April 11th and July 18th. Please call 209-723-4481 ext. 224 for more information.

Assisted Spring Clean-Up

If you are currently on our Assisted Refuse Service, or would like to see if you qualify for assistance, please contact our office to discuss the requirements and limitations for removal at (209) 385-6800 **no later than Friday April 17th at 4:30 p.m.**

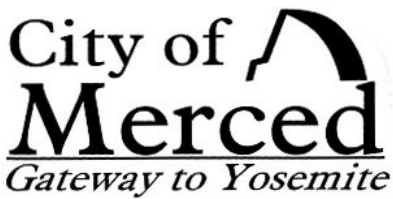
Return Address

Stamp

Resident

Address

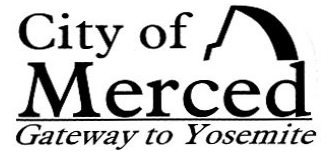
City State Zip



Public Works Department
Spring Cleanup Details Inside



CITY OF MERCED RESIDENTIAL REFUSE 2020 SPRING CLEANUP



MUST HAVE

◆ **Proof that you are a City of Merced Residential Refuse Customer.**

You must show your **Driver's License** and a **recent utility bill** with the same name.

Acceptable bills include:

- City of Merced Garbage bill
- PG&E or MID electric bill

Accepted Items

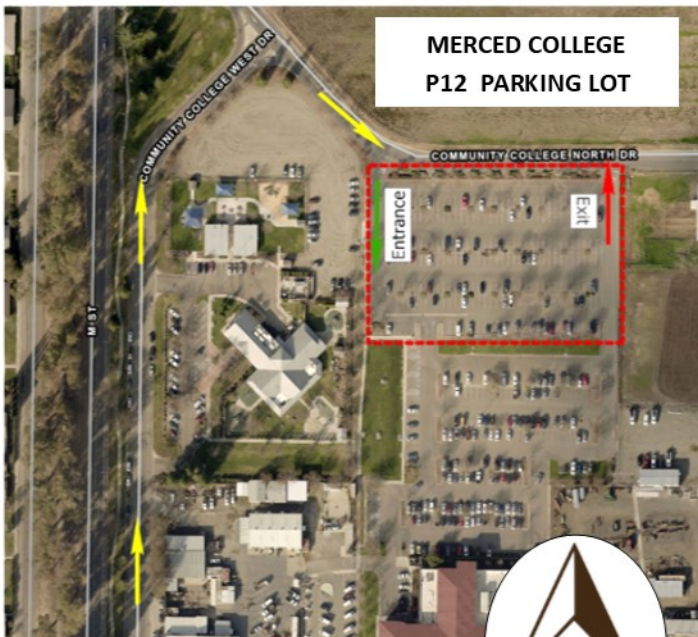
Please separate these items from waste for easy access.

- ◆ Home appliances & metal items.
- ◆ E-Waste such as: TV's, Computers, and Electronic Equipment.
- ◆ Passenger or pickup tires only, **NO MORE THAN 9 TIRES WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Please remove rims.
Reminder: No tires over 24.5", such as tractor or semi-truck tires.
- ◆ Lawnmowers, weed eaters, and edgers with **NO gas or oil** in the tank.
- ◆ Propane tanks with the nozzle **REMOVED.**
- ◆ Treated lumber, including creosote poles and railroad ties (no commercial sources).
- ◆ Brush/Shrubs bundled and no longer than 3 feet in length.
- ◆ **Used Bicycles will be collected and donated to local charities.**

Please donate cleaned, gently used clothes and other usable items to local charities.

Important Information

- ◆ **This program is only for City of Merced residential customers with active refuse accounts. Those who receive refuse service in Merced County will be turned away.**
- ◆ **Items must be off-loaded into a container—NOT on the ground.**
- ◆ **Remember that you must be able to off-load your items, some stations will not have a staff member to assist you.**



SPRING CLEANUP SITE LOCATIONS

City of Merced Residents may take items to either location:

- Parson Ave Parking Lot of Golden Valley High
- P12 Parking Lot of Merced College

Items may be brought in a car, truck, van, or trailer that is 12 feet or less in length.

Spring Cleanup Dates

Saturday, April 18th & Saturday, April 25th

Spring Cleanup Hours

Sites are open 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

****PLEASE NOTE SITE ENTRANCES****

Questions

Please call the Public Works office at (209) 385-6800.

Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Si gustaria informacion sobre limpieza de primavera en Espanol por favor Llame al (209) 385-6800.

Yog koj xav paub ntxiv txog Spring Cleanup, thov hu rau (209) 385-6800.

KIKI RAINA TAHITI FETE

HOPES AND DREAMS

MARCH 20, 21, 22

2020



ADVANCE SALE TICKETS \$18 ADULT \$15 CHILD.
PHONE (209) 383-1435. KIKIRAINA.COM FOR MORE INFO
GOLDEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - MERCED, CALIFORNIA



Hope Impact

with Sargeez Teimoorshahi,
Program Director, New Direction
Turning Point Community Programs

The Rescue Mission is one of the greatest assets Merced County has, and it is a vital part of our community. From their Sober Living Environment homes, Respite Care, to bridge housing, it has been a pleasure collaborating with the Rescue Mission to assist the individuals we are privileged to serve. Their holistic approach to helping the clients in their programs is the key to their success, and it is one of the main programs that our office sends referrals to on a daily basis



*We need your help
with items for the
Oasis Dinner silent
auction and live
auction.*

If you have items that can be donated, please contact Bruce Metcalf at (209) 480-3899, or email, bmetcalf@missionmerced.org.

Oasis Dinner Tickets on Sale Now!

The Rescue Mission's Oasis Dinner is just over two months away! Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us on Saturday, May 9th, at Gateway Community Church. Be sure to come for the great appetizers and the sumptuous dinner. Look forward to the treasures you will find on the silent auction tables. Of course, the live auction will present you with some fabulous opportunities as well. Above all, you certainly won't want to miss the briefing on the incredible things God has been doing through the Mission during this past year and the vision that lies before us. YOU have been a part of all the great things that have been accomplished, and YOU have contributed through your

Join us for Merced County Rescue Mission's Annual Benefit OASIS DINNER

Appetizers
Silent Auction
5:30 PM

Followed by a
delicious dinner,
program and
LIVE AUCTION



Gateway
Community
Church
353 E. Donna Dr.
Merced

Ticket \$35
Table for 8 \$250

Saturday, May 9, 2020

Call (209)480-3899 or email bmetcalf@missionmerced.org

prayers and gifts to many lives that have been transformed. We look forward to sharing with you a wonderful evening of celebration and anticipation of

God's great work!
For tickets call Bruce Metcalf at (209) 480-3899, or email, bmetcalf@missionmerced.org.