



**To:** The Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Stephanie R. Dietz, Acting City Manager  
**Date:** July 31, 2020  
**Re:** City Council Information Report

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### **READY2OPEN COURTESY WALK-THROUGHS KICKOFF**

The City of Merced Fire Department, in collaboration with the Department of Economic Development, conducted a series of READY2OPEN courtesy walk-throughs this week. The courtesy walk-throughs are performed at businesses who have self-certified that they are meeting the following requirements through the Reopen Merced County website:

- Posted signage for customers at the entrance of business.
- Employees have received safety training.
- Employee health monitoring to prevent outbreaks.
- Enforce physical distancing in business.
- Routinely sanitize facility.

Businesses who successfully meet all criteria on the checklist are issued a READY2OPEN sticker. The sticker lets employees and customers know that the business is taking proactive steps to provide a safe environment. The READY2OPEN campaign is a joint effort by Merced County and the six cities in partnership with local businesses.



The City has received 35 self-certification submissions and the fire department is working to complete all of these educational inspections. Fire crews have experienced positive interaction with these businesses and have utilized this time for education and to answer any questions that the businesses might have.

## VIRTUAL BINGO HOSTED BY MERCED YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council has organized two virtual bingo games, live streaming via Zoom for youth and families in the community. This is a free event for city residents on Saturday evenings. August 1st will be their last game. Below are photos of our bingo winners. See flyer attached for details.



## JUNIOR GIANTS - VIRTUAL SEASON

The City of Merced Junior Giants at Home 2nd season of the summer has come to an end. Jr. Giants baseball has gone virtual this year enabling youth to still enjoy and learn the game of baseball from home with live virtual coaches and other participants throughout the city. The Jr. Giants at Home Virtual Season will be extended for a 3rd season beginning August 3rd-29th.



## APPLEGATE PARK ZOO REOPENING

The Applegate Park Zoo reopened to the public a week ago. Residents were delighted to be able to visit again for the first time since mid-March. Over the past five days, a total of 124 families have visited. This includes 120 children under age 5, 79 children over age 5, 201 adults, 16 seniors, and 15 Zoo Society Members. Check out the new social distancing signage below.



## **STREETS CREW RESTRIPED CROSSWALKS**

The Public Works Streets crew re-painted crosswalks at the intersections of G & 23<sup>rd</sup> Streets, M & 2<sup>st</sup> Streets, M & 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets, M & 23<sup>rd</sup> Streets, and R Street & Childs Avenue this week.



## **WATER CREW REPAIR VALVE AT ALEXANDER & NOTTINGHAM**

The Public Works Water crew excavated last week to identify the parts needed to replace a broken valve in this cluster at the intersection of Alexander and Nottingham Avenue this week. Water staff this week cut out the broken valve and replaced with a new mechanical joint cross with 4 new valves.



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – PROJECT UPDATE

### Project #107033 – Water Well site #20

Clark Bros., Inc., backfilled water retention basin this week (see photo to the right). This project is approximately 35% complete.



### Project #114004 – Cooper Lift Station

Phase 1 Construction crew worked on underground piping (see photo on the left). This project is approximately 25% complete.

### Project #120048 – M St. – Childs to 8<sup>th</sup> Street Roadway Improvements

TBS Contractors crew finished striping and pavement markings. This project is approximately 99% complete.



### Upcoming Construction Projects (*Pending Council's Approval*)

1. Project #120025 – Construction of Restrooms in Lab & Solid Handling Bldg
2. Project #120048 – M St. Grind & Overlay with ADA Upgrades, 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>
3. Project #113031 – Brimmer Water Main Replacements

### Projects in Design (*Limited List*)

1. Highway 59 Wideing (Pending Council Approval)
2. Highway 59 and 16<sup>th</sup> Street Signal and Channelization (90%)
3. Alpine Drive Road Improvements and Water Main (90%)
4. Motel Drive Multi-Use Pathway (90%)
5. V Street, 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Streets, Roadway Improvements (85%)
6. N Street, 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Streets, Roadway Improvements (85%)

## **CALIFORNIA FORWARD REGIONS RISE UPDATE**

In July 2020, a diverse group of cross-sector partners took the next step in advancing their inclusive planning process, holding meetings for the Salinas Valley and the North San Joaquin Valley regions. California Forward joined the Community Foundation of San Joaquin, City of Merced, and Stanislaus Community Foundation in co-hosting an exploratory meeting with more than 40 cross-sector leaders from the Counties of Merced, San Joaquin and Stanislaus. A copy of the California Forward report is included for your review.

## **SBDC REPORT**

Please find attached, the SBDC report for the period of 1/1/2020 – 6/30/2020.

## **TWO POLICE OFFICERS SWORN IN TODAY**

**CORRECTION** to last week's CI - The Merced Police Department conducted a swearing in of two new police officers today in the Council Chambers. Police Officer Trainees Jacob Painter and Joshua Nickerson successfully completed the Fresno Police Academy and will move to the rank of Police Officer. Photos of the ceremony are provided on the next page.

Police Officer Trainees Jacob Painter and Joshua Nickerson sworn in by Chief Cavallero.



*Members of the Merced Police Dept., from left to right: Sgt. Dabney, Sgt. Aponte, Lt. Ward, Ofc. Painter, Chief Cavallero, Ofc. Nickerson, Capt. Struble, Lt. Weiss, Sgt. Foster*

## **SAVE THE DATE**

August 3 – Council Meeting

August 17 – Council Meeting

## **REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

- |                              |         |
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| 2. California Forward report | Page 10 |
| 3. SBDC Report               | Page 13 |



MERCED YOUTH COUNCIL  
PRESENTS:

# Weekly Virtual Bingo

starting July 18, every Saturday of the month, including August 1

## GIVEAWAY

2-3 gift card winners every week  
plus a single AirPods set winner the first and final week

join us @6pm on Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID: 916 678 2853  
Password: MYCbingo

scan to play bingo!



follow us on social media for more information!



@Merced Youth



@MercedYouthCouncil



## Regions Rise Together 2020 Takes Next Steps in Salinas Valley and North San Joaquin Valley

JULY 29, 2020 BY CA FWD



(Photo: [Russell Mondy/Flickr](#) & [Mark Miller/Wikimedia](#))

Efforts to understand the economic challenges and assets of California's diverse regions has become even more vital during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, [Regions Rise Together](#) was launched by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development ([GO-Biz](#)), the Governor's Office of Planning and Research ([OPR](#)) in partnership with California Forward (CA Fwd) and our California Stewardship Network.

The effort continues in 2020 with strategy sessions focused on inclusive regional planning as a centerpiece of the economic recovery to develop high-road economic development and a more sustainable economy

“CA Fwd is proud to take the lead on Regions Rise Together in 2020 with an expanded effort that has taken on even more urgency due to the public health crisis induced recession and the need to address long-standing racial inequities in the state,” said Micah Weinberg, CEO of [CA Fwd](#).

Last week, a diverse group of cross-sector partners took the next step in advancing their inclusive planning process, holding meetings for the Salinas Valley and the North San Joaquin Valley regions.

### **Regions Rise Together Salinas Valley**

Led by the [Monterey Bay Economic Partnership](#) and CA Fwd, regional partners met with [Sankofa Consulting](#) who provided an overview of the framework they will be using to facilitate the group's inclusive planning process, which will yield a long-term investment plan for the region.

“Our local team has placed racial equity at the center of this work since our very first meeting,” said Kate Roberts, president and CEO of the [Monterey Bay Economic Partnership](#). “We are excited about the opportunity to create a blueprint that outlines a pathway to impact, and the sequence of activities and investments needed to achieve an inclusive economy. This project has the potential to unlock current barriers by addressing their root causes.”

Next steps for this process will include a series of informational interviews with regional stakeholders during the month of August.

Roberts added, “Now, in this time of COVID-19, the need for an inclusive economic plan is more critical than ever.”

### **Regions Rise Together North San Joaquin Valley**

CA Fwd joined the Community Foundation of San Joaquin, City of Merced, and Stanislaus Community Foundation in co-hosting an exploratory meeting with more than 40 cross-sector leaders from the Counties of Merced, San Joaquin and Stanislaus.

“Even though it’s challenging to think long-term in the midst of a crisis, it’s actually the perfect opportunity to imagine new identities, investments and infrastructure that can be more resilient, more just, and more equitable,” said Marian Kaanon, president and CEO of the Stanislaus Community Foundation. “Our virtual convening sparked inspiration and commitment to rebuild our economy in new ways, and we’re incredibly excited to begin this work together.”

Participants heard from an impressive lineup of speakers, which included CA Fwd CEO Micah Weinberg and Egon Terplan of [California Strategic Growth Council](#) who both emphasized the importance of acting regionally as civic stewards with a triple-bottom-line framework of equity, environment and economy.

Dr. Jeffrey Michael from the University of the Pacific presented compelling data making the case for a three-county identity that in many ways is interconnected and interdependent on the neighboring regions of Greater Sacramento, San Joaquin Valley and the Northern California mega region.

“If we have learned anything from the COVID-19 pandemic it is that the time to reimaging the future is now,” said Stephanie Dietz, interim city manager for the City of Merced. “Our community is counting on local leaders to think beyond the boundaries of agency, hear the community’s true needs and to develop equitable solutions for all of the Northern San Joaquin Valley to rise as region.”

Ashley Swearingin, CEO of the [Central Valley Community Foundation](#) delivered inspirational comments on the [Fresno DRIVE](#) initiative, considered a successful model of inclusive economic planning. Swearingin described the challenges of convening a diverse set of stakeholders around a common agenda and of setting a 10-year course of action for the Greater Fresno region.

Regional participants concluded that they were committed to launching an inclusive planning process with racial equity at the center to tackle long-standing inequalities and yield a long-term investment plan for the region.

“The beginning of the beginning,” added Moses Zapien, president and CEO of the [Community Foundation of San Joaquin](#).

These two efforts, along with those in the Capitol Region, Bakersfield and Inland Empire, are all examples of the type of inclusive economic development championed by the [California Economic Summit](#) and embraced by [AB 3205](#) from Assemblymember Rudy Salas.

Regions Rise Together efforts in 2020 also include Kern County, Imperial Valley, South East Los Angeles and the Redwood Coast.



CENTRAL CA NETWORK

# City of Merced Update

January 1 - June 30, 2020

The UC Merced SBDC continues to assist business owners with the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL). The service center is still closed to the public, but staff and Business Advisors continue to serve Clients remotely.

**CLIENTS SERVED 280**

Number of pre-venture and in-business clients counseled.

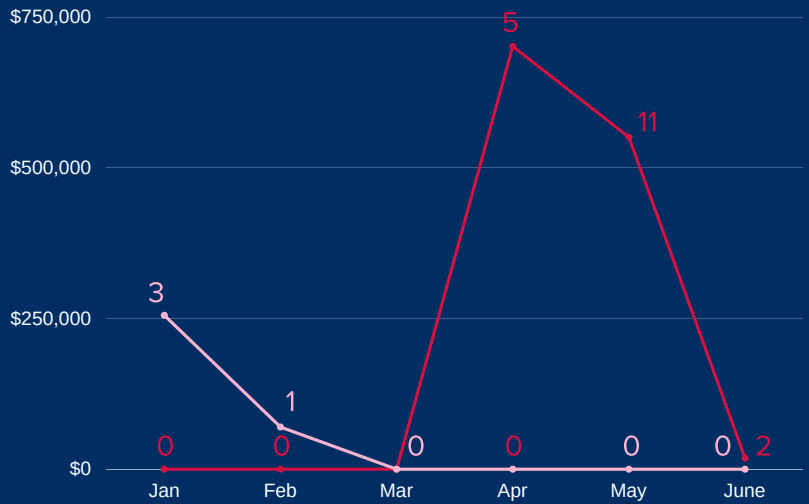
**COUNSELING HOURS 588**

Total time spent with Clients.

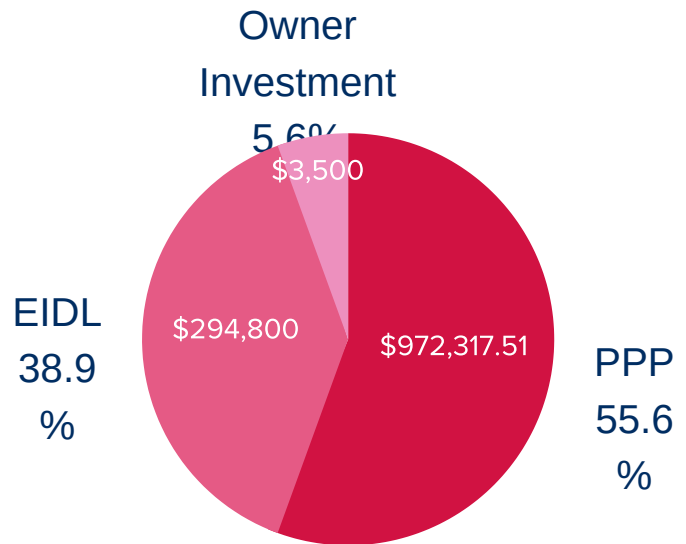
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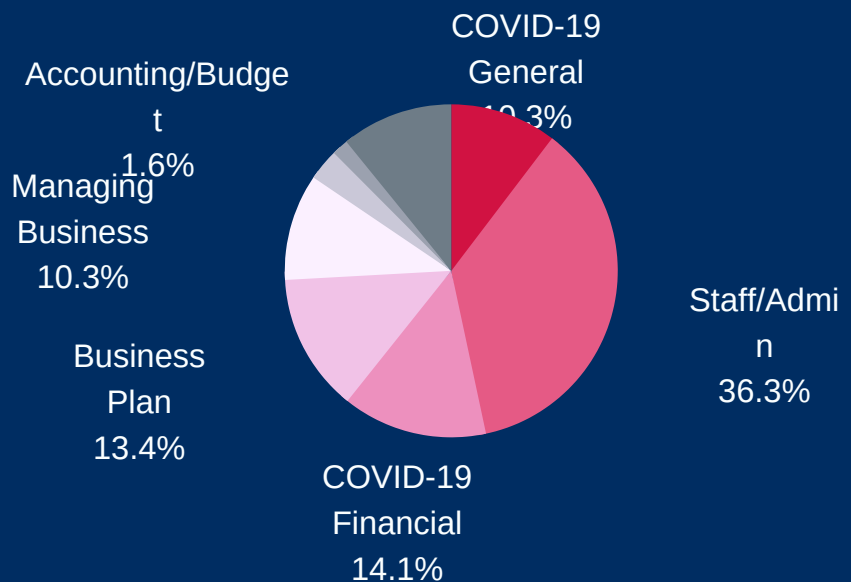
Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the CA Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.



Capital Funding 2019 vs 2020



2020 Capital Funding Types



2020 Counseling Areas