



**MERCED COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
COURTHOUSE MUSEUM
21ST & N STREETS
P.O. Box 3557
MERCED, CA 95344
PHONE 209/723-2401 FAX 209/723-8029
WWW.MERCEDMUSEUM.ORG**

NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES

January 3, 2021

Dear Mayor Serratto and Council Members,

The Merced County Historical Society Board of Directors would like to express our strongest opposition to Item #I.1 (20-802) on the January 4, 2021 Merced City Council agenda regarding the proposed installation of median parking slots between the N Street Palms.

Here is a brief history of the N Street Palms:

On March 6, 1905, the Merced Improvement Club went before the Merced County Board of Supervisors and asked for permission to plant palm trees in front of the Courthouse on N Street. Later, on the same day, Club representatives went before the Merced City Trustees for the same application. The City not only granted the application but also made a donation in support. Each palm cost about \$2.50. In addition to the 36 trees, the Improvement Club also recommended putting grass and shrubbery between the palms. This beautification project proved to be a popular community effort as the Native Daughters of the Golden West Veritas Parlor #75 and property owners came forward to raise the remaining funds. By April 4, 1905, all the trees were planted.

In 1934, the Merced City Council, with the exception of Mayor J. C. Cocanour, approved a business group's petition demanding the removal of eight of the trees. This action resulted in a huge public outcry. The Native Daughters of the Golden West led a vigorous campaign that eventually resulted in the preservation of the trees and their grass islands.

The N Street Palms have graced N Street for 115 years. The Palms and grass islands are a historic and aesthetic element of N Street. We ask you all to consider the historically destructive impact of the parking proposal and reject it.

Sincerely,

Julie Marchini, Board President
Merced County Historical Society

Board of Directors: Julie Marchini, President; Carlene Cunningham, President-Elect, Mike Bik, Vice President; Charlie Galatro, Past-President
Grey Roberts, Treasurer; Patti Kishi, Secretary; Sarah Lim, Museum Director; Kathy Brady, John Carlos,
Chet Downey, Neil Morse, Joyce Mattos, Dan Nelson, Kent Roberts, Roberta Saling, Bob Souza, Chris Tomford, Bud Wallace

Board of Trustees: Bob Carpenter, Jim Cunningham, Ric Kirby, Grey Roberts, Richard Roduner