

**From:** [Christian Arana](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** Item# J-1, American Rescue Plan, 1/18 City Council Meeting Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 9:01:05 AM

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Dear Members of the Merced City Council:

On behalf of the Latino Community Foundation, California's sole philanthropic organization focused on unleashing the civic and economic power of Latinos in the state, I write in support of leveraging American Rescue Plan dollars to provide premium pay for undocumented farmworkers.

On January 6, 2022, the U.S. Department of the Treasury issued a final ruling on the allowable uses of American Rescue plan dollars (<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0550>). The final ruling broadens city and state options to provide premium pay for essential workers, which include workers in grocery stores, restaurants, and those in food production. Being that farmworkers in the Central Valley have been unable to work from home throughout this entire pandemic, and are facing the added pressure of meeting everyday needs in the face of inflation, now is the time for cities like Merced to provide premium pay to its undocumented farmworkers as an economic, societal, and moral necessity.

The city of Merced can be the first city in the nation to undertake such a move using American Rescue Plan dollars. I hope you will step into this historic-making moment and show the nation on how we treat and protect our farmworkers in America.

Thank you,  
Christian Arana  
Vice President of Policy  
Latino Community Foundation

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**Christian Arana (he/him/his)**, Vice President of Policy

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