



# THE WEEKLY COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

March 4, 2022

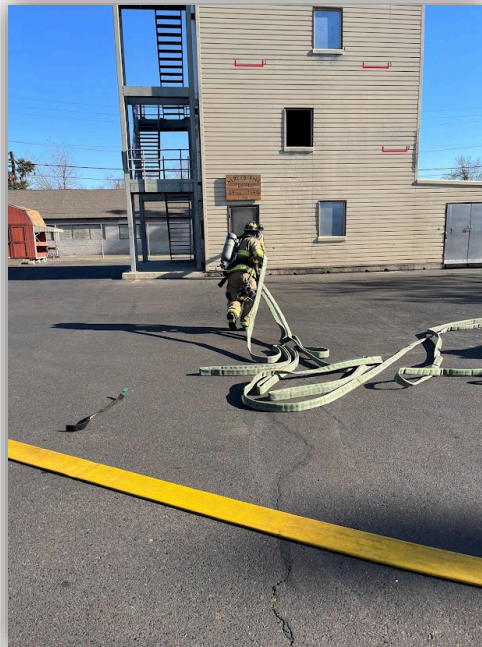
## Playground Experts Vote for New Playground Design

Recently, our Parks & Recreation Team asked for our community's help with choosing a playground design at Fahren's Park. With assistance from our community and about 30 local playground experts, which consisted of kids and families from Meadows Apartments, a new playground was selected and will soon be installed. The playground will include a canopy swing and climbing equipment.



### Firefighter Training and Evaluation

Rookie firefighters are evaluated during every shift. Every three months, there is a structured evaluation to assess how they are mastering the basics of firefighting and rescue. Last week 6 of our nine rookie firefighters performed their evaluations and all six passed.



## Fire Department Confined Space Training Class

In Conjunction with the Merced County Fire Department and the International Association of Fire Fighters, the City of Merced Fire Department conducted a Confined Space Rescue Technician class in the City of Merced. Utilizing the Merced Fire Department's CA State Fire Training approved site and a grant funded through the International Association of Fire Fighters, which provided three instructors at no cost to the City or students, the 40-hour class was conducted throughout the week. The course is an intensive hands-on training program that prepares students to respond to confined space emergencies. The topics covered to prepare the student in identifying confined spaces and permit-required confined spaces, the hazards associated with permit-required confined spaces, target industries and hazards, state and federal regulations, components of a rescue operation, and the roles and responsibilities of the rescue team. The course was conducted at Fire Department Headquarters, the wastewater treatment plant, with a final scenario held at the sewer lift station on Hwy 59 between Olive Ave and Buena Vista. Special thanks to Bill Osmer at the treatment plant for allowing the students access to real-life confined spaces and scenarios.



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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CHIEF OF POLICE  
THOMAS I. CAVALLERO

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To: Police  
From: Chief Tom Cavallero *tlc*  
Date: 3/3/22  
Subject: Central PD Training Room

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The classroom at the Central Station has been designated the "Sgt. Edward G. Leap Training Room"

On November 19, 1946 Sgt. Leap, an eight-year veteran of the police department, had stopped his car at the Santa Fe grade RR crossing on 'K' Street to allow a westbound switcher engine and string cars to pass. Once the train had passed, Sgt. Leap started through the crossing, presumably unaware of an eastbound freight train on a parallel set of tracks.

Sgt. Leap, a WWI veteran, was killed in the collision. He was survived by his wife and four children as well as his mother and three siblings. Sgt. Leap is one of two Merced Police Officers killed in the line of duty during our department's 133 year history.



### The Haven Tours MPD

This week, Officer Krista Stokes enjoyed giving a tour around the Merced Police Department to show off the department's patrol cars with a group of community members from The Haven. Thank you, Elizabete Dobbins, for bringing your group of people to visit the station.



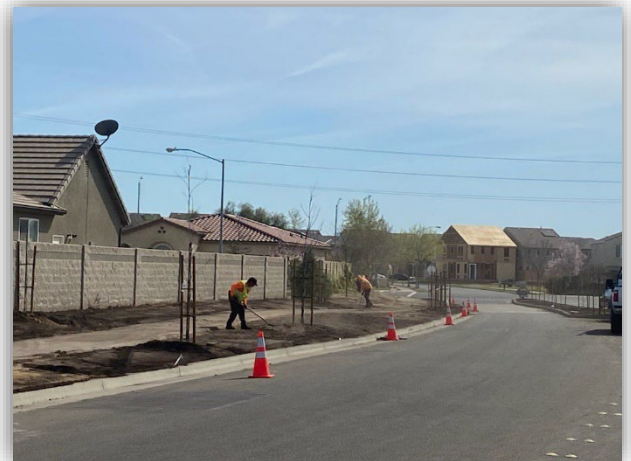
### Tree Pruning Contract

The City hired contractor, West Coast Arborists, continued tree pruning this week, working along G Street near Bellevue Road/Merrill Place.



### Bellevue Ranch Landscape Improvements

The City hired contractor, Elite Landscape, continues with work in the Bellevue Ranch area. This week crews continued with soil amendments as part of the planting process.



### Public Works in Action

Over the past couple of weeks, water backflow devices have been stolen from several City parks, including the Lower 40, Albert Lawson Park, G St/Carmen Way, 11th/H St Neighborhood Park, East Gerard/Serrano Ct, and Roland Brooks Park. Park crews work to replace the stolen equipment.



**REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Planning Commission Agenda Pg. 8
2. Arbor Day Tree Planting Flyer Pg. 13
3. Week of the Young Child Flyer Pg. 14



# CITY OF MERCED

Merced Civic Center  
678 W. 18th Street  
Merced, CA 95340

## Meeting Agenda

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, March 9, 2022

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Merced Civic  
Center, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340

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#### NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Pursuant to Assembly Bill No. 361, there may be Commission Members participating virtually for this meeting. Members of the public may participate in-person. Should any Commission Member attend virtually, all votes for this meeting will be taken via rollcall.

#### WELCOME TO THE MEETING OF THE MERCED PLANNING COMMISSION

At least 72 hours prior to each regular Planning Commission meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the City's website at [www.cityofmerced.org](http://www.cityofmerced.org) or at the Planning Division Office, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. All public records relating to an open session item that are distributed to a majority of the Commission will be available for public inspection at the Planning Division Office during regular business hours. The Planning Commission also serves as the Board of Zoning Adjustment and the Design Review/Historic Preservation Commission.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT: OBTAIN SPEAKER CARD FROM THE CLERK

Members of the audience who wish to address the Planning Commission are requested to complete a speaker card available at the podium against the right-hand side of the Council Chamber. Please submit the completed card to the Clerk before the item is called, preferably before the meeting begins. Speakers will be called up, 3 to 5 at a time, in the order in which the forms are received. Please use the microphone and state your name and city of residence for the record. For permits, licenses, and other entitlements, the applicant will be allowed 15 minutes (including rebuttal), the appellant/leader of the opposition will be allowed 15 minutes (including rebuttal), and all other speakers shall have 5 minutes each, unless the number of speakers is over 3, which in that case, comments shall be limited to 3 minutes each. For all other issues, for 3 or less speakers, 5 minutes each and for over 3 speakers, 3 minutes each shall be allotted. A timer clock is located above the City Council dais illuminating the remaining time. Once the buzzer sounds, please be courteous and conclude your remarks.

For at risk individuals or those not wanting to attend an in-person meeting during the current Covid-19 pandemic, please submit your public comment to the Board/Commission electronically no later than 1PM on the day of the meeting. Comments received before the deadline will be sent to the Board/Commission and will be part of the record and mentioned as part of the Public Comment portion of the agenda.



Material may be emailed to [planningweb@cityofmerced.org](mailto:planningweb@cityofmerced.org) and should be limited to 300 words or less. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Item # or Oral Communications. Your comments will be presented to the Planning Commission at the appropriate time. Any correspondence received after 1 PM will be distributed to the Planning Commission and retained for the official record.

You may provide telephonic comments via voicemail by calling (209) 388-7390 by no later than 1 PM on the day of the meeting to be added to the public comment. Voicemails will be limited to a time limit of three (3) minutes. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Item #, Consent item #, or Oral Communications. Your comments will be played during the Planning Commission meeting at the appropriate time.

### **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

Accommodation for individuals with disabilities may be arranged by contacting the Planning Division at (209) 385-6858. Assisted hearing devices are available for meetings held in the Council Chamber.

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

A.1. Moment of Silence

A.2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

#### **B. ROLL CALL**

#### **C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Members of the public who wish to speak on any matter not listed on the agenda may speak during this portion of the meeting and will be allotted 5 minutes. The Chairperson may, at their discretion, reduce the time to 3 minutes if there are more than 3 speakers, in order to accommodate as many speakers as possible. State law prohibits the Planning Commission from acting at this meeting on any matter raised during the public comment period. Members of the public who wish to speak on a matter that is listed on the agenda will be called upon to speak during discussion of that item. Please submit a Request to Speak card prior to the item being called.

#### **D. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Adoption of the Consent Calendar may be made with one motion of the Planning Commission provided that any Planning Commission member, individual, or organization may request removal of an item from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration. If a request for removal of an item from the Consent Calendar has been received, the item will be discussed and voted on separately. With Consent items, there is generally no staff presentation but staff is available for questions.

**D.1**    [22-189](#)                    **SUBJECT: Planning Commission Minutes of February 9, 2022**

**ACTION:**

Approving and filing the Planning Commission Minutes of February 9, 2022

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Draft Minutes of February 9, 2022

**E. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS**

Members of the public who wish to speak on public hearings listed on the agenda will be heard when the Public Hearing is opened, except on Public Hearing items previously heard and closed to public comment. After the public has commented, the item is closed to further public comment and brought to the Commission for discussion and action. Further comment will not be received unless requested by the Commission.

**E.1**     [22-144](#)

**SUBJECT:** Commercial Cannabis Business Permits #21-01, and #21-06, initiated by Quality Yield Cultivation, LLC. on behalf of Hyway 59 Properties, LP, property owner. These applications are to permit indoor cultivation, and distribution of cannabis and cannabis-based products at 2777 N. Highway 59, Bldg. D, using a portion of an existing building on approximately 22.4 acres. The property is zoned Heavy Industrial (I-H), with a General Plan designation of Manufacturing Industrial (IND). \*\*PUBLIC HEARING\*\*

**ACTION:**

Approve/Disapprove/Modify

- 1) Environmental Review #21-15 (*Categorical Exemption*)
- 2) Commercial Cannabis Business Permit #21-01
- 3) Commercial Cannabis Business Permit #21-06

**SUMMARY**

The applicant has requested these items be continued to the Planning Commission meeting of March 23, 2022.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission continue these items to the Planning Commission meeting of March 23, 2022.

**E.2**     [22-122](#)

**SUBJECT:** General Plan Amendment #21-03 and Zone Change #429, initiated by Peter Lau on behalf of Bellevue Ranch Paseo, LLC, for approximately 8.5 acres of land generally located at the northeast corner of Bellevue Road and Barclay Way. The General Plan Amendment would change the General Plan land use designation from

Neighborhood Commercial (CN) to Low-Medium Density (LMD) Residential. The Zone Change would change the Zoning designation from Planned Development (P-D) #73 to Residential Planned Development (RP-D) #63 to allow the construction of single-family homes. \*\*PUBLIC HEARING\*\*

**ACTION:**

## PLANNING COMMISSION:

Recommendation to City Council

1) Environmental Review #21-47 (*CEQA Section 15162*

*Findings*)

2) General Plan Amendment #21-03

3) Zone Change #429

## CITY COUNCIL:

Approve/Disapprove/Modify

1) Environmental Review #21-47 (*CEQA Section 15162*

*Findings*)

2) General Plan Amendment #21-03

3) Zone Change #429

**SUMMARY**

The project site consists of approximately 8.5 acres of land generally located at the northeast corner of Bellevue Road and Barclay Way. The proposed General Plan Amendment would change the land use designation for this area from Neighborhood Commercial (CN) to Low-Medium Density (LMD) Residential and the Zone Change would change the zoning designation from Planned Development (P-D) #73 to Residential Planned Development (RP-D) #63. The proposed changes would revert the project site back to its original land use and make it consistent with the land use designations and design standards for the eastern half of the Paseo subdivision.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Planning Staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval to the City Council of Environmental Review #21-47 (*CEQA Section 15162 Findings*), General Plan Amendment #21-03, and Zone Change #429 (including the adoption of the Draft Resolution at Attachment A) subject to the conditions in Exhibit A and the findings/considerations in Exhibit B of the Draft Resolution at Attachment A of Planning Commission Staff Report #22-122.

**F. INFORMATION ITEMS**

F.1 [22-190](#)

**SUBJECT:** Report by Planning Manager of Upcoming Agenda Items

**ACTION**

Information only.

F.2 [22-191](#)

**SUBJECT:** Calendar of Meetings/Events

- March 7 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 23 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- April 4 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 6 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 20 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, 4:00 p.m.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

# THE CITY OF MERCED PRESENTS: ARBOR DAY!



MARCH 12, 2022

■ CIRCLE 4 AMPLIFYING THE URBAN FOREST

## HELP US PLANT 40 TREES AT APPLGATE PARK & 25 TREES AT JOE HERB PARK!

The City of Merced is a proud partner of the AMPLify the Urban Forest grant brought to you by CAL FIRE. Join us and help plant 2,000 trees across California this spring! Find out more at: [investfromthegroundup.org/](http://investfromthegroundup.org/)

Register here: [catree.us/xq2](http://catree.us/xq2)  
or scan the QR code!



Questions? Contact the Grants Team!  
Email: [grantinfo@wcainc.com](mailto:grantinfo@wcainc.com)  
Text/Call: (714) 926-0563

### WHEN

Saturday,  
March 12, 2022

### WHAT TIME

9am — 12pm

### WHERE

Applegate Park Zoo  
1045 W 25th St  
Merced, CA 95340



\*The CIRCLE 4.0 – Amplifying California’s Urban Forestry Movement is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: [www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov](http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov).

# MERCED COUNTY

naeyc<sup>®</sup>

# Week of the Young Child<sup>®</sup> Event

## 0- age 5



**Free Event, Games, Community Resources, Family Fun**  
**Free Food-First Come, First Serve, While Supplies Last**

## Applegate Park

1045 W 25th St, Merced, CA 95340

Saturday April 09, 2022

9:00 AM -2:00 PM



**Head Start**  
Merced County Office of Education

**MERCED COLLEGE**

