

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**To:** \_\_\_\_\_ Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** City of Merced  
678 West 18th St.  
Merced, CA 95340

X County Clerk  
County of Merced  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340

**Project Title:** Zoning Ordinance Amendment #22-01/Environmental Review #22-22

**Project Applicant:** City of Merced

**Project Location (Specific):** City of Merced (City wide)

**Project Location - City:** Merced

**Project Location - County:** Merced

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** This application involves changes to the Merced Zoning Ordinance (Title 20 of the Merced Municipal Code) which would amend Merced Municipal Code Sections 20.08 ("Residential Zoning Districts", 20.10 ("Commercial Zoning Districts"), 20.20.020 ("Planned Development Zoning Districts"), 20.32 ("Interface Regulations"), 20.38 ("Parking and Loading"), 20.46 ("Residential Design Standards"), 20.68.050 ("Permit Requirements—Site Plan Review Permit"), and 20.90 ("Glossary"). The amendment involves various changes to the City's Zoning Ordinance including allowing duplexes by right in R-1 zones and amending various standards, including parking, for duplexes; changing the level of review required for various land uses in commercial zoning districts and adding density requirements for residential uses in various commercial districts; changing the minimum project size for Residential Planned Developments and Planned Developments and clarifying design standards in Planned Developments; amending the Interface regulations to require a Minor Use Permit instead of a Site Plan Review Permit and reducing the number of zoning districts to which the Interface regulations apply; allowing exceptions to be granted to various residential design standards through a Minor Use Permit process; clarifying the definitions for "group housing" and "residential care facilities," and various other amendments.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** City of Merced

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** City of Merced

**Exempt Status:** (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);  
 Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));  
 Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));  
 Categorical Exemption. State Type and Section Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Statutory Exemptions. State Code Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Rule (Sec. 15061 (b)(3))

**Reasons why Project is Exempt:** The proposed Ordinance has been reviewed by City staff in accordance with the Environmental Checklist Form (Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines) to determine if there would be any possibility that the proposed ordinance would create any significant environmental impacts, and City staff has determined that the proposed modifications to the regulations do not meet any of the thresholds contained in the Checklist that would trigger a significant environmental impact, and thus according to the "general rule exemption" (Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines), projects which have no potential for causing a significant effect on the environment are not subject to CEQA, no further environmental analysis is required.

**Lead Agency:** City of Merced

**Contact Person:** Kim Espinosa

**Area Code/Telephone:** (209) 385-6858

**Signature:**  - **Date:** June 16, 2022 **Title:** Planning Manager

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for Filing at OPR (If applicable): n/a

Authority Cited: Sections 21083 and 21110. Public Resources Code; Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1. Public Resources Code