



THE WEEKLY COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

August 12, 2022

Back to School Time for Merced City School Children

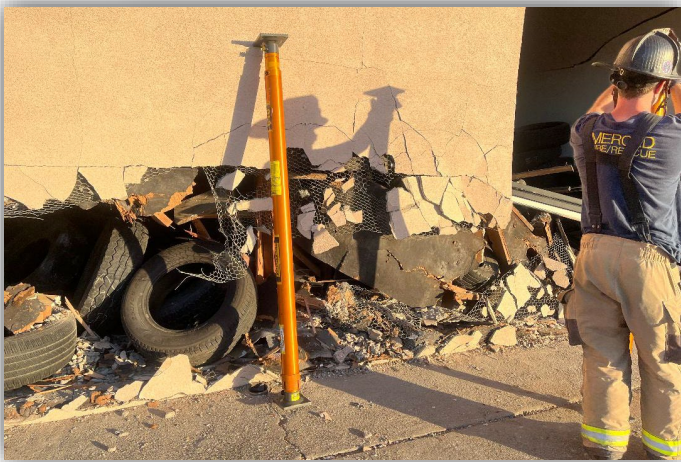
For many children, Thursday, August 10th, was the start of the 2022/23 school year. Merced Police Department Community Liaison, Rosa Alcaraz represented the City at the Salvation Army's recent Backpack Distribution Event. More than 100 children received backpacks and school supplies at this successful event.



Tune into 1480kyos.com this Saturday morning, August 13th, between 7 to 10 a.m. to hear **Maria Mendoza, Economic Development Manager** give an update on development projects and her department's efforts to create economic opportunities for businesses in our community.

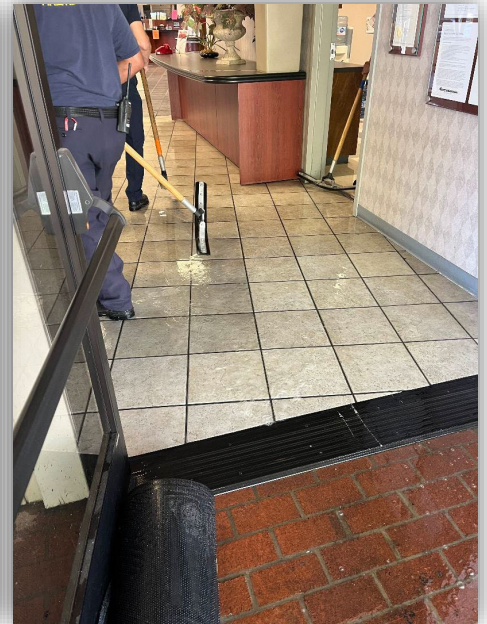
Serving the City of Merced

The Merced Fire Department provides many services and resources to support our community. Recently, a vehicle ran into a retail building and damaged a load-bearing wall. Fire Department crews placed shoring to support the structure's roof. Fortunately, this incident did not cause injuries. Currently, the business is working to safely reopen.



Fire Department Supportive Services

Recently, Merced Fire crews responded to an incident of flooding at a local business. To protect the public's safety, crews vacuumed and squeegeed to extract the water. A local restoration company is working on completing the remediation process.



Public Works in Action

Maintaining Traffic Signal Cabinets

Public Works crews maintain traffic signal cabinets at intersections throughout the City of Merced. These cabinets are cleaned frequently and checked for damage, which can be caused by the elements, rodents, vehicles, and vandalism. So, if you see City of Merced Public Works crews at an intersection observing traffic, most likely, they're checking traffic signal timing and operations. This is called Turning Loops.



More Public Works in Action
Tree trimming at the Eucalyptus grove along M Street



Sewer/Storm crews performing repairs to a 30” storm drain main at San Jose Avenue near Rensselaer Drive.



Inspection Services Bi-weekly report for July 25th, 2022 through August 7th, 2022

Single Family Dwelling (SFD) permits:

- SFD Permits Issued: **1**
- SFD Permits in Plan Review: **133**
- SFD Certificates of Occupancy: **15**

Multi-Family Dwelling (MFD) permits in review:

- Gateway Terrace Apartments located at 405 W 12th St; one office/lounge and six two-story apartments: two buildings have 16 units, three buildings have 30 units, and one building has four units for a total of 126 units.
- Compass Pointe phase II: 112 units in 12, 8-plex buildings, plus a clubhouse.
- A fire damage repair is also adding an ADU located at 1740 Shirley St.
- Gateway Commons Apartments located at 3130 E. Gerard Ave.; one community building, five buildings with 16 units, and five buildings with 24 units for 200 units, plus 31 garage structures. (no change since last report)

MFD permits issued:

- There were 0 MFD permits issued during this period.

Commercial & Industrial permits issued:

- There was 1 new construction commercial permit issued during this period; for a 16,739 SF addition in conjunction with a 1,050 SF remodel for Gateway Church located at 353 E. Donna Dr.
- There was 1 new tenant improvement permit issued during this period; for a 1,071 SF office remodel for Jag Mokha Realty located at 139 W. El Portal Dr. Ste C.

Commercial & Industrial permits submitted:

- There were 0 new construction commercial permits submitted during this period.
- There were 3 new tenant improvement permit submitted during this period; one to remove draft curtains at Costco located at 1445 R St., one for an Indian grocery market located at 2933 G St., and one for a 1,650 SF remodel for Kabab City located at 125 E. Yosemite Ave. Ste D.

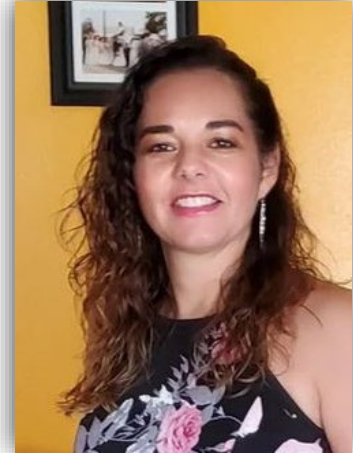
Commercial & Industrial Certificates of Occupancy (CofOs)

- There were 3 commercial and industrial CofOs issued for this period; two for buildings 2 and 3 at the B St. Apartments, and one for a 3,213 SF America's Best Contacts and Eyeglasses located at 1212 W. Olive Ave.

Merced Women in Leadership

At the August meeting of Soroptimist International of Merced, several leaders were recognized for their work and honored for their contributions to our community.

Pictured below are Merced City Manager Stephanie Dietz, City Council Member Sarah Boyle, City of Merced Finance Director Venus Rodriguez, Merced City School District Board of Education President Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell, Assistant County Administrative Officer Marci Barrera, Superintendent of the Merced County School District Diana Jiminez, Merced County Auditor-Controller Lisa Cardella Presto, County Librarian Amy Taylor, and Merced County Treasurer-Tax Collector Karen Adams (not pictured). To learn more about Soroptimist International of Merced, visit www.soroptimistinternationalofmerced.org.



International City/County Management Association (ICMA)

This week officials from the City of Merced and partner organizations participated in the production of a film about the City of Merced. The film will be featured at an upcoming International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Conference, which is the world's largest gathering of local government management professionals.

The Association selected the City of Merced for its documentary series to highlight the City's innovative economic development and community services programs.





NEWS RELEASE

Reports and Correspondence

1. Merced PD Community Academy Flyer
2. PC Meeting Agenda

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\$25 Million in Federal Funding Awarded to Advance High-Speed Rail in California

Recently, the California High-Speed Rail Authority was notified of a \$25 million award in federal grant funding to advance the project beyond the 119-miles under construction in Downtown Merced.

“This grant is vital for the Authority to advance its initial electrified service between Downtown Merced and Bakersfield. It reflects the strong state-federal partnership now in place to see the nation’s first true high speed rail service commence right here in California,” said Authority CEO Brian Kelly. “Next week, our Board will consider awarding the contract to advance the design work for this transformative project.”

The funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation will provide more than half of the expected \$41 million cost for the Madera to Merced design contract. That contract will be brought before the Authority’s Board of Directors during their two-day Board meeting next week for consideration.

This is the second grant the high-speed rail program has received under the Biden Administration since November 2021. Last fall, California’s high-speed rail project was awarded \$24 million for crucial safety, efficiency, and construction projects in and around the City of Wasco and State Route 46. Construction in the region will build safe, multimodal connectivity projects around Wasco to prepare for future high-speed rail service.

The Authority is also pursuing \$1.3 billion in federal grant funding to double-track the 119 miles currently under construction and purchase new, clean, electric train sets capable of speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour. The funding requested by the Authority will help accelerate construction for electrified high-speed between Merced and Bakersfield by the end of the decade.

Since the start of construction, the California high-speed rail project has created more than 8,000 construction jobs, a majority of which go directly to those living in the Central Valley. There are currently 119 miles under construction in the Central Valley with more than 30 active construction sites. For more on construction, visit: www.buildhsr.com.

MERCED POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Do you want to learn more
about your Police Department ?*

Join our Community Academy!



**NEXT SESSION
BEGINS:
AUGUST 24TH
2022**



**Interactive
hands on
exercises!**

Class Activities



- Schedule is 6pm to 9pm on Wednesdays for 10 weeks and one Saturday.

Class Meets



**Hiring Process
Community
Engagement
Training Standards
Field Operations
Investigations and
more!**

Learn About

**For more Information
Contact:
Sgt. Jose Barajas**

(209) 388-7828

barajasj@cityofmerced.org



CITY OF MERCED

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

Meeting Agenda

Planning Commission

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

7:00 PM

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

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

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 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.

Material may be emailed to planning@web.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 one (1) minute. 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 [22-664](#) **SUBJECT:** Planning Commission Minutes of August 3, 2022

ACTION:

Approving and filing the Planning Commission Minutes of August 3, 2022

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes of August 3, 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 [22-606](#) **SUBJECT:** Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1321 for the Long Property Subdivision, initiated by Precision Engineering, on behalf of Long and Seng Thao, property owners. This application involves a request to subdivide 41.6 acres of land into 146 single-family lots. This property is generally located south of Cardella Road (extended), west of Fahrens Creek and has General Plan designation of Low Density (LD Residential and a Zoning designation of Planned Development (P-D) #50. ****PUBLIC HEARING****

ACTION: Approve/Disapprove/Modify
 1) Environmental Review #22-28 (Categorical Exemption)
 2) Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1321

SUMMARY

The project site is located on the south side of Cardella Road (extended), west of Fahrens Creek. The proposed subdivision would subdivide 41.6 acres of land into 146 single-family lots. Planning staff, along with other City staff, have reviewed the project and recommend approval subject to conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve Environmental Review #22-28 (Categorical Exemption based on CEQA Section 15183 Findings) and Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1321 “Long Property” (including the adoption of the Draft Resolution) subject to the conditions in Exhibit A and the findings/considerations in Exhibit B of Draft Resolution #4096 at Attachment A.

E.2 [22-636](#) **SUBJECT:** Appeal the Site Plan Review Committee’s approval of a one-year extension for Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map (VTSM) #1291 for Bright Development which would allow for the subdivision of approximately 39.8 acres of land into 161 single-family lots, generally located on the east side of G Street at Merrill Place (extended). ****PUBLIC HEARING****

ACTION: Grant/Deny/Modify
 1) Appeal of the one-year extension granted for VTSM #1291 (Bright Development.

SUMMARY

On June 16, 2022, the Site Plan Review Committee granted a one-year extension to Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map (VTSM) #1291, extending the expiration date to July 16, 2023. On June 22, 2022, an appeal of this decision was filed by Rick Telegan on behalf of Regency Court II, LLC. On August 3, 2023, the Planning Commission continued this matter to the meeting of August 17, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission Deny the appeal of the Site Plan Review Committee’s approval of a one-year extension for Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1291.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

F.1 [22-665](#) **SUBJECT: Report by Planning Manager of Upcoming Agenda Items**

ACTION

Information only.

F.2 [22-666](#) **SUBJECT: Calendar of Meetings/Events**

- Aug. 15 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, 4:00 p.m.
- 15 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 6 City Council, 6:00 p.m. **(Tuesday)**
- 7 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 21 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 3 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 5 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 City Council, 6:00 p.m.
- 19 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, 4:00 p.m.

G. ADJOURNMENT