



THE WEEKLY COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

March 3, 2023

Merced Police Department Welcomes New Neighborhood Watch Team

Merced Police Officer Myles Richter and Community Liaison Rosa Alcaraz recently welcomed Merced's newest Neighborhood Watch Team. These residents received educational tools and resources to build a safer crime-free neighborhood. Neighborhood Watch is the cornerstone of the Merced Police Department's crime prevention strategy. It enlists the active participation of residents, in cooperation with law enforcement, to reduce crime in communities throughout the city.

The Neighborhood Watch Program started in 1972 to educate community residents about their roles and responsibilities in the prevention of crime and to encourage residents to take active measures to prevent crime. The program calls upon residents to step forward and assist the police in organizing the community into a cohesive unit working toward building a safer, crime-free neighborhood. In addition, neighborhood watch groups discuss neighborhood crime problems to develop solutions to local issues. For more information, visit <https://www.cityofmerced.org/departments/police/neighborhood-watch-group>



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Community Liaison Rosa Alcaraz stopped by Em-Tea to support community partner Valley Crisis Center on their Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Fundraiser.

February is “Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month,” studies have shown that teens who experience dating violence have an increased risk of becoming a victim or perpetuating domestic violence as adults. Promoting safe and healthy relationships can prevent the cycle of violence. For more information, visit www.loveisrespect.org

Mental Health Training

The Merced Police Department, Adult Protective Services (APS), and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) recently partnered to conduct training for Dr. Long Thao’s clinic. The training session educated participants on signs of mental health distress and how to interact with individuals under duress. In addition, APS presented what signs to look for regarding elder/dependent adult abuse. Sergeant Jose Barajas, Officer Krista Stokes, and Community Liaison Rosa Alcaraz attend along with Merced PD and APS social worker Stephanie Cone.



Random Acts of Kindness

Merced PD officers and staff were recent recipients of random acts of kindness from several thoughtful community members, including Girl Scout London and Merced’s new Olive Garden Restaurant, which is set to open Monday, March 6th. #breadsticks!

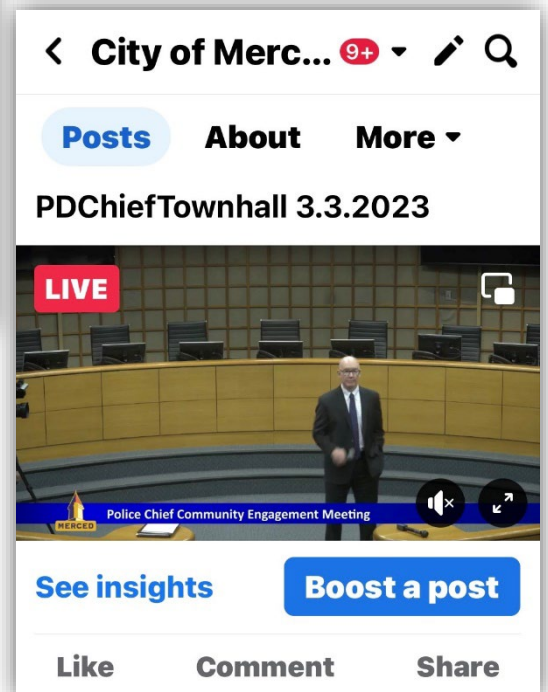


Chief of Police Community Engagement Meetings

This week, the City held three Community Engagement Meetings to gather input from interested community members to assist in the search for the next Chief of Police. Joel Bryden and Bryan Hill, with Bob Murray and Associates, facilitated each meeting. In addition, a community survey is available at <https://engage.cityofmerced.org/police-chief-community-survey>. The survey is available until close of business March 14th.

Police Chief Community Engagement Site

Together we can make Merced a safe community. Share your priorities as we search for the City of Merced's Chief of Police.



Advanced Air Flight Schedule

Advanced Air, the Essential Air Service (EAS) carrier at the Merced Yosemite Regional Airport, has announced a new schedule beginning on 2/26/2023. The new schedule features 22 nonstop round flights from Merced Yosemite Regional Airport (MCE) to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas (LAS) every week. Advanced Air has been the Merced Yosemite Regional Airport Airline since January 1, 2022, using 9-seat Pilatus PC-12 aircraft. The Department of Transportation (DOT) awarded Advanced Air, LLC., a four-year contract to provide commercial air service to the Merced Yosemite Regional Airport as part of the Essential Air Service (EAS) program. For more information, visit <https://www.flymercedairport.com/> or <https://www.advancedairlines.com/>



Sunday				
Flight #	Origin	Dest	Depart	Arrive
701	LAX	MCE	6:00	7:24
802	MCE	LAS	8:05	9:41
801	LAS	MCE	10:25	12:07
702	MCE	LAX	12:47	14:11
711	LAX	MCE	14:55	16:19
812	MCE	LAS	17:00	18:36
811	LAS	MCE	19:20	21:02
712	MCE	LAX	21:42	23:06
Monday				
Flight #	Origin	Dest	Depart	Arrive
701	LAX	MCE	11:40	13:04
802	MCE	LAS	13:45	15:21
801	LAS	MCE	16:05	17:47
702	MCE	LAX	18:30	19:54
711	LAX	MCE	20:40	22:04

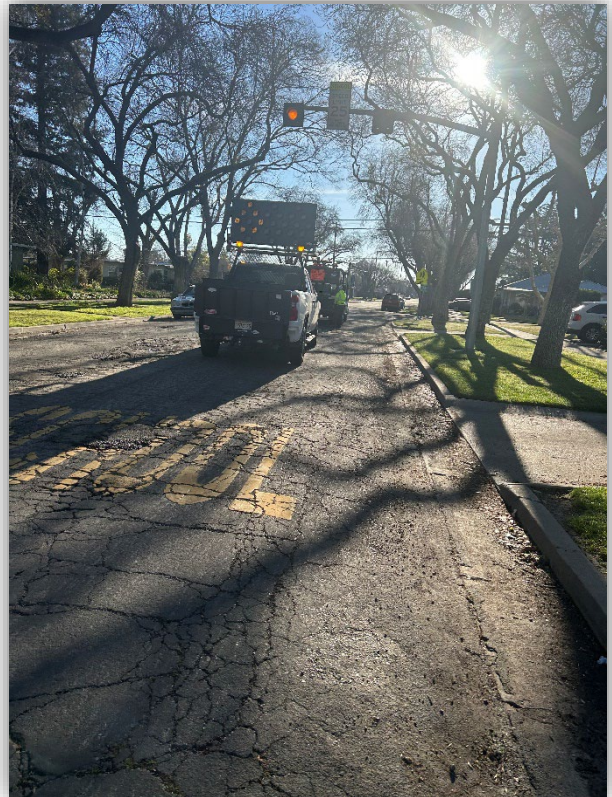
Tuesday				
Flight #	Origin	Dest	Depart	Arrive
802	MCE	LAS	10:35	12:11
801	LAS	MCE	12:50	14:32
702	MCE	LAX	15:15	16:39
701	LAX	MCE	17:25	18:49
712	MCE	LAX	19:35	20:59
Wednesday				
Flight #	Origin	Dest	Depart	Arrive
701	LAX	MCE	9:30	10:54
802	MCE	LAS	11:35	13:11
801	LAS	MCE	13:55	15:37
702	MCE	LAX	16:20	17:44
711	LAX	MCE	18:30	19:54
Thursday				
Flight #	Origin	Dest	Depart	Arrive
802	MCE	LAS	10:00	11:36
801	LAS	MCE	12:20	14:02
702	MCE	LAX	14:45	16:09
701	LAX	MCE	16:55	18:19
712	MCE	LAX	19:05	20:29

Friday				
Flight #	Origin	Dest	Depart	Arrive
701	LAX	MCE	6:00	7:24
802	MCE	LAS	8:05	9:41
801	LAS	MCE	10:25	12:07
702	MCE	LAX	12:47	14:11
711	LAX	MCE	14:55	16:19
812	MCE	LAS	17:00	18:36
811	LAS	MCE	19:20	21:02
712	MCE	LAX	21:42	23:06
Saturday				
Flight #	Origin	Dest	Depart	Arrive
701	LAX	MCE	6:00	7:24
802	MCE	LAS	8:05	9:41
801	LAS	MCE	10:25	12:07
702	MCE	LAX	12:47	14:11
711	LAX	MCE	14:55	16:19
812	MCE	LAS	17:00	18:36
811	LAS	MCE	19:20	21:02
712	MCE	LAX	21:42	23:06

Public Works in Action

335 Miles of Road

The City has 335 miles of road/streets. Public Works divides the City into areas to inspect and repair potholes as needed and when residents report potholes in their neighborhood. The City has one patch truck that is used daily. However, other crews use trailers when necessary.



REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

1. Remember 1973- Courthouse Museum Sunstar Exhibition Flyer Pg. 7
2. Arbor Gallery 40th Anniversary Celebration Flyer Pg. 8
3. Planning Commission Agenda Pg. 9



An Invitation to attend the

Arbor Gallery

40th
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

Saturday

March 25, 2023

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Merced Multicultural

Arts Center

645 W. Main Street

Merced, Ca 95340

*For Further Information Call
209•384•8338*

REMEMBER

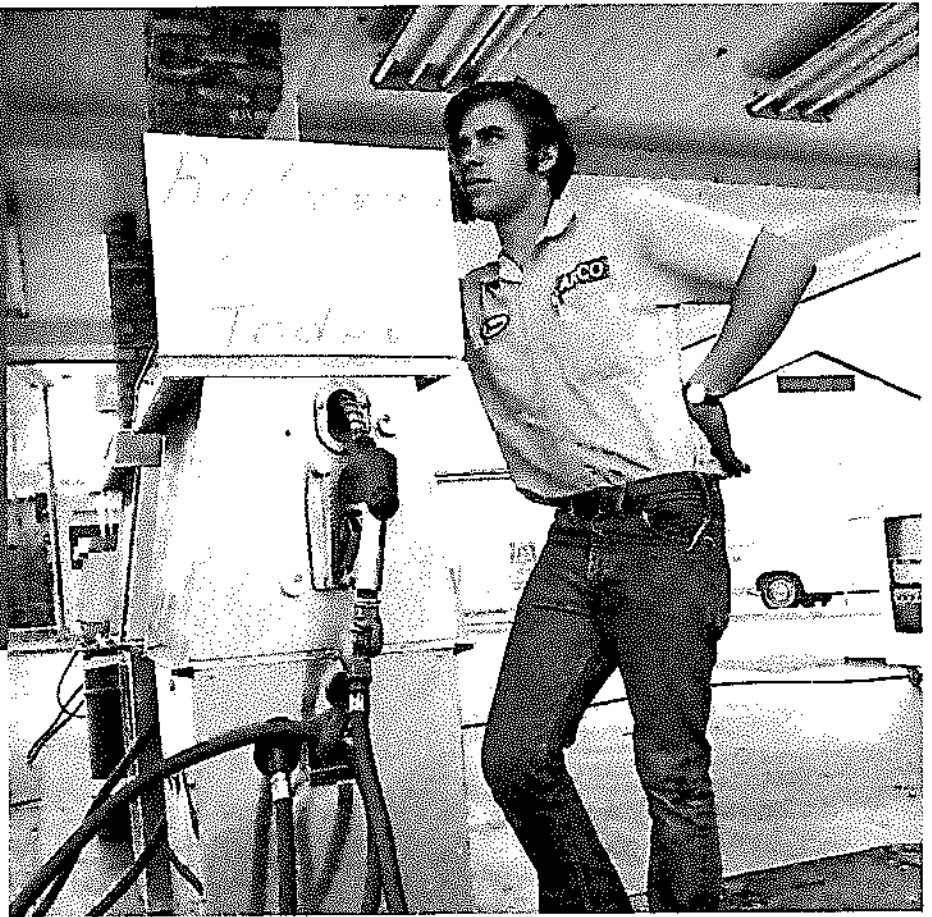
1973?

an exhibition of
Merced Sun-Star photographs

03.09.23

Courthouse Museum

Merced, CA





CITY OF MERCED

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

Meeting Agenda

Planning Commission

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

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 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 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 [23-239](#) **SUBJECT:** Planning Commission Minutes of February 8, 2023

ACTION:

Approving and filing the Planning Commission Minutes of February 8, 2023

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 [23-181](#) **SUBJECT:** General Plan Amendment #23-01, initiated by the City of Merced, involving amendments to the *Merced Vision 2030 General Plan* Transportation Policy T-1.8 to require the use of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Thresholds and Guidelines when evaluating the environmental impacts of development projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to adopt by reference the VMT Thresholds and Guidelines as recommended by the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) in November 2022. *****PUBLIC HEARING****

ACTION **PLANNING COMMISSION:**
 Recommendation to City Council
 Environmental Review #23-02 (*Statutory Exemption*)
 General Plan Amendment #23-01
CITY COUNCIL:
 Approve/Disapprove/Modify
 Environmental Review #23-02 (*Statutory Exemption*)
 General Plan Amendment #23-01

SUMMARY
 The proposed General Plan Amendment would clarify that the City of Merced would be using the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) metric to evaluate the transportation impacts of development projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) instead of Level of Service (LOS) consistent with recent amendments to State Law. The amendment would also adopt by reference the VMT Thresholds and Implementation Guidelines as adopted by the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) in November 2022. Staff is recommending approval.

RECOMMENDATION
 Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval to the City Council of Environmental Review #23-02 [Statutory Exemption] and General Plan Amendment (including the adoption of the Draft Resolution at Attachment A) subject to the findings in Exhibit A and draft amendments in Exhibit B of the Draft Resolution at Attachment A.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

F.1 [23-240](#) **SUBJECT:** Report by Planning Manager of Upcoming Agenda Items

ACTION

Information only.

F.2 [23-241](#) **SUBJECT:** Calendar of Meetings/Events

Mar.	6	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	8	Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
	20	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	22	Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
Apr.	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