

**From:** [Laura Tipton](#)  
**To:** [planningweb](#)  
**Subject:** Re: January 3rd, 6:00 P.M. Planning Department Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 3, 2024 11:42:56 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Kayla,

We will be there tonight to voice our concerns about connecting West Cardella Road and El Redondo Drive in the near future. Below is my email for the Planning Committee. Please forward this email on to the committee members before the meeting this evening.

Thank you,

Laura Tipton

To: The Merced Planning Committee,

After viewing the 12/20/23 Merced Planning Committee Meeting we became aware that the planning department is looking to approve the connecting of West Cardella Road and El Redondo Drive when permitting the new housing development on the corner of West Cardella Road and El Redondo Drive. We are well aware that the Merced city plan calls for West Cardella Road and El Redondo Drive to be connected eventually, however we have concerns about this happening in the near future and before the needed infrastructure is ready.

Since we live on West Cardella Road this change would greatly affect our daily lives and those in our immediate area. You may wonder why none of my neighbors have shown any concern, I would surmise because in the information that has been provided to them the connecting of these two roads was not disclosed.

After the planning meeting on the 20th. I learned that the connecting of these two roads has been exempt from doing any kind of traffic study or traffic analysis due to an exemption. Which is interesting when one looks at West Cardella road as it is not only in the city limits, but county limits and has access to a state highway. So, who has the authority to exempt it from a traffic study or traffic analysis from all three of these entities? When I contacted the County of Merced, they had no knowledge of the possible connection of these two roads.

Below are some of our concerns about connecting West Cardella Road and El Redondo Drive and therefore increasing the traffic on West Cardella Road in the near future.

- The already poor condition of W. Cardella Rd.
- A large increase in traffic on W. Cardella Rd.
- W. Cardella Rd. does not provide enough space for two lanes of traffic down the entire road as it is so deteriorated, much of the road only provides enough room for one car.
- Who is going to be responsible when W. Cardella Rd. deteriorates even more due to construction vehicles using

the road to access their worksite and the increased traffic when the two roads connect?

- How will the increased traffic safely enter and exit State Highway 59?
- There is only a stop sign on the corner of W. Cardella Rd. and Hwy 59 and with the cross traffic on Hwy 59 traveling at 55 miles per hour even with a moderate increase in traffic, the traffic trying to exit Cardella will back up. (Example: The intersection of Bellevue Rd. and Hwy 59 even with a four way stop at certain times of the day Bellevue Rd. gets backed up.)
- Due to W. Cardella Rd. being so narrow when one makes the turn off Hwy 59 onto Cardella you have to slow down to 15 to 20 miles per hour to stay in your own lane. Larger vehicles have to slow down even more when making the turn. Keep in mind the traffic on Hwy 59 is going 55 miles per hour and there is no right hand turn lane on Hwy 59 for slowing traffic. This seems like a problem especially during high traffic times.
- Why hasn't Merced City and/or Merced County done a traffic analysis on connecting West Cardella Road and El Redondo Drive and how it will affect W. Cardella?
- Why weren't residents affected by this road change notified that these two roads may be joined in the near future?
- Has someone done a traffic study on the increased traffic on Bellevue Road, Belcher Road and/or Yosemite Avenue in the last two years? These roads seem like fair comparisons as they all run east to west like West Cardella Road and would show how the growth in the Merced area has impacted them.
- Has the state been informed about the possibility of West Cardella Road and El Redondo Drive being connected, therefore increasing the traffic entering and exiting Highway 59? If so, what is the state's plan for making improvements to the corner of W. Cardella Rd. and Hwy 59 so one can safely enter and exit Hwy 59 with an increase in traffic? Who did the City of Merced contact at a state level concerning these issues regarding Highway 59?

We are not trying to stop growth in the Merced area or oppose the building of seventy-five homes on the corner of W. Cardella Rd. and El Redondo Drive. However, at this time we do not believe that West Cardella Road is ready for an increase in traffic due to the poor condition of the road and the poor access to and from Hwy 59. For now, we propose that the City of Merced continues to build new homes while also preventing an increase in traffic on West Cardella Road.

As a member of the Merced Planning Committee, I encourage you to drive down West Cardella Road before making any decisions that would allow increased traffic on this rural road.

Respectfully,

Laura and Mike Tipton

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]