

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #24-01 AND  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION

A public hearing will be held by the Merced City Council on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 6:00 PM or as soon thereafter as may be heard in the City Council Chambers located at 678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA concerning Zoning Ordinance Amendment #24-01, initiated by the City of Merced. This application involves changes to the Merced Zoning Ordinance (Title 20 of the Merced Municipal Code) which would amend Merced Municipal Code Section 20.44.170 (“Commercial Cannabis Businesses”). This amendment includes modifying the Phase 1 Initial Review Requirements and clarifying Phase 2 Scoring Correction Authority and Timelines and Qualified Commercial Cannabis Business list expiration.

At the meeting, the City Council will also consider the introduction of an Ordinance entitled:

“An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Merced, California, Amending Section 20.44.170, ‘Regulation of Commercial Cannabis Activities – Commercial Cannabis Business Permit Required,’ of the Merced Municipal Code to Allow City Council Consideration of Alternative Sites for Retail Cannabis Business Applications under Appeal, and Include a Local Ownership Element for Cannabis Retail Permits Issued after November 3, 2021.”

If enacted, this ordinance would amend the City’s cannabis regulations as described above. You may view a full copy of this ordinance at the City Clerk’s Department, City Hall, 678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA, or on the internet at [www.cityofmerced.org](http://www.cityofmerced.org).

On August 7, 2024, the Planning Commission considered this matter at a duly noticed public hearing and recommended that the City Council adopt the Ordinance.

A categorical exemption has been prepared (i.e., no further environmental review would be required) under the California Environmental Quality Act. A copy of this is available for public inspection at the City of Merced Planning Department or City Clerk’s office during regular business hours at 678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA, or on the City’s website at [www.cityofmerced.org](http://www.cityofmerced.org). A copy may also be requested by emailing [planningweb@cityofmerced.org](mailto:planningweb@cityofmerced.org).

All persons in favor of, opposed to, or in any manner interested in this request for a Zoning Ordinance Amendment are invited to attend the meeting in person or comment via email (see instructions below). Please feel free to call the Planning Department at (209) 385-6858 for additional information. If you challenge the decision of the City Council in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in

this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Merced at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Material may be emailed to [cityclerk@cityofmerced.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofmerced.org) no later than 1 PM on the day of the meeting. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Public Hearing item #, Consent item #, or Public Comments. Material received before the deadline will be sent to the City Council and will be part of the record and will be mentioned as part of the Written Petitions and Communications portion of the agenda. Any emails received by the 1PM deadline will be posted on the City's website at [www.cityofmerced.org /departments/city-clerk/council-meetings](http://www.cityofmerced.org/departments/city-clerk/council-meetings). Any correspondence received after the 1PM deadline will be distributed to the City Council and retained for the official record.

To view video (if available) or listen to the City Council meeting live, go to the City's website [www.cityofmerced.org](http://www.cityofmerced.org), Facebook Live, or Comcast Public Access Channel 96.

October 18, 2024

  
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Diana Lowrance  
Deputy Development Services Director