

CITY CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I, JOHN M. BRAMBLE, City Clerk of the City of Merced, California, do hereby certify that the attached document, entitled:

RESOLUTION 2015-09


A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE 2015 *MERCED HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN* AND ACCEPTING A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION PREPARED UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW #10-37, AND APPROVING GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT #14-03

is a true and correct copy of the original on file in the Office of the Merced City Clerk, Merced, California.

DATED: March 17, 2015

JOHN M. BRAMBLE, CITY CLERK



BY: 
 JOHN TRESIDDER
 Deputy City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE 2015 *MERCED HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN* AND ACCEPTING A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION PREPARED UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW #10-37, AND APPROVING GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT #14-03

WHEREAS, the City of Merced recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within our community, and undertaking hazard mitigation actions will reduce the potential for harm to people and property from future hazard occurrences; and

WHEREAS, to be eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency pre- and post-disaster mitigation funds, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires jurisdictions to be covered by a Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and California Emergency Management Agency have developed a hazard mitigation program that assists jurisdictions in their efforts to become Disaster-Resistant entities that focus, not just on disaster response and recovery, but also on preparedness and hazard mitigation, which enhances economic sustainability, environmental stability and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, the City's Disaster Council, in coordination with City Staff and community engagement, have developed a draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP); and

WHEREAS, the LHMP supports and is consistent with the goals and policies established in the Safety Element of the *Merced Vision 2030 General Plan*; and

WHEREAS, the California Office of Emergency Services and Federal Emergency Management Agency officials have reviewed the draft LHMP and have approved it contingent upon adoption of the plan by the City of Merced; and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Exemption, detailed in Environmental Review #10-37, has been prepared for the LHMP, as well as General Plan Amendment #14-03 to include said plan by reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, FIND, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT.
Based upon the evidence and testimony in the record at the City Council public hearing, the City Council, exercising its independent judgment and review, hereby accepts Notice of Exemption prepared under Environmental Review #10-37, pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

SECTION 2. ADOPTION OF THE 2015 MERCED HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN. The 2015 Merced Hazard Mitigation Plan is hereby adopted, as recommended by the City's Disaster Council on April 19, 2013 and subsequently recommended by the City of Merced Planning Commission on February 18, 2015.

SECTION 3. GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVAL.
The General Plan of the City of Merced is hereby amended by approving General Plan Amendment #14-03, incorporating the 2015 Merced Hazard Mitigation Plan into the General Plan by reference, and making changes as shown in Exhibit 1 to provide consistency between the Merced Vision 2030 General Plan and the 2015 Merced Hazard Mitigation Plan.

SECTION 4. TRANSMITTAL OF 2015 MERCED HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN. The City of Merced Planning Department is directed to submit this Adoption Resolution to the California Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency officials to enable the Plan's final approval.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Merced at a regular meeting held on the 16th day of March, 2015, by the following vote:


AYES:7 Council Members:BELLUOMINI, BLAKE, DOSSETTI, LOR, MURPHY, PEDROZO, THURSTON

NOES:0 Council Members:NONE

ABSENT:0 Council Members:NONE

ABSTAIN:0 Council Members:NONE

APPROVED:



Mayor

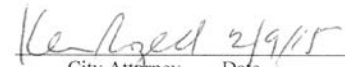
ATTEST:
JOHN M. BRAMBLE, CITY CLERK

BY: 
Assistant/Deputy City Clerk



(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


City Attorney Date

GPA #14-03/PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SAFETY ELEMENT OF THE *MERCED VISION 2030 GENERAL PLAN*:

11.1.1 Scope of the Safety Element

The Safety Element provides a systematic approach for responding to hazards relevant to the City of Merced through a set of goals, policies, and actions designed to deal with those hazards. This report recognizes that hazards are an unavoidable aspect of society and that, therefore, some degree of risk is inherent in everyday life.

The proposed Merced growth boundary (or SUDP/SOI) has no known history of, or known geographical conditions for, surface rupture, tsunamis, or hydro-compaction. All other hazards relevant to Merced, however, are addressed in more detail in other sections of this Element. This introduction includes an overview of the City's Emergency Response/Disaster Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan. Section 11.2 presents an analysis of the relevant issues as well as hazard response. Section 11.2 includes the goals, policies, and implementing actions. Section 11.4 contains technical information and support data of the hazards analysis. The Safety Element is one of the seven required elements of the General Plan per State law.

11.1.2 City of Merced Emergency Response/Disaster Plan

In 2011, the City of Merced updated its Emergency Operations Plan. The plan is updated on a regular basis to meet the evolving emergency response needs and to address new hazards. The Plan addresses mitigation, planning, response, and recovery activities for various emergency situations. ~~The Plan consists of: a) Purpose, scope, situations, and assumptions; b) concept of operations; c) organization and assignment of responsibility; d) direction, control, and coordination; e) information collection and dissemination; f) communications; g) administration, logistics, and finance; h) preparedness, training and exercises; i) plan development and maintenance; j) authorities; and k) supporting documents and annexes. The purpose of the plan is to provide emergency planning, organization, response, mitigation, and recovery guidance. The Plan is compliant with the emergency management requirements of the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), the Incident Command System (ICS), and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Further, the Plan supports law enforcement, access control, fire, medical, rescue, hazardous materials, care and shelter, support, and resources.~~ The plan is designed to prepare the community for responding to an emergency situation in a highly organized and efficient manner.

11.1.3 City of Merced Hazard Mitigation Plan

~~The Merced Hazard Mitigation Plan presents a comprehensive risk assessment of natural hazards that have the potential to affect the City of Merced. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan recommends possible mitigation measures for reducing the effects of the potential hazards. It is incorporated by this reference into the Safety Element, and should be consulted when addressing known hazards to ensure the general health and safety of people within the City of Merced. The goals and policies within this Safety Elements support and are consistent with the recommended mitigation strategy within the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.~~

Deleted characters and spaces: 692
Added characters and spaces: 683

EXHIBIT 1

ORIGINAL POLICY LANGUAGE: **(TO BE DELETED)**

- 1.1.g ~~Complete preparation and implementation (and updates as needed) of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City per the requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).²²~~

~~The City Fire Department has headed up efforts to make sure that the City of Merced is prepared for emergencies and disasters by preparing a City Emergency Plan and training City management staff and all First Responders in the Incident Command System (ICS)/National Incident Management System (NIMS). The City has a designated Emergency Operations Center in the Central Fire Station on 16th Street. City staff has on-going training and training exercises or drills are conducted on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The above implementing Actions will be employed to make sure that the City's Emergency Plans are kept up-to-date and the City is prepared for disasters of all types.~~

PROPOSED REPLACEMENT POLICY LANGUAGE: **(TO BE ADDED)**

- 1.1.g Adopt and update the Merced Hazard Mitigation Plan as needed, and consult it when addressing known hazards to ensure the general health and safety of people within the City of Merced.

The City of Merced Local Hazard Mitigation Plan presents a comprehensive risk assessment of natural hazards that have the potential to affect the City of Merced. The Local Mitigation Plan was developed by the City in accordance with the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, adopted in 2015 by the City of Merced, and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan suggests possible mitigation measures for reducing the effects of the potential hazards. The goals and policies within this Safety Elements support and are consistent with the recommended mitigation strategy within the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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

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

Project Title: City of Merced Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP), and General Plan Amendment #14-03. Env. Rev. #10-37

Project Applicant: City of Merced

Project Location (Specific): City wide

Project Location - City: Merced **Project Location - County:** Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) is a dynamic process built on realistic assessments of past and present information used by the City to anticipate future hazards and provides meaningful strategies to address possible impacts and identified needs. The project follows four phases, organizing resources, assessing risks, developing the mitigation plan, and determining how to implement the plan and monitor progress. The MHMP would be included by reference in the City's General Plan.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Merced

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

Exempt Status:

- 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: 15306, "Class 6"
- Statutory Exemptions. State Code Number: 15262.
- General Rule (Sec. 15061 (b)(3))

Reasons why Project is Exempt: As defined under the above referenced Sections, the project is exempt because the plan leads to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded, and the plan is a planning study for possible future actions. The implementation of mitigation actions of future projects of the MHMP may trigger the need for assessment of environmental impacts under CEQA, however.

Lead Agency: City of Merced
Contact Person: Bill King, Principal Planner **Area Code/Telephone:** (209) 385-6858

Signature: Bill King **Date:** 1-26-15 **Title:** Principal Planner

Signed by Lead Agency

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA. 94607-4052



FEMA

March 19, 2015

Bill King
Principal Planner
City of Merced Planning Department
Merced Civic Center, Planning Department
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, California 95340

Dear Mr. King:

We have completed our final review of the *City of Merced Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*, officially adopted by the City of Merced, CA on March 16, 2015 and found the plan to be in conformance with Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201.6 *Local Mitigation Plans*.

The approval of this plan ensures the City of Merced's continued eligibility for project grants under FEMA's hazard mitigation assistance programs, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance grant programs. All requests for funding, however, will be evaluated individually according to the specific eligibility, and other requirements of the particular program under which applications are submitted. Approved mitigation plans may be eligible for points under the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS). A additional information regarding the CRS can be found at www.fema.gov/business/nfip/crs.shim or through your local floodplain manager.

FEMA's approval of the *City of Merced Local Hazard Mitigation Plan* is for a period of five years, effective starting the date of this letter. Prior to March 19, 2020, the City of Merced is required to review and revise its plan to reflect changes in development, progress in local mitigation efforts, and changes in priorities, and resubmit it for approval in order to continue to be eligible for mitigation project grant funding. The enclosed plan review tool provides additional recommendations to incorporate into the plan when the City of Merced undertakes its identified plan maintenance process.

If you have any questions regarding the planning or review processes, please contact Phillip Wang, Hazard Mitigation Planner at (510) 627-7753, or by email at phillip.wang@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Lusk
Division Director
Mitigation Division
FEMA Region IX

Enclosures

cc: Marcia Sully, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Jose Lara, Chief, Hazard Mitigation Planning

www.fema.gov