



To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Steven S. Carrigan, City Manager
Date: October 4, 2019
Re: City Council Information Report

DROP-OFF SITE GOES VIRAL, AND GETS WELL-USED

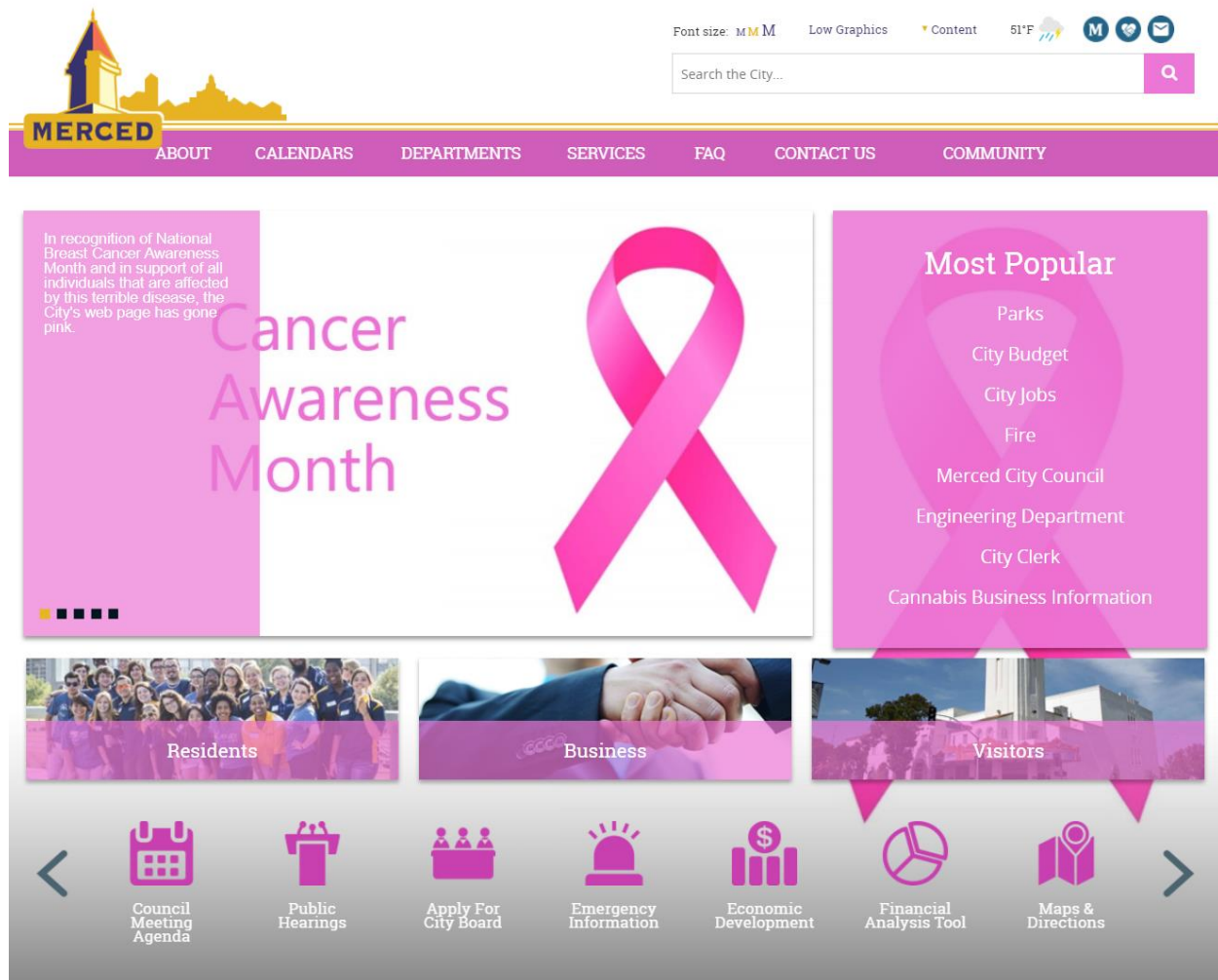
A post last Friday afternoon on the Bulky Item Drop-Off site went viral (relative to other City social media posts) and had more than 32,000 engagements. It also had more than 190 comments, with not a snarky one in the bunch as of Tuesday afternoon. (OK, there was one person who did have a suggestion regarding a relative, but it had nothing to do with the City.)



Commenters were praising the City for the service, saying it was welcome, hoping it would cut down on illicit dumping, along with allowing them to empty their garages. On Tuesday, the first day the site was opened, one Dumpster was 2/3rds full in the first 25 minutes of being opened.

City residential service customers can drop off bulky items Tuesday through Friday from noon- 3 p.m., as well as the first Saturday of the month from 8 a.m.- noon. The site is closed on City observed holidays, including Nov. 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving.

CITY WEBSITE GOES PINK



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month so Fire Department personnel are wearing pink t-shirts and Police Department staff are wearing pink patches. Other City staff are wearing Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirts to support the cause. The City's website is also going pink, as shown in the screen shot above. When people land on the home page, they will be greeted with plenty of pink, along with a message about Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Please find attached the monthly legislative report from Townsend Public Affairs.

Three dates of interest regarding state legislation are:

Oct. 13, 2019 – Last day for Gov. Newsom to sign/veto bills

Jan. 1, 2020 – Most statutes passed in 2019 take effect

Jan. 6, 2020 – Legislature reconvenes for the 2020 Legislative Session

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Builders Roundtable

Over 30 people attended the City's 2019 Builders Roundtable Wednesday. The event provided an opportunity to interact with builders and developers. Participants included the City Manager, Office of Economic Development, Fire Department, Development Services/Inspection Services and Planning, Engineering, and Public Works. Topics included tips on getting ahead of the 2019 Uniform Building Code Update. Feedback received at the event included an expected 300 plus permit applications before the end of the year. (See attached history of building permits and presentation and the photo of the daily inspections being printed out.) Other information focused on changing standards under both the Fire Codes and Engineering Standards. Public Works discussed the target waste diversion of 65% for contractors and how the City will be working to implement the requirements of Cal Recycle.



Cannabis Updates

The first commercial cannabis dispensary in Merced, Blue Fire Cannabis Dispensary, had a soft opening Thur. Oct. 3 at 1975 W. Olive Ave. The owners operate dispensaries in Ceres, Modesto, and Riverbank. They are also working on applications in San Joaquin and Sacramento Counties. They are bringing in staff to help train their locally hired employees. Information on a future grand opening event will be shared when available.



Progress is also being made on The Green Door, located on Main St., as well as Manzanita on 18th St. The Green Door expects to have their soft opening by mid October. Manzanita has not shared an opening date but indicated it would be this Fall. Medallion Wellness and Harvest Merced have both submitted tenant improvement plans for their buildings, but neither are finalized. Their next steps will be obtaining the building permits and performing the remodel/renovation work. Both stated they hope to open for business before the end of 2019.

PARKS AND REC UPDATE

Applegate Park Zoo received a makeover -- thanks to the efforts of First Baptist Church of Merced. As part of their second annual Go Day, members of the church flooded the community with volunteer efforts around the city on the morning of Sunday, Sept. 29. Over 90 youth and adult volunteers came to the Zoo to help spread 30 tons of crusher dust



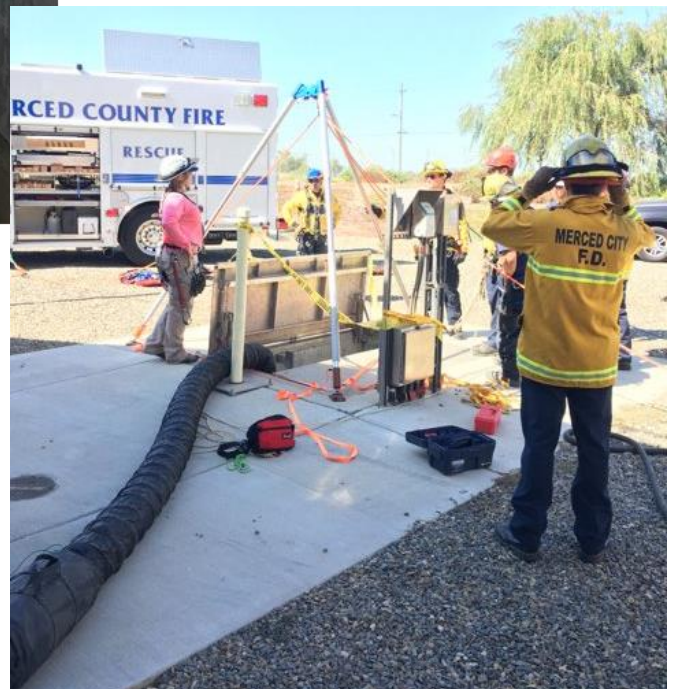
inside the animal exhibits (purchased by the Merced Zoological Society), and to make games for the animals. The animals will be given the treats at 10:30 a.m. Sun. Oct. 13 and the public is welcome to watch. The October Zoo calendar is attached.



MERCED FIRE NEWS

Confined Space Rescue Class

The department hosted a Confined Space Rescue class the week of Sept. 30-Oct. 4 with an IAFF grant that included three instructors. The 18 City and Merced County/Cal Fire participants received state certification.





Women in Public Safety

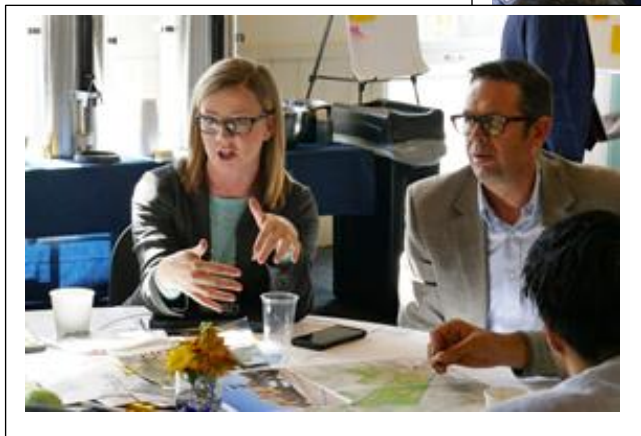
Capt. Shawn Luce represented the Merced Fire Department during a public education event at Lake Yosemite Sept. 27 that recognized women in public safety/EMS/military. It included representatives from Merced PD, Merced Fire, CHP, RAS, Merced County Fire, Cal Fire, Army National Guard, Mercy Air, PHI, and Calstar. About 150 female juniors and senior were invited from the four local high schools. Agencies gave brief presentations and the students toured and asked questioned. City Fire interacted with about 60 students, answering questions from educational requirements to the calls the Department runs.

BEAR CREEK CLEAN UP

Public Works crews are scheduled to clean up the section of Bear Creek from G Street to St. Michelle Drive this Monday and Tuesday. The work at the site has been posted in advance of the clean up.

REGIONS RISING TOGETHER STRATEGY SESSION

California Forward and the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development hosted a Regions Rising Together Strategy Session at UC Merced. Governor Newsom proposed Regions Rising Together to reinforce inclusive economic development and sustainable land use in the State. Participants included stakeholders from Tulare to San Joaquin Counties. Merced County and the City presented a united front at the session. Assistant City Manager Stephanie Dietz and Economic Development Director Frank Quintero served on the planning team.



MEETING WITH A LOCAL INDUSTRY

The Office of Economic Development coordinated a meeting between Development Services, Fire Department, and local industry to discuss their plans for a proposed product line expansion. Although the expansion will not result in a physical building project, it does help the company expand their market and customer base. Inspection Services will continue working with the industry's plan designer, and Economic Development staff will evaluate the project's eligibility for State tax credits and job training funding.

RESCUE MISSION FOOD DRIVE

The Merced County Rescue Mission's 8th Annual Holiday Food Drive is going on now through Dec. 24. They are seeking donations of non-perishable food items such as stuffing mix, canned green beans, canned corn, and any other food donations. The program wish list includes: feminine hygiene products (pads and tampons), twin sheets, pillows, pots and pans, refrigerators, washers, dryers, used minivans and vehicles. Donations help provide the annual Thanksgiving and

Christmas dinners for 1,000-plus people every year, along with meals throughout the year. Drop off donations at 644 W. 20th St., Merced, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m.



FARM2U

Please find attached information on the 8th Annual Farm2U Ag Day for 3rd Graders on Oct. 10.

TOBACCO INFORMATION

Please find attached information from the Merced County Tobacco Control Program.

MID BONDS UPGRADED

Please find attached a news release about MID bonds being upgraded to A+ rating.

MCAG NEWSLETTER

Please find attached the MCAG newsletter for October.

HISPANIC CHAMBER DINNER

Please find attached the flier for the Hispanic Chamber Installation Dinner Oct. 4.

DEBUTANTE BALL

Please find attached the flier for the Debutante Ball, Oct. 5.

NAACP DINNER

Please find attached the flier for the NAACP 58th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet Oct. 12.

HOMELESS CONNECT

Please find attached the flier for the Homeless Connect event Oct. 11.

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA

Please find attached the Planning Commission Agenda for the meeting of Weds. Oct. 9.

SAVE THE DATE

- Oct. 4 – Peace for Families March & Gathering, 5:30-8 p.m.
- Oct. 4 – Hispanic Chamber Dinner, Fairgrounds, 6:30-10 p.m.
- Oct. 5 – Debutante Ball, Atwater Community Center, 6-10 p.m.
- Oct. 10 – Farm2U, Fairgrounds, 10:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Oct. 10 – League Division Golf Tournament, Patterson, 10:30 a.m.
- Oct. 11 – Homeless Connect, Central Presbyterian, 9:30 a.m.
- Oct. 12 – NAACP Banquet, Senior Center, 6-9 p.m.
- Oct. 12 – Local Culinary Talent & Vinters Event, 5:30-8 p.m.
- Oct. 17 – Merced College Flag Raising Ceremony, Front Entrance, 5-6 p.m.
- Oct. 26 – MC Aggie Fest 2019 Suds and Sausage, Fairgrounds, 4-6 p.m.
- Oct. 26 – Merced County Nut Festival, Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Parade, Bob Hart Square, TBD
- Nov. 12 – Eggs & Issues: Sustainable Groundwater Mgmt. Act, 7:30-9 a.m.
- Nov. 15 – Pearl Family Dentistry 10th Year Anniversary Event, 12:00 p.m.
- Nov. 19 – DY Project Fundraiser, MultiCultural Arts Center 6-8 p.m.

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Legislative monthly report | P. 11 |
| 2. Builders Roundtable information | P. 35 |
| 3. Zoo October calendar | P. 39 |
| 4. Farm2U flier | P. 40 |
| 5. Tobacco Control Program information | P. 41 |
| 6. MID Bonds news release | P. 53 |
| 7. MCAG newsletter | P. 55 |
| 8. Hispanic Chamber flier | P. 59 |
| 9. Debutante Ball flier | P. 60 |
| 10.NAACP Dinner flier | P. 61 |
| 11.Homeless Connect flier | P. 62 |
| 12.Planning Commission Agenda | P. 63 |

MEMORANDUM

To: City of Merced
Mayor and Council Members
Steve Carrigan, City Manager
Stephanie Dietz, Assistant City Manager

From: Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.
Christopher Townsend, President
Richard Harmon, Central California Senior Director

Date: October 2, 2019

Subject: Monthly Report—September 2019

SUMMARY

This memorandum is an overview of activities undertaken by Townsend Public Affairs (TPA) over the last month, working on behalf of the City of Merced, including the following subjects:

- **Legislative Activity and Updates**
 - *State Update*
 - Legislative Activity
 - Homelessness Package
 - Housing Legislation
 - State and Federal Actions Regarding Vaping
 - *Federal Update*
 - Congressional Activity
 - Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations
 - State and Local Taxes
 - Water
 - Cannabis
 - Fuel Economy Standards
- **Project Activity and Updates**
 - *Proposition 68 Grants*
- **Funding Program Updates**
 - *Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program*
 - *Fire Prevention Grant Program*
 - *Land and Water Conservation Fund*
- **Upcoming Funding Opportunities**



LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY AND UPDATES

State Update

Legislative Activity

The Legislature wrapped up the first year of the 2019-2020 Legislative Session on September 13, the last day to pass bills in either house. Due to the passage of Proposition 54 in 2016, all bills must now be in print for 72 hours prior to being considered on their respective Floor. Approximately 2,600 policy bills were introduced in the Legislature in 2019. Just over 1,000 of those bills passed and were sent to the Governor for his signature or veto.

The final day of session was interrupted by anti-vaccination protesters when a potential biohazard was exposed to the Senate Floor, prompting an evacuation of the Senate chamber and a criminal investigation. The protesters were opposed to SB 276 (Pan–D, Sacramento), a bill that increases oversight of vaccine exemptions and was ultimately signed into law by the Governor. After the incident, the Senate resumed its proceedings in a committee hearing room.

Of note, Governor Newsom recently vetoed SB 1 (Atkins–D, San Diego), a bill authored by the Senate Pro Tempore that would have codified federal water pumping standards and endangered species protections for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta into State law. The bill was an attempt by the Legislature to oppose the Trump Administration’s rollbacks of environmental protections. However, the bill was opposed by the Governor who argued that the bill did not “provide the State with any new authority to push back against the Trump Administration’s environmental policies and it limits the State’s ability to rely upon the best available science to protect our environment.”

The bill was also opposed by several Central Valley lawmakers, as well as U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein. Senator Atkins stated her disappointment with the Governor’s decision, and the lack of consensus on the issue highlights the lack of a clear path forward on future State environmental policy.

Furthermore, Governor Newsom signed AB 5 (Gonzalez–D, San Diego) into law, a high-profile labor bill that would require companies such as Uber and Lyft to classify workers as employees instead of independent contractors. Companies that employ certain independent contractors would be required to provide workers with benefits such as overtime and sick leave and would be required to pay them a minimum wage. Uber and Lyft have stated their firm opposition to the bill since it was introduced.

Since September 13, the Governor has signed approximately 400 bills and vetoed 19. There are nearly 600 bills left for the Governor to consider before the midnight deadline on October 13.

Below is a list of upcoming legislative deadlines:

October 13, 2019 – Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature

January 1, 2020 – Most statutes passed in 2019 take effect

January 6, 2020 – Legislature reconvenes for the 2020 Legislative Session



Homelessness Package

On September 26, Governor Newsom signed several bills into law aimed at addressing homelessness. The Governor stated that the package of bills addresses “removing regulatory barriers to solve homelessness, including California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions for supportive housing and shelter construction.” Below is a list of the bills signed:

- AB 58 (Rivas–D, Salinas)—This bill requires the Governor to appoint a representative from the California Department of Education (CDE) to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council. Under the federal McKinney-Vento Act, which is implemented by CDE, schools are the first points of contact to identify, interface with, and assist homeless students and their families.
- AB 139 (Quirk-Silva–D, Fullerton)—This bill updates the requirements of local governments’ housing plans to address the needs of the homeless crisis, specifically by changing the criterion for assessing the need for emergency shelters and housing to a regional level, and requiring that to be accounted for as part of the Housing Element of a city or county’s General Plan.
- AB 143 (Quirk-Silva–D, Fullerton)—This bill adds Alameda County, Orange County, all of the cities within those counties, and the City of San Jose to the list of jurisdictions authorized to declare a shelter crisis, which permits the suspension of state health, planning and zoning, and safety standards; those jurisdictions must then adopt a local ordinance for the design and operation of homeless shelters, which must be approved by HCD. The bill also requires these jurisdictions to develop plans to address the shelter crisis, including how to transition residents from homeless shelters to permanent supportive housing.
- AB 728 (Santiago–D, Los Angeles)—Previous legislation gave counties the authority to create Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams (MDTs) for homeless adults and families to facilitate the expedited identification, assessment, and linkage of homeless individuals to housing and supportive services, and allow provider agencies to share confidential information for those purposes to ensure continuity of care. This bill creates a five-year pilot program in the following counties (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Clara and Ventura) to expand the scope of an MDR to include serving individuals who are at risk of homelessness. The program sunsets on January 1, 2025.
- AB 761 (Nazarian–D, Van Nuys)—This bill allows, at the sole discretion of the Adjutant General (TAG), the use of any armory deemed vacant by the California Military Department throughout the year by the county or city in which the armory is located for the purpose of providing temporary shelter from hazardous weather conditions for homeless persons.
- AB 1188 (Gabriel–D, Woodland Hills)—This bill creates a legal framework allowing a tenant, with the written approval of the owner or landlord, to take in a person who is at risk of homelessness. It includes of protections for both the landlord and tenant, including the ability for the tenant to remove the person at risk of homelessness on short notice.



- AB 1235 (Chu–D, Milpitas)—This bill renames the runaway and homeless youth shelters run by the Department of Social Services as “youth homelessness and prevention centers,” expands the categories of youth for which the centers are required to provide services to also include youth at risk of homelessness and youth exhibiting status offender behavior, and expands the time a youth can stay in the center from 21 to 90 days.
- SB 211 (Beall–D, Campbell)—This bill authorizes Caltrans to lease its property to local governments for the purpose of an emergency shelter or feeding program for \$1 per month plus administrative fees.
- SB 450 (Umberg–D, Santa Ana)—This bill provides a CEQA exemption until January 2025 for hotels converted to supportive housing.
- SB 687 (Rubio–D, West Covina)—This bill requires the Governor to appoint a representative of the state public higher education system to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council.
- SB 744 (Caballero–D, Merced)—This bill provides a CEQA exemption for supportive housing and No Place Like Home projects.

The Governor also referenced the homelessness investments made through the 2019-20 State Budget, including:

- \$650 million to local governments for homelessness emergency aid
- \$120 million for expanded Whole Person Care services
- \$150 million for strategies to address the shortage of mental health professionals in the public mental health system
- \$25 million for Supplemental Security Income advocacy
- \$40 million for student rapid rehousing and basic needs initiatives for students in the University of California and California State University systems
- \$20 million in legal assistance for eviction prevention
- Over \$400 million to increase grants to families in the CalWORKs program
- Budget more than doubles the investment in the Cal-EITC Working Families Tax Credit to \$1 billion, which will increase the number of participating households from 2 million to 3 million, lifting some out of poverty

Lastly, the Governor released a letter to members of the State Council on Homelessness asking them to focus on providing recommendations to local communities to use State funding to help localities address the issue of street homelessness.



Housing Legislation

During the last several days of the Legislative Session, several housing bills were amended:

AB 1251 (Santiago) – Planning and zoning: housing development.

AB 1251 was pulled back from the Governor’s desk and was amended to become a housing element bill.

Current law states:

- Cities are required to create an inventory of land that is dedicated to residential development according to their housing element in their general plan. If the City does not have adequate land dedicated to meet minimum levels of housing, the city is required to rezone areas to allow for additional housing production. Housing element law requires cities to rezone areas to meet its housing element requirements within one year.

AB 1251 amends current law in the following manner:

- If the City does not rezone within one year, a housing development project where at least 40 percent of the units have an affordable housing cost or affordable rent for lower income households will be a done as use-by-right in zones where multi-family, commercial, and mixed uses are permitted. This action would diminish the local government review process for these types of projects.

However, due to initial opposition to the bill, AB 1251 has been made a 2-year bill and will be considered in January.

AB 1482 (Chiu) – Tenant Protection Act of 2019: tenancy: rent caps

Another major housing related topic in 2019 was rent control. During the gubernatorial campaign and in his subsequent public appearances, Governor Newsom called upon the Legislature to send him a rent control bill. AB 1482 changes the current rental housing landscape by implementing two major provisions: rent caps and tenant eviction protections. The bill was passed by the Legislature, is expected to be signed by the Governor before October 13 and would go into effect on January 1, 2020. Below is a summary of these two provisions as well as a list of those exempted from the bill.

Rent Cap:

- Until 2030, landlords will not be able to increase rent more than five percent plus CPI (not to exceed 10 percent overall)

Tenant Eviction Protections:

- Requires landlords to state a just cause when evicting a tenant



- The protection applies to tenants who have occupied the residence for more than 12 months and 24 months if there is a change in roommates
- Landlords are still able to evict tenants for reasons such as failing to pay rent, breach of the lease, criminal activity, and creating a nuisance
- If a landlord evicts a tenant to withdraw the property from the rental market, occupy the residence, remodel, or is required to vacate the residence by the court or local government, the tenant will be granted one-month rental assistance from the owner (direct payment, one month of rent waived)

Exemptions:

- Single-family owner-occupied homes not owned by corporations, including accessory dwelling units
- Dormitories
- Deed-restricted affordable housing
- Duplexes where owner lives in one of the units
- New construction projects built within the last 15 years
- Units already subject to rent control

AB 1484 (Grayson) – The Housing Mitigation Fee Act

AB 1484 was held in the Senate by the author’s office and is now a 2-year bill. This bill would have required a city or county to post on its website each developer impact fee and other fees that are imposed that are applicable to a housing project. This bill is expected to be amended to create a more stringent standard for development impact fees that cities and special districts may charge developers.

SB 330 (Skinner) – The Housing Crisis Act of 2019

SB 330 was passed by the Legislature and sent to the Governor’s desk. The bill makes numerous changes until 2025 to various State statutes related to housing development. These changes affect the local housing approval process and imposes restrictions on adopted development standards. It also delays enforcement of certain code violations for housing projects. SB 330 would prevent any actions or plans by cities to reduce the amount of housing in their jurisdiction.

SB 592 (Weiner) – The Housing Accountability Act

SB 592 was held in the Assembly and is now a 2-year bill. The bill would have prohibited a local agency from disapproving or conditioning approval in a way that deters a housing development project that complies with the local general plan, zoning, and subdivision standards.



State and Federal Actions Regarding Vaping

State Administrative Action:

Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order on September 16, 2019, addressing the youth vaping epidemic:

- The Governor has called on the Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop recommendations to increase enforcement efforts against the sale of illicit and counterfeit vaping products.
- The executive order will also aim to establish standards for warning signs and labels in retail stores and on e-cigarette packaging. DPH's deadline for submittal to the Governor's office is October 14, 2019.
- \$20 million raised from Propositions 56 and 64 will be allocated to marketing prevention efforts—educating the public on the potential health risks of vaping nicotine and cannabis.
- The California tax collection department has been directed to step up enforcement of existing fees and regulations of electronic cigarettes.
- The Governor has also made it clear that once the Legislature reconvenes in January, he will press for legislative action geared towards eliminating the sale of flavored nicotine products in California.

State Legislature—Current bills that address vaping and e-cigarettes:

- ***SB 538 (Rubio) Electronic Cigarettes—(Awaiting Governor Action)***

This bill requires a manufacturer of electronic cigarettes to submit specified information to the Department of Public Health (DPH) about electronic cigarettes sold in the state. This bill further requires DPH to post the information on its Web site and to conduct a public outreach campaign to notify specified entities about the information on electronic cigarettes to address the increase in youth usage. It also contains an urgency clause that will make this bill effective upon enactment.

- ***AB 1529 (Low) Cannabis Vaporizing Cartridges: Universal Symbol—(Awaiting Governor Action)***

Requires a cannabis cartridge or integrated cannabis vaporizer that contains cannabis or a cannabis product to bear the universal cannabis symbol that is at least one-quarter inch by one-quarter inch. Contains an urgency clause to ensure that the provisions of this bill go into immediate effect upon enactment.



- ***AB 131 (Cunningham) Electronic Smoking Devices: Manufacturers: Advertising—(Held over until next year)***

Would prohibit an electronic smoking device manufacturer, as defined, from advertising or promoting the electronic smoking device, as defined, in a manner that is attractive to persons under 21 years of age, as specified, or is intended to encourage persons under 21 years of age to use the device. This bill would authorize the State Department of Public Health to assess specified civil penalties against an electronic smoking device manufacturer for each violation.

- ***AB 1639 (Gray) Tobacco Products—(Held over until next year)***

This bill would, among other things, would create various advertising, promotion, packaging, and selling prohibitions on electronic cigarettes in California.

- ***SB 424 (Jackson) Tobacco Products: Single-use and Multi-use Components—(Held over until next year)***

This bill prohibits a person or entity from selling, giving, or in any way furnishing to another person of any age in the state any single-use filters, plastic devices, electronic cigarettes, and vaporizer devices, as specified. Requires the manufacturer of these components to use materials eligible for recycling under state or local recycling programs to make any multiuse, reusable component, and to offer methods for recycling those components, as specified.

Federal Administrative Action:

The Trump Administration policy (via the FDA) is expected to be finalized in the coming weeks. Essentially, it's enforcing rules already on the books but targeting/prioritizing flavored e-cigs.

By way of background: an FDA rule became effective August 8, 2016 that said that all electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) products (which includes e-cigarettes) were expected to file premarket tobacco product applications with the FDA within two years (to bring them into similar compliance with traditional cigarettes). Basically, all ENDS products currently on the market are not being legally marketed and are now subject to government action.

The compliance policy the FDA is going to finalize in the coming weeks will outline enforcement policy of this existing rule, in a way that will prioritize flavored over non-flavored e-cigarettes. There will be additional details of how they will address flavored e-cigarettes should the manufacturers come into compliance with the August 2016 FDA rule, but they have not made those public yet. Additionally, there is likely to be some lag between plan announcement and full implementation from an enforcement perspective (likely another few weeks or months).



Federal Update

Congressional Activity

In September, we saw the latest, and one of the largest, political standoffs come to a head in Washington, D.C., resulting in a collection of unresolved policy priorities. The Democratic-led House moved forward with an impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump based on a recent phone call with the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky. Members of both parties have expressed concern that the impeachment inquiry will take precedence over (or distract from) all other congressional activity, and that Congress will be at an impasse on even the most basic pieces of legislation. To add to existing legislative delays, lawmakers left Washington at the end of September for a two-week recess.

Impeachment risks slowing progress on any agreements between the House, Senate and White House on key policy items, including trade agreements, Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 appropriations, and drug pricing, even though no timeline for drafting articles of impeachment has been announced.

Although lawmakers did manage to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) that funds the government at current spending levels through November 21—which the President signed on September 27—it will be a key test as to whether Congress will be able to negotiate details of the \$1.3 trillion in government spending for the full fiscal year. Completing the spending bills without another government shutdown will require President Trump and House Democrats to compromise on some aspect of the funding for a border wall.

Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations

Over the last few months, the House and Senate have been working to draft FY 2020 appropriations bills to fund the federal government. To date, the House, where all spending bills originate, passed all 12 of their appropriations bills.

The House has passed 10 of its 12 appropriations bills. The Senate Appropriations Committee has advanced 10 of its 12 out of committee, but none have reached the floor. To date, none of the FY 2020 spending bills have been signed into law.

Please see below for an update on several appropriations line items, where they are in the process, and how the House-proposed levels compare to last year's levels and the President's recommended levels.



Housing/Community Development:

Program	FY 2019 enacted	FY 2020 President's Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	FY 2020 Enacted
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	\$3.3 billion	\$0	\$3.6 billion	N/A	N/A
HOME Investment Partnerships	\$1.25 billion	\$0	\$1.75 billion	N/A	N/A
Homeless Assistance Grants	\$2.64 billion	\$2.6 billion	\$2.8 billion	N/A	N/A
Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	\$40 million	\$0	\$40 million	N/A	N/A
HUD Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	\$22.5 billion	\$22.2 billion	\$23.8 billion	N/A	N/A
HUD Project-Based Rental Assistance	\$11.74 billion	\$12 billion	\$12.6 billion	N/A	N/A
Economic Development Administration (EDA)	\$304 million	\$0	\$540 million	N/A	N/A
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)	\$155 million	\$0	\$167.5 million	N/A	N/A
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)	\$155 million	\$0	\$167.5 million	N/A	N/A
Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)	\$242 million	\$0	\$267 million	N/A	N/A



Transportation:

Program	FY 2019 enacted	FY 2020 President's Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	FY 2020 Enacted
Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants	\$900 million	\$1 billion	\$1 billion	N/A	N/A
Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants	\$1 billion	\$2.035 billion	\$1 billion	N/A	N/A
Federal Transit Administration Capital Investment Program (New Starts)	\$2.6 billion	\$1.5 billion	\$2.3 billion	N/A	N/A
Federal Aviation Administration	\$17.5 billion	\$17.1 billion	\$17.7 billion	N/A	N/A
Bus and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment	\$390 million	\$391 million	\$389 million	N/A	N/A

Water:

Program	FY 2019 enacted	FY 2020 President's Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	FY 2020 Enacted
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	\$1.7 billion	\$1.12 billion	\$1.8 billion	N/A	N/A
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	\$1.18 billion	\$863 million	\$1.3 billion	N/A	N/A
Bureau of Reclamation	\$1.57 billion	\$1.1 billion	\$1.63 billion	N/A	N/A
WIFIA	\$68 million	\$25 million	\$45 million	N/A	N/A



Public Safety:

Program	FY 2019 enacted	FY 2020 President's Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	FY 2020 Enacted
Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)	\$225.5 million	\$99 million	\$323 million	N/A	N/A
Recidivism/Reentry Grants	\$87.5 million	\$85 million	\$80 million	N/A	N/A
Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) Grants	\$350 million	\$344 million	\$375 million	N/A	N/A
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants	\$350 million	\$344 million	\$375 million	N/A	N/A
FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program	\$250 million	\$0	\$250 million	N/A	N/A

Science:

Program	FY 2019 enacted	FY 2020 President's Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	FY 2020 Enacted
National Science Foundation (NSF)	\$8.1 billion	\$7.1 billion	\$8.64 billion	N/A	N/A
National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)	\$15.2 billion	\$16.5 billion	\$15.9 billion	N/A	N/A



Education:

Program	FY 2019 enacted	FY 2020 President's Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	FY 2020 Enacted
Head Start	\$10.1 billion	\$10.1 billion	\$11.6 billion	N/A	N/A
Title (I) Grants	\$16.54 billion	\$15.9 billion	\$16.9 billion	N/A	N/A
Title (III) Grants	\$737 million	\$737 million	\$980 million	N/A	N/A
GEAR UP	\$360 million	\$0	\$395 million	N/A	N/A
TRIO	\$1 billion	\$840 million	\$1.1 billion	N/A	N/A
Federal Work Study	\$1.13 billion	\$500 million	\$1.4 billion	N/A	N/A
Pell Grants	\$22.5 billion	\$22.5 billion	\$24.9 billion	N/A	N/A
Carl D. Perkins	\$1.3 billion	\$1.3 billion	\$1.3 billion	N/A	N/A
Job Training/WIOA	\$2.8 billion	\$2.8 billion	\$3 billion	N/A	N/A
Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)	\$50 million	\$15 million	\$60 million	N/A	N/A
Strengthening Community College Training Grants (SCCTG)	--	--	\$150 million	N/A	N/A



Environment:

Program	FY 2019 enacted	FY 2020 President's Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	FY 2020 Enacted
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Land Acquisition and State Assistance	\$153 million	\$104 million	\$280 million	N/A	N/A
Brownfields Grants	\$87 million	\$62 million	\$105 million	N/A	N/A
National Parks Service Operations	\$2.51 billion	\$2.43 billion	\$2.65 billion	N/A	N/A
Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository	\$0	\$31.7 billion	\$0	N/A	N/A
Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)	\$500 million	\$465 million	\$500 million	N/A	N/A

Welfare Assistance:

Program	FY 2019 enacted	FY 2020 President's Request	FY 2020 House	FY 2020 Senate	FY 2020 Enacted
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	\$73.48 billion	\$69.1 billion	\$71.1 billion	N/A	N/A
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	\$6.075 billion	\$5.8 billion	\$6 billion	N/A	N/A
Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)	\$725 million	\$0	\$796 million	N/A	N/A
Senior Community Service Employment Program	\$400 million	\$0	\$464 million	N/A	N/A



Because Congress had not finalized all 12 bills in both chambers by the September 30 deadline, it passed a CR (H.R. 4378) to fund the government at FY 2019 levels through November 21, 2019, the Thursday before Thanksgiving. On September 19, the House passed the CR by a vote of 301-123. On Thursday, September 26, the Senate voted for the CR with a vote of 81-16, and President Trump signed the CR into law on Friday, September 27.

Included in the CR are a number of temporary extensions through November 21, including:

- The National Flood Insurance Program
- The Export-Import Bank
- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program
- The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom
- The Education Department's National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity
- EB-5 regional investor visas, the E-Verify program, and other immigration authorities
- The Calfed Bay-Delta Program, which coordinates state and federal agency activities related to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta in California

The measure would avert a cut to mass transit formula funding that the Congressional Research Service estimated in April would be about \$1 billion in FY 2020. The bill would waive, for the length of the CR, a law requiring the Transportation Department to reduce apportionments when unfunded authorizations for mass transit are estimated to fall short of revenue into the Highway Trust Fund.

The CR also includes a number of anomalies, or exceptions to the across-the-board FY 2019 funding level extension. This includes additional funding for:

- Census Bureau to carry out operations for the 2020 Census
- Secret Service to support hiring and protective activities for the 2020 presidential campaign
- Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out disaster relief operations
- Agriculture Department to ensure that summer child nutrition programs will be fully operational by May 2020
- Housing and Urban Development Department to maintain rental assistance for elderly housing

The measure also would provide the following annualized funding amounts:

- \$177.1 million for Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loans
- \$99 million for the SBA's 7(a) loan program for business startup costs
- \$48 million for Office of Personnel Management salaries and expenses
- \$19 million for the Indian Health Service to staff and operate new or recently renovated facilities
- \$16.5 million for the Agriculture Department to continue implementation of the Hemp Production Program established under the 2018 Farm Bill



Although federal funds are now extended through November 21, lawmakers may still find it difficult to close the gap between party priorities in that time frame. President Trump’s FY 2020 request for \$8.6 billion for a wall on the southern border, and House Democrats’ counteroffer of zero dollars, has created a chasm between lawmakers negotiating the final Homeland Security and Military Construction-VA funding bills. Abortion policy debates have stalled progress in the Senate on Labor-HHS-Education and State-Foreign Operations money.

State and Local Taxes

In September, federal legislation was introduced that temporarily reverses caps on State and Local Taxes (SALT). Congressman Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) recently indicated that members of Congress are currently drafting a compromise bill, which calls for a repeal of the \$10,000 cap on state and local tax deductions for three or four years. While the proposal is under serious consideration, the issue of how to offset the cost of the bill is a major point of contention.

According to staff, Congressman Pascrell’s bill would repeal the cap while also raising the top marginal tax rate on individuals from 37 percent to 39.6 percent, where it was prior to the 2017 tax law. Congressman Pascrell’s measure would apply the new top rate to taxable income above \$470,700 for married couples filing jointly, with annual inflation adjustments; currently the lower rate kicks in at \$612,350 for joint filers.

In addition to the bill Congressman Pascrell is currently drafting, House members have introduced several individual bills this year to undo or eliminate the \$10,000 cap on SALT deductions.

Water

In September, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked up H.R. 1497, the “Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019.” The bill authorizes the Program for Alternative Water Source Projects at \$75 million per year for five years. Under the program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would fund projects aimed at meeting critical water supply needs by conserving, managing, reclaiming, or reusing water, wastewater, or stormwater, or by treating wastewater or stormwater for beneficial uses.

The same bill also reauthorizes the Clean Water State Revolving Fund at \$4 billion per year, State Management Assistance at \$300 million per year, Watershed Pilot Projects at \$120 million per year, and includes a four-year extension of the combined sewer and sanitary sewer overflow and stormwater recapture and reuse grant authority.

Cannabis

On September 25, the House of Representatives passed the “SAFE Banking Act” (H.R. 1595), which would allow banks and credit unions to provide financial services to state-authorized cannabis businesses without federal penalties. The House passed the bill with a vote of 321-103, indicating a wider margin of support than a party-line vote.

Prospects of success in the Senate are increasing—a provision offering hemp industry relief is designed to appeal to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, whose home state of Kentucky is seeing the industry take off as Kentucky farmers are looking to replace tobacco crops. About



1,000 Kentucky farmers are growing hemp, a five-fold increase from 2018, and more than 200 hemp businesses are now registered in the state, up from 70 a year ago. Because of the Majority Leader's involvement supporting hemp in the past, it is likely that he would bring this bill up for a vote in a larger legislative vehicle.

Fuel Economy Standards

On September 19, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule entitled the "One National Program" to enable the federal government to provide nationwide uniform fuel economy and greenhouse gas emission standards for automobile and light duty trucks.

This action finalizes critical parts of the Safer, Affordable, Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule that was first proposed in August 2018. This action makes clear that federal law preempts state and local tailpipe greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions standards as well as zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandates.

With this decision, NHTSA is affirming that its statutory authority to set nationally applicable fuel economy standards under the express preemption provisions of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act dictates that such state and local programs are preempted. EPA is also withdrawing the Clean Air Act preemption waiver it granted to the State of California in January 2013 as it relates to California's GHG and ZEV programs.

California's ability to enforce its Low Emission Vehicle program and other clean air standards to address harmful smog-forming vehicle emissions—i.e., criteria pollutants—is not affected by the action.

The agencies will continue to work together to finalize the remaining portions of the SAFE Vehicles Rule, to address proposed revisions to the federal fuel economy and GHG vehicle emissions standards. The action will become effective 60 days after publication.

PROJECT ACTIVITY AND UPDATES

Proposition 68 Grants

TPA and City staff continue to work on funding opportunities for park projects from Proposition 68. The California Department of Parks and Recreation is coordinating the **Statewide Park Program (SPP)—Round 3**, which the City applied for in August. A total of 480 applications were received, requesting more than \$2.2 billion in funding (there is \$254 million available).

We worked with City staff on applications for the development of several parks. The City has led efforts on the community-based planning and soliciting input for park design.

Three applications were submitted on August 5 and are now working with our legislative delegation on letters of support and telephone calls to the Department. We are hoping to hear that our projects are selected for a site visit.



FUNDING PROGRAM UPDATES

Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program (Cap and Trade)

Under the authority of the Urban Forestry Act, the Urban & Community Forestry Program (UCF) works to expand and improve the management of trees and related vegetation in communities throughout California. The mission of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CalFIRE) Urban Forestry Program is to lead the effort to advance the development of sustainable urban and community forests in California.

This program is funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)—projects must demonstrate that they will achieve and maintain a net reduction in GHG emissions calculated using the most up to date version of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Quantification Methodology for the Urban and Community Forestry Program.

The deadline for this program is November 27, 2019, and eligible applicants include cities, counties, districts and non-profit organizations. An applying entity may only submit up to three (3) total grant proposals for consideration, regardless of grant type or funding source.

There are 3 project types:

- **Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement:** Urban tree planting and planting of urban vegetation to reduce GHG emissions, tree and plant establishment care, and planting site preparation. In addition to tree planting, a project may also involve urban tree site improvements to create larger, more functional planting sites for trees and associated vegetation such as bio-swales and acquisition of small, vacant parcels. (Minimum Award: \$150,000; Maximum Award: \$1.5 million)
- **Urban Forest Management Activities:** For local governments (cities, counties, districts). Improving long-term management of urban forests to reduce GHG emissions and improve urban forest performance over time. Projects may involve the establishment or updating of a jurisdiction-wide tree inventory, urban forest mapping and analysis, and/or long-term management plan. May include policy integration and ordinance development. (Minimum Award: \$150,000; Maximum Award: \$1.5 million)
- **Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization:** Creation, development, and implementation of projects to better utilize trees and/or other vegetation from urban forests to reduce GHG emissions. The trees that are utilized must not have been removed solely to be utilized; there must be another valid management objective behind the removal of the trees. Projects will use urban woody biomass for its highest and best use, thus diverting it from the urban waste stream. Projects must show that the removed trees were replaced with a tree of similar or improved long term carbon and co-benefits. (Minimum Award: \$150,000; Maximum Award: \$1 million)

All projects must contain a tree planting component, except for Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization projects, which must contain a tree replacement component. The project area must be



in an urban area or immediately adjacent to an urban area and be completed by March 30, 2024 at the latest.

There is a 25 percent matching requirement—however, projects that meet the criteria for being in or benefiting a disadvantaged community or a low-income community will be eligible to have their cost share requirement reduced or completely waived

Fire Prevention Grant Program (Cap and Trade)

CalFIRE's Fire Prevention Grants Program (FP) provides funding for local projects and activities that address the risk of wildfire and reduce wildfire potential to forested and forest adjacent communities. Funded activities include hazardous fuel reduction, fire planning, and fire prevention education with an emphasis on improving public health and safety while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This program is funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)—projects must demonstrate that they will achieve and maintain a net reduction in GHG emissions calculated using the most up to date version of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Quantification Methodology for the Urban and Community Forestry Program

The deadline for applications is December 4, 2019, and eligible applicants include State agencies, Native American tribes, local governments within or adjacent to State Responsibility Area including, fire districts, community services districts, water districts, and special districts, or certified local conservation corps, Fire Safe Councils, and non-profit organizations.

The three qualifying projects and activities include those related to hazardous fuel reduction and removal of dead, dying, or diseased trees, fire prevention planning, and fire prevention education:

- Hazardous Fuel Reduction Examples
 - Vegetation clearance in critical locations to reduce wildfire intensity and rate of spread.
 - Creation or maintenance of fuel breaks in strategic locations, as identified in CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans, a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, or similar strategic planning document.
 - Removal of ladder fuels to reduce the risk of crown fires.
 - Creation of community-level fire prevention programs, such as community chipping days, roadside chipping, and green waste bin programs.
 - Selective tree removal (thinning) to improve forest health to withstand wildfire.
 - Modification of vegetation adjacent to roads to provide for safer ingress and egress of evacuating residents and responding emergency personnel.
 - Reduction of fuel loading around critical firefighting infrastructure, including, but not limited to, fire hydrants, water drafting locations, and staging areas.
 - Purchase of fuel modification equipment not to exceed \$250,000 (excluding vehicles).
 - Removal of dead and dying trees that pose a threat to public health and safety and meet certain characteristics



- Fire Prevention Education Examples
 - Workshops, meetings, materials creation, and other educational activities
- Fire Prevention Planning Examples
 - Wildfire risk or related mapping.
 - Creation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP).
 - Development of evacuation plans.
 - Creation or updates to wildfire mitigation plans

A total of \$49.7 million is available in this round and grant activities must be completed by March 15, 2024. A local match is not required, but is a positive factor.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The following summary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund are highlights from a recent workshop organized by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR).

Funding

- **\$7.6 million + available** (FY 2019 apportionment)
 - DPR intends to combine multiple Federal Fiscal Year apportionments into one competitive cycle
 - There is also additional funding every year from projects that are completed under budget (special reappportionment fund)
 - **Possibly \$14 to \$17 million will be awarded this cycle**
- Max award is \$6 million (reimbursement only)
 - DPR recommends that applicants not build contingency amounts into their project budget/request amount, as coming in under budget will reduced in a lower rate of reimbursement and thus a lower grant award
- There is an option to request a grant award range, but being awarded the lower amount does not allow the applicant to “downscope” their project—must still complete the full scope proposed in the application

Match Requirement

- 50 percent of total project cost
- Federal funds cannot be used for the match requirement, with the exception of RTP funds and CDBG funds
- Value of property donated prior to the grant performance period will not count towards the match



Timeline

- Early Summer 2020—DPR completes review of application
- End of July 2020—Applications forwarded to National Park Service (NPS) for review, applicants notified
 - Applicants also begin the Section 106 process at this point (**note: this is a change from previous cycles; in the past, applicants had to complete the Section 106 process by the time of application submission**)
 - Applicant will need to submit a detailed cost estimate to NPS (**note: this is a new requirement from NPS for this cycle**)
- Fall 2020-Summer 2021—NPS approves the project and awards the contract, project period begins. It can take up to one year for NPS to approve projects.

Grant Performance Period

- Performance period is for **up to three years** from date of approval
- Applicants should only propose project activities that can be feasibly completed within three (3) years
- Exceptions:
 - Pre-award project planning (design, planning, engineering, CEQA, etc.) can be incurred up to three years before application submitted to NPS (approximately July 2017 would be the limit)
 - Waivers of retroactivity for urgent acquisitions—this is for situations where acquiring a property is time-sensitive. Waiver must be approved by NPS prior to the acquisition, and getting a waiver does not guarantee the grant will be awarded

Land Tenure/Federal 6(f)(3) Protection

- Applicant must own the land must own the land is the proposed project is for development
 - No lease agreements
- Applicant must become the landowner if applying for an acquisition project
 - Willing seller letter required for application, can be contingent on award
- Applicant must maintain ownership and maintain the project in perpetuity
 - Once the project is complete, the land must go under 6(f)(3) federal protection. This protection helps preserve outdoor recreational use of the site in perpetuity.
 - Applicants should keep in mind that 6(f)(3) protection will make it difficult to build new structures within the protected land boundaries; if there are future plans for development, the applicant should contact DPR to discuss before submission
- Projects that require eminent domain are eligible

Eligible Projects

- Acquisition to:
 - Create new parks (**highest priority of this program**)
 - Expand or provide buffer for an existing park
 - Provide a wildlife corridor



- Provide a trail corridor that connects neighborhoods to workplaces, schools, homes, and other recreational opportunities
- **Bonus points for acquisitions that do not require development and will be immediately available to the public**
 - Examples: fire roads that will be used as trails, property acquired to protect a viewshed/to be preserved as open space
- **In general, acquisitions to protect and preserve open space from further development are the main goal of this program.**
- Development of outdoor recreation features, such as
 - Athletic fields/courts
 - Community gardens
 - Dog parks
 - Open space natural areas
 - Outdoor gyms or performing arts venues
 - **Indoor recreation feature (like community centers) are not eligible**
- Major support amenities such as parking lots and restrooms are also eligible (but cannot be the entirety of the project)

UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Included below is a list of several upcoming grant programs, descriptions and due dates:

- **Recreational Trails and Greenways Program (October 11)**—\$27.7 million available for trail projects. Competitive to local agencies, State conservancies, federally recognized Native American tribes, non-federally recognized California Native American tribes, joint powers authorities, and nonprofit organizations.
- **Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants (October 23)**—Successful planning projects are expected to directly benefit the multi-modal transportation system. Sustainable Communities Grants will also improve public health, social equity, environmental justice, and provide other important community benefits. The grant program will fund local and regional multimodal transportation and land use planning projects that further the region’s RTP SCS, contribute to the State’s GHG reduction targets, and assist in achieving the Caltrans Mission and Program Objectives.
- **Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program (November 27)**—The Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program works to optimize the benefits of trees and related vegetation through multiple-objective projects. These projects further the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32), result in a net greenhouse gas benefit, and provide environmental services and cost-effective solutions to the needs of urban communities and local agencies. Co-benefits of the projects include increased water



supply, clean air and water, reduced energy use, flood and storm water management, recreation, urban revitalization, improved public health, and producing useful products such as biofuel, clean energy, and high-quality wood.

- **Senate Bill 2 Planning Grant Program (November 30)**—This grant program is meant to facilitate planning activities that will foster an adequate supply of homes affordable to Californians at all income levels. It is designed to help meet the challenges of preparing and adopting land use plans and integrating strategies to promote housing development.
- **COPS Hiring Program (November 2019)**—The COPS Hiring Program is open to all state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies that have primary law enforcement authority. This nationwide program is designed to advance public safety through community policing by addressing specific problems, such as public trust, through the hiring of full-time sworn officer positions. Funding is provided directly to law enforcement agencies to hire new and/or rehire career law enforcement officers, and to increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.
- **Fire Prevention Program (December 4)**—CalFIRE’s Fire Prevention Grant Program seeks to fund local projects that address the risk of wildfire and reduce wildfire potential to communities in, and adjacent to, forested areas. Qualified activities include hazardous fuel reduction, fire prevention planning and fire prevention education with an emphasis on improving public health and safety.
- **Forest Health Program (December 6)**—CalFIRE’s Forest Health Grant Program seeks to significantly increase reforestation, fuels management, fire reintroduction, and treatment of degraded areas. An additional \$7 million will be available through the Forest Legacy Program to conserve environmentally important forest land threatened with conversion to non-forest uses, and up to \$2 million will be available specifically for applied research examining forest management and health.
- **Infill Infrastructure Grant Program (December 2019)**—The IIG Program provides grants on a competitive basis and limited over-the-counter funding for infrastructure improvements in support of residential or mixed-use infill development projects. Specific eligible improvements include development or rehabilitation of parks or open space, transit shelters, streets, sidewalks, and streetscape improvements.
- **Urban Flood Protection Program (January 2020)**—\$100 million from Proposition 68 shall be available to the Natural Resources Agency for competitive grants for the purposes of multi-benefit projects in urbanized areas to address flooding. Eligible projects shall include, but are not limited to, stormwater capture and reuse, planning and implementation of low-impact development, restoration of urban streams and watersheds, and increasing permeable surfaces to help reduce flooding.
- **Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (January 2020)**—The TIRCP provide grants from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to fund transformative capital improvements that will modernize California’s intercity, commuter, and urban rail systems,



and bus and ferry transit systems to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, vehicle miles traveled, and congestion.

- **Local Partnership Program (January 2020)**—Jurisdictions with voter approved taxes, tolls, and fees, or with imposed fees, will be eligible for this competitive grant program if the taxes, tolls, or fees are dedicated solely to transportation. The initial programming cycle will cover 2017-18 through 2019-20. The program will match up to \$5 million for the construction of transportation projects.
- **Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (January 2020)**—The objective of the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program is to fund infrastructure improvements on federally designated Trade Corridors of National and Regional Significance, on the Primary Freight Network, as identified in the California Freight Mobility Plan, and along other corridors that have a high volume of freight movement as determined by the Commission. The program will fund projects that benefit the movement of goods along identified trade corridors.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (February 3)**—Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants provide funding for the acquisition or development of land to create new outdoor recreation opportunities for the health and wellness of Californians.
- **Transformative Climate Communities Grant Programs (February 2020)**—Individual grants of up to \$200,000 are available to planning activities possibly leading toward a Transformative Climate Communities Implementation Grant. Planning activities must further goals of a locally adopted plan or Strategic Growth Council (SGC) efforts, and directly benefit a disadvantaged community. The SGC will also be accepting applications for the Implementation Grant to fund neighborhood-level proposals that include multiple, coordinated projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve other community benefits (two awards of \$28 million each).
- **Storm Water Grant Program (Spring 2020)**—Funded from Proposition 1, funding will be available for multi-benefit storm water management projects which may include, but shall not be limited to: green infrastructure, rainwater and storm water capture projects and storm water treatment facilities.
- **Per Capita Park Grant Program (Spring 2020)**—Funds are available for local park rehabilitation, creation, and improvement grants to local governments on a per capita basis. Recipients are encouraged to utilize awards to rehabilitate existing infrastructure and to address deficiencies in neighborhoods lacking access to the outdoors.



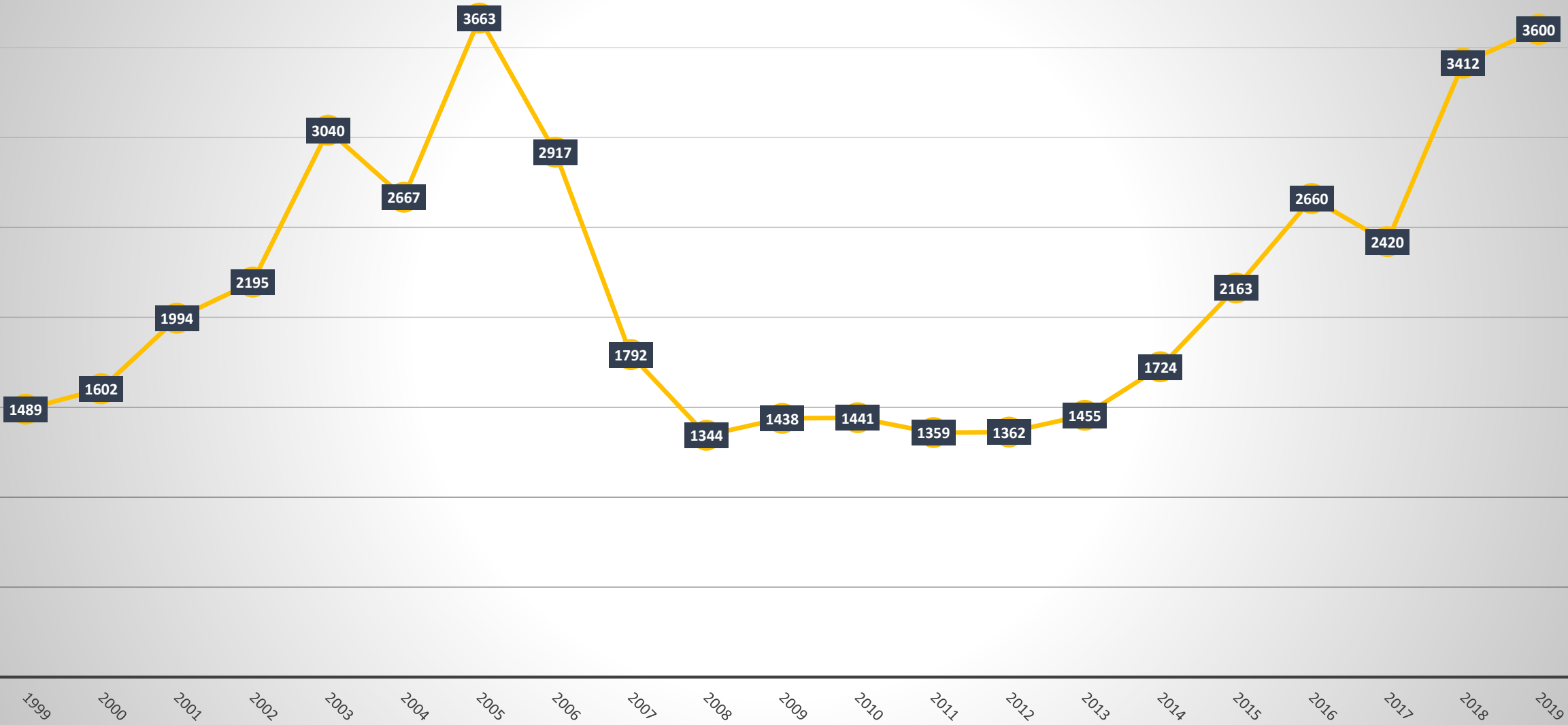
**CITY OF MERCED
NEW UNITS ADDED
(1980-2019)**

Year	Single Family Units	Multi-Family Units
1980	113	211
1981	29	249
1982	31	242
1983	243	762
1984	139	312
1985	132	236
1986	227	280
1987	172	156
1988	289	57
1989	423	5
1990	347	3
1991	114	18
1992	157	10
1993	149	2
1994	170	2
1995	108	17
1996	193	1
1997	172	97
1998	180	72
1999	194	0
2000	331	0
2001	438	0
2002	514	1
2003	1,006	321
2004	727	113
2005	1,427	187
2006	953	43
2007	170	0
2008	17	0
2009	10	0
2010	1	2
2011	0	10
2012	1	176
2013	10	0
2014	53	0
2015	85	1
2016	171	36
2017	148	48
2018	581	16
2019 (as of 9/27)	532	0
TOTAL	10,225	3,686



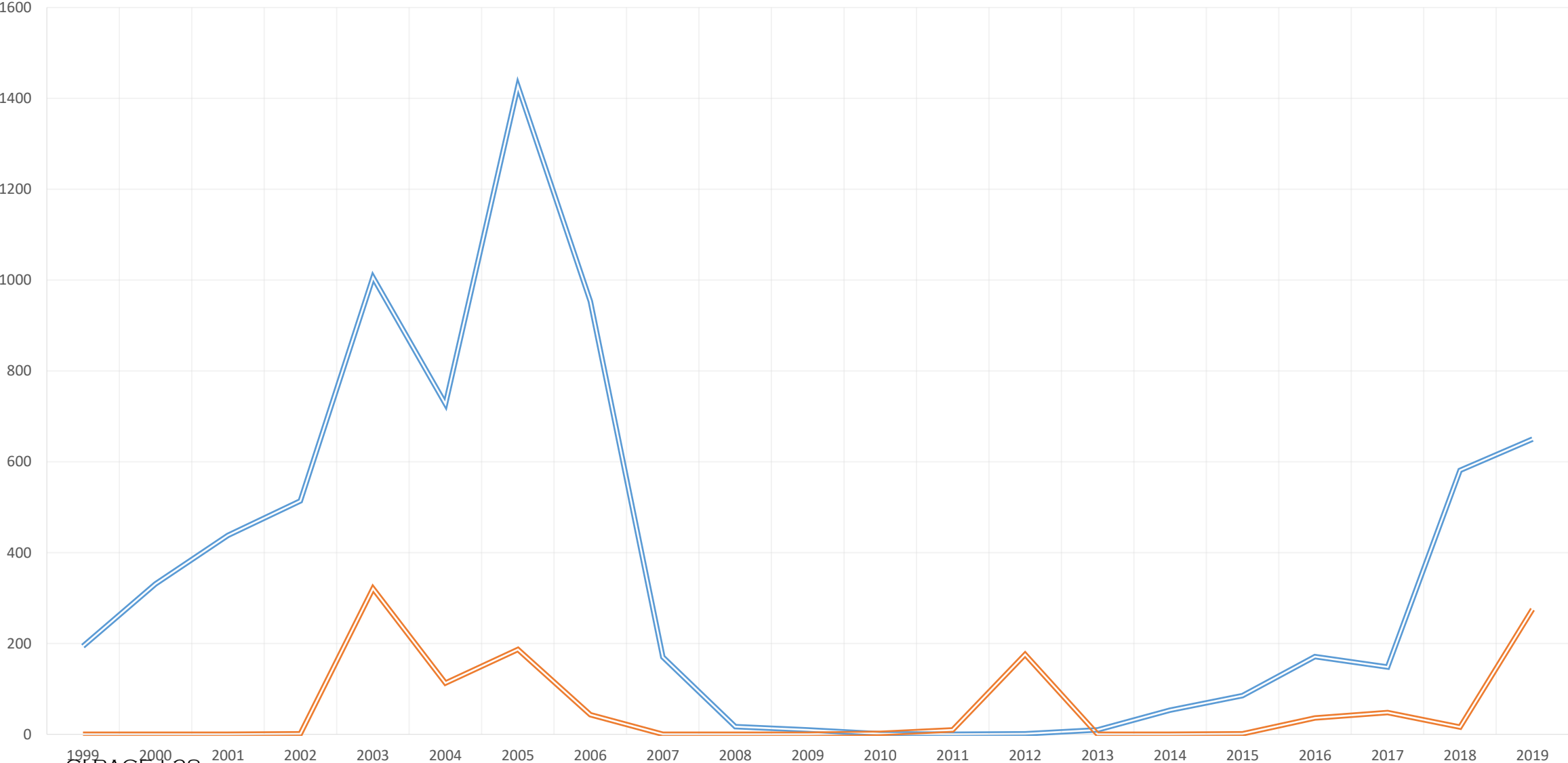
City of Merced 2019 Builders Roundtable

Total permits issued



DWELLING UNITS

SFD MFD



Applegate Park Zoo

October

2019

JULIE WISHES YOU A HAPPY "HOWL-O-WEEN"!



Photos By Sofia Prado

THIS MONTH, GET A FREE TRADING CARD OF JULIE WHEN YOU BRING IN A DONATION FROM THE LIST BELOW!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Opens – 10 am Closes – 5 pm Daily	1	2 Volunteer Orientation 3:30 pm	3	4 	5
6 	7	8	9 Volunteer Orientation 3:30 pm	10	11	12 
13 Animal Enrichment Show 10:30 -11 am	14	15	16 Volunteer Orientation 3:30 pm	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Volunteer Orientation 3:30 pm	24	25 Zoo Boo! 6:00-8:30 PM	26 Zoo Boo! 6:00-8:30 PM
27 	28	29	30 Volunteer Orientation 3:30 pm	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN! We're Open!		
		Julie enjoying some enrichment				

We have a new Amazon Wish List! View it online: tinyurl.com/ZooWishList to see our most needed items, and have them shipped directly to us!



Join us on October 13th for an informative demonstration on our Enrichment Program. Come watch the animals enjoy their treats!

The Zoological Society is looking for a few good volunteers to help with Zoo Boo this year. Sign up at: tinyurl.com/ZooBoo19

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

GET A FREE ANIMAL TRADING CARD OF JULIE by donating any of the following: Dog toys, bleach, dog crates (all sizes except cat),

raw bones, gift cards, "greased lightning" cleaner and degreaser, Pedigree Adult Dog Food Grilled Steak flavor, garden tools, kiddie pools, rabbit toys, twine.





8TH ANNUAL **OCTOBER 10, 2019**
FARM2U
Ag Day for 3rd Graders

The 2019 FARM2U Day is scheduled for Thursday, October 10, 2019 at the Merced Fairgrounds. During this event third-graders from Merced County will participate in this educational day where they will have a chance to learn firsthand about Merced County's expansive agriculture industry and the many benefits of making healthy eating choices.

From this educational encounter we are hoping students will form a lasting connection between the food on their plate and the crops grown in our county. The priority of this day is to make kids aware of the importance of agriculture in their daily lives.

For more information please contact:

Merced County Farm Bureau

PO Box 1232

Merced, CA 95341

Office: 209.723.3001

Fax: 209.723.3004

bramos@mercedfarmbureau.org



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Merced County Tobacco Control Program

VOLUME 5 - ISSUE 01

SEPTEMBER 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Vaping: Epidemic



Vaping: the Growing Epidemic
Page 2

Legislative Updates



Tobacco Related Bills
Page 2

Community Corner

Tobacco Control Efforts across Merced County



Updates
Page 3, 4

Community Corner



Updates
Page 5, 6

HSHC



Page 7

C.A.L.I Youth Advocates



C.A.L.I Youth Advocates
present to Los Banos city council!
Page 8, 9

ACCT Coalition



MERCED COUNTY
ACCT Coalition
A Community Counteracting Tobacco

Meetings, Subcommittees, Events &
Updates
Page 10

Resource Corner



Upcoming Events & Free Local Tobacco
Cessation Classes
Page 11

Contact Us!



Contact Information
Page 12



California Health Collaborative

CI PAGE | 41



VAPING: THE GROWING EPIDEMIC

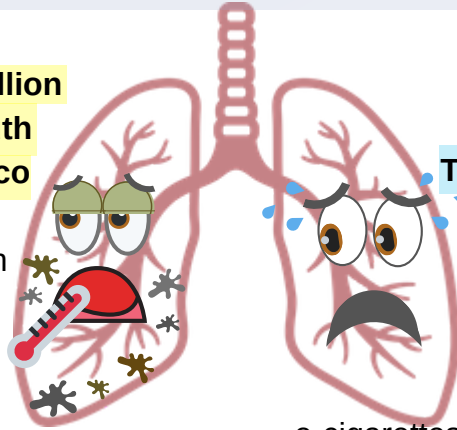
Vaping Related Deaths Continue to Surface

The number of reported vaping related illnesses and the growing number of deaths is creating greater concern throughout the nation. According to the CDC, there are more than **800* reported cases of vaping related illnesses** and **12* deaths** across the **United States**.

California Department of Public Health has received reports that at least 90 people in California have been hospitalized for severe breathing problems and lung damage. There have been 2 deaths in California from vaping related injuries - in Tulare and Los Angeles County.

**These numbers are increasing almost daily. Please visit www.cdc.gov for more information.*

California plans to launch a \$20 million ad campaign aimed to educate youth about the dangers of vaping tobacco and cannabis products; executive order signed Monday September 16th by Governor Gavin Newsom requires stores selling vaping devices to post health risk warnings²



Trump administration is preparing to ban flavored e-cigarettes. The FDA is working on guidelines to remove all flavored e-cigarettes including mint and menthol from the market. All tobacco flavored e-cigarettes will still be available for consumers.¹

On 9/20/19 **Wal-Mart announced they will discontinue the sale of e-cigarettes**

CBS, Viacom & CNN parent company WarnerMedia announced they will prohibit the advertisement of e-cigarettes on their networks

For more information and updates follow us on Facebook: MCTCP209
Join our emailing list: contact mctcp@healthcollaborative.org

¹ LaVito, A. (2019, September 12). Trump administration readies ban on flavored e-cigarettes amid outbreak of vaping-related deaths. Retrieved from <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/09/11/trump-to-consider-e-cigarette-policy-amid-outbreak-of-lung-disease.html>

² Silverman, H. (2019, September 17). A 7th person has died from vaping-related causes. The CDC is stepping up its probe of e-cigarette illnesses. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/17/health/seventh-vaping-related-death-california/index.html>

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Six tobacco-related bills moving through the legislature:

AB 1718

(Levine - D, San Rafael)

State parks: state coastal beaches: smoking ban

SB 8

(Glazer - D, Orinda)

State parks: state coastal beaches: smoking ban

SB 39

(Hill - D, San Mateo)

Tobacco products

AB 1639

(Gray - D, Merced)

Tobacco products

SB 424

(Jackson - D, Santa Barbara)

Tobacco products: single-use and multi-use components

SB 538

(Rubio - D, Baldwin Park)

Electronic cigarettes

COMMUNITY CORNER

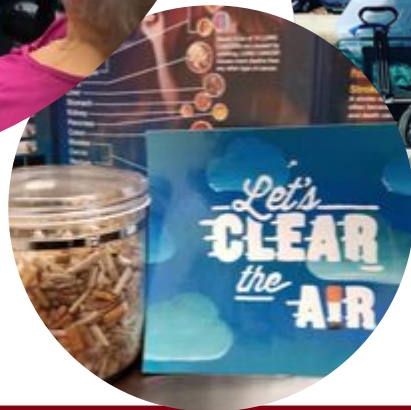


Los Banos & Atwater
2019 National Night Out

Atwater Car Seat Event



MCTCP & Cultiva La Salud :
People's Power Coalition



Atwater
CFHC Summer Family Health Festival

Los Banos
Fall Street Fair

Community
Educational
Presentations



Atwater
Birth & Baby Educational
Seminar



COMMUNITY CORNER

Join the Policy Change Effort

Merced County Department of Public Health

Merced County Efforts to Protect Youth's Health

On September 16th, California's Governor Newsom signed an executive order to act on the public health crisis of youth vaping lung injury. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sixteen percent of the reported 530 cases are youth under 18 years of age. The Merced County Department of Public Health is keeping county providers and medical facilities apprised of this developing public health issue. The Health Equity in the Retail Environment (HERE) staff is working with Dr. Arakawa, the County's Health Officer, the Merced Tobacco Control Program, and UC Merced's Nicotine and Cannabis Policy Center (NCPC) to hold two vaping forums in the county in November. In these forums, Dr. Arakawa will present the latest public health information on vaping and he will be available to answer questions from the public. Specific information on the date and location of these forums will be announced soon. Please stay tuned.

The Merced County Department of Public Health, HERE staff is leading the work in the city of Merced to pass a Tobacco Retail License (TRL) policy with a flavor ban. Passage of a TRL in Merced will set aside funds for increased enforcement of tobacco laws locally. HERE staff is working as a part of the TRL Subcommittee to set up individual educational calls or meetings with City Council members to inform them of the dangers of tobacco use on our youth. If you are interested in joining this effort, please contact Maria Galvan at (209) 725-8240.

HERE staff attended the Boys and Girls Club of Merced County's Day for Kids event on Saturday, September 21. It was International Peace Day and there was a dedication of a peace multi language pole that will stand permanently near the club's front door. Three youth volunteers from the Merced C.A.L.I. helped table at the event and asked the public tobacco related questions to check their understanding of the dangers to health of tobacco use and vaping. The public had many questions about the recent vaping news stories. HERE staff was able to answer and inform about this topic at the event. HERE staff has future presentations to youth groups and news releases that will be released soon. If you have a group that would like a presentation about vaping or the dangers of tobacco use, please contact Nancy Tapia at (209) 381-1156.



This section of the newsletter was provided by the Merced County Department of Public Health - HERE Grant

COMMUNITY CORNER



Unidos Por Salud Project

Unidos Por Salud Project has been hard at work in the community of Dos Palos, attending community events such as the National Night Out event and the Cotton Festival accompanied by youth coalition members. During these community events, the project is collecting petition signatures and educating the community about the harms of flavored tobacco products.

On September 20th, the project presented to the Dos Palos Oro Loma School District's Board of Education to educate the board about the work that they're doing with the youth and to inform them about the flavored tobacco products that have become an issue among youth.



Dos Palos C.A.L.I youth, Nic, helped provide an informational booth at the National Night Out event on Tuesday, 8/6/19. Nic assisted in educating parents and youth about their youth coalition and collected petition signatures!



Unidos Por Salud Community Engagement Coordinator, Morelia, appeared on the local Dos Palos newspaper - Dos Palos Sun, posing with Mayor, April Hogue, during the National Night Out event.

Save your lungs the same way
you wanna save the turtles

sksksk



Friend: *starts JUULing*

Me:



When someone starts vaping
next to me



The Dos Palos - C.A.L.I have taken on a fun project where they decided to create instagram posts related to vaping. These were the 3 images that the youth developed showcasing how others might feel in regards to vaping. They hope to use these images to share on social media and recruit more youth members.

For more information contact Morelia Marines: MMarines@healthcollaborative.org

This section of the newsletter was provided by the California Health Collaborative - Unidos Por Salud Project

COMMUNITY CORNER



Central Valley Rural Community Initiative to Reduce Tobacco-Related Disparities

OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society (ACS), received a five-year (2019 -2024) grant from the California Department of Public Health - California Tobacco Control Program to address tobacco-related health disparities in rural communities in the Central Valley Region (Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kings Counties).

Many residents in the Central Valley are exposed to secondhand smoke due to a high rate of tobacco use and lack of smoke-free environments. Tobacco use is the most preventable cause of health-related illnesses, including cancer. There is no “safe” level of secondhand smoke exposure, which can cause heart and lung disease, as well as lung cancer. Children exposed to secondhand smoke are more likely to have lung problems, ear infections and severe asthma from being around smoke. Approximately 41,000 deaths occur among non-smoking adults and 400 deaths among infants each year due to secondhand smoke exposure.

Through public policy, environment and systems change, the program intends to create community-level change and improve living conditions by building capacity in civic engagement, leadership, and advocacy among Central Valley residents.

PROGRAM GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Goal 1. SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT HOUSING:

The program will support communities in the Central Valley to adopt and implement a 100% smoke-free multi-unit housing (MUH) policy/ordinance, which includes smoke-free balcony and common areas (e.g., 30ft buffer from doors, windows, patios and balconies).

Goal 2. SMOKE-FREE HEALTHCARE FACILITIES:

The program will support healthcare facilities, including Federally Qualifies Health Centers and community hospitals, in the Central Valley to adopt and implement a voluntary 100% tobacco-free campus policy. In addition, the program will work with healthcare facilities to adopt and implement a system change to improve tobacco cessation referral protocol.

Goal 3. SMOKE-FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUSES:

The program will support community college campuses and trade schools in the Central Valley to adopt and implement a policy that prohibits smoking in all outdoor areas of the campus.

For more information, please contact ACSCANFresno@Cancer.org

This section of the newsletter was provided by the American Cancer Society - Cancer Action Network

HEALTHY STORES FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

The California Health Collaborative - Merced County Tobacco Control Program would like to thank all of our community partners and volunteers that assisted with data collection!

What's Next?

The collection of Public Opinion Polls (POPs) has now begun! We will be collecting from 150-200 POPs. POPs will be collected with Merced County residents to gather data on access and availability of products in their communities

When will the data be available?



Data collected through the Healthy Stores for a Health Community Campaign will be presented during the regional press conference that is scheduled for the Spring of 2020. Keep on the the look out for further updates through email and our social media pages. To be added to our emailing list, contact us.

Want to get involved?

Contact us! Interested in assisting with POP collection or key informant interviews?
You can contact us at: mctcp@healthcollaborative.org OR (209)725-8240



C.A.L.I YOUTH

Collaborate. Advocate. Lead. Inspire.

Youth presentation follow-up: August 21, 2019

C.A.L.I. Youth continues their efforts in Los Banos

Following up with the group's one-on-one presentation with the city mayor & smaller meetings with other council members. MCTCP along with a youth advocate presented to Los Banos City Council during public comment.



Council members and attendees were presented with information about smoke-free outdoor areas, tobacco litter and secondhand smoke. Youth advocate and Junior attending Pacheco High School presented a heartfelt testimony of her experience with tobacco and secondhand smoke. Growing up with parents that used tobacco products, she revealed her firsthand experience. "...She finished presenting her section with the following statement: "Children are very impressionable, we need to protect them". This really peaked council members interest which aided in their decision to invite us to provide a full presentation at an upcoming council meeting - adding us to the agenda.

Further updates on the presentation will be shared once the date is established.

MCTCP and partners are excited for the future of Los Banos, creating safer, smoke-free out door areas for residents. Don't miss out on the momentum happening now in Los Banos! For more information on how you can support these efforts, contact us today!

(contact information on page 12)



Collaborate.

Advocate.

Lead.

Inspire.



ATWATER

New Atwater C.A.L.I.

We are excited to announce our new partnership with Atwater Valley Community School. Meetings with this new youth group began at the start of September; the group meets on a weekly basis.

LOS BANOS

Plans for Los Banos Youth

The Los Banos - C.A.L.I is continuing their efforts and recently presented at a city council meeting and assisted MCTCP with educational presentations and at community events.

We are excited to announce our new partnership with Los Banos Valley Community School. An educational presentation will be provided to their after-school program attendees. Future plans are underway to work on a special project with the group as well. Be on the lookout for more information through email and up-coming newsletters.

MERCED

Youtube Mini-Series

The Merced - C.A.L.I. plans on updating their youtube mini-series very soon! Please visit <https://youtu.be/hbBAUUTrThk> to view their current episodes, subscribe, like & support these young tobacco control advocates!



@ Merced County Tobacco Control Program

We are recruiting!

If you know any youth that might be interested and can benefit from joining one of our youth coalitions, contact us!

Joining is completely free! Youth coalition members are exposed to great opportunities within tobacco control.



Thanks to all that attended the September ACCT Coalition meeting!



During this meeting, coalition members had the opportunity to engage in open discussion and reflect on last years progress. **Los Banos Parks & Recreation** Operations Manager presented to coalition members on tobacco litter and the effects on our environment as well as the work that they do and opportunities for collaboration. For more information please visit our webpage: acctcoalition.org

TRL & Flavored Tobacco Subcommittee



As most might be aware, the TRL Subcommittee is an extension of the ACCT Coalition. This group meets on a monthly basis to cover tobacco retail licensing with provisions that eliminate the sale and distribution of flavored tobacco products in the cities of Atwater and Merced. On 9/19/19, the group met where plans were made to garner support from local entities and possible partners. The group came up with plans to connect with council members in the hopes of providing education about this pressing topic as well as obtaining letters of support. For more information please contact us: acctcoalition@gmail.com

We would like to formally introduce our TRL & Flavored Tobacco Subcommittee Lead: **Robin Siminoff!** Robin, now working as a prevention worker for Behavioral Health, has 15 experience within the tobacco field! With a degree in Public Health, emphasis in Community Health Education; Robin worked on smoke-free bars education and enforcement in Hollister and extensively worked on smoke-free parks/campuses in San Diego. She's had five different tobacco youth groups which she's had the opportunity to take to the capitol to talk with elected officials.



"I am most excited about being back in the tobacco family after taking a break to raise my sons. I look forward to partnering with community members and other agencies to work on getting a TRL and flavors ban to protect the Valleys youth."

CONTACT US

Salvador Vazquez
Coalition Chair

Morelia Marines
Coalition Vice-Chair

UPCOMING ACCT COALITION MEETINGS

**Merced County ACCT
Coalition: Quarterly
Meeting**

December 19, 2019
11 am - 1 pm
Location: TBA


**Coalition Recruitment
Subcommittee**
Meets bi-monthly

Media Subcommittee
Meets bi-monthly

**TRL & Flavored Tobacco
Subcommittee**
Meets once a month

**Let's Clear the Air
Subcommittee**
Meets once a month

 **@MercedCounty
ACCTCoalition**

 **acctcoalition@
gmail.com**

 **acctcoalition.org**

RESOURCE CORNER

ATWATER, LOS BANOS & MERCED

Want to create change in your community? How can you get involved?
We are always looking to collaborate with community members & leaders.

Join our policy change efforts in your community.

- **Data Collection**
- **Meetings with local decision makers**
- **Letters of Support**

For educational material and resources, please contact us

QUIT SMOKING TODAY

Dignity Health Mercy Medical Center -
Mercy UC Davis Cancer Center is offering a **FREE 4 week**
program that meets one-hour each week

Location of Classes:

Dignity Health Mercy Medical Center -
Mercy UC Davis Cancer Center
Conference Room
3850 G Street
Merced, CA 95340

Class Dates/Time

October 8	10:30am - 11:30am
October 15	10:30am - 11:30am
October 22	10:30am - 11:30am
October 29	10:30am - 11:30am

For more information contact: **(209) 564-3669**



CONTACT US!

Merced County Tobacco Control Program has been providing numerous resources to communities across Merced County; striving to reduce tobacco-use among youth and our residents. We are always excited for opportunities to collaborate and partner with organizations, community members and leaders that are interested in creating healthier, tobacco free communities. If you or anyone you know is interested and would like more information about MCTCP please contact us today.

Thank you!

For more information about the California Health Collaborative or MCTCP please contact:

Stephanie Gonzalez

Program Manager

SGonzalez@healthcollaborative.org

Patrik White

Youth Coordinator

PWhite@healthcollaborative.org

Maria Galvan

Community Engagement Coordinator

MGalvan@healthcollaborative.org

1903 G St.

Merced, CA. 95340

(209) 725-8240



www.healthcollaborative.org



MCTCP209



MID infrastructure bonds again receive rating upgrade benefitting customers

Change reflects ongoing work to maintain healthy District finances

For Immediate Release: October 1, 2019

Contact: Mike Jensen

209-354-2856

mjensen@mercedid.org

Municipal bonds used to finance Merced Irrigation District infrastructure projects have again been upgraded by S&P Global Ratings. The credit rating upgrade reflects MID's ongoing efforts to contain costs and maintain the strongest financial management possible.

"We are very pleased with the District's rating upgrade," said MID Chief Financial Officer Dipak Bhakta. "This is a recognition of on-going efforts by the Board of Directors and staff to ensure good strong fiscal policies and practices, and provide reliable, cost-effective water and power services for our customers."

For MID's Electric Services, bond issued in both 2015 and 2017 were upgraded from an "A" rating to "A+." Similarly, the bonds associated with MID's hydroelectric and water operations were also upgraded from "A" to "A+."

"The raised rating reflects our view of the district's very strong financial performance over the past three years, which we consider sustainable given the district's lack of additional debt plans and its drought contingency plans, which we consider adequate," said S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Chloe Weil of the water and hydroelectric bond upgrade.

Regarding the MID Electric Services bond rating upgrades, S&P stated in part: "The rating reflects our opinion of the district's strong enterprise profile and very strong financial risk profile. The strong

enterprise risk profile reflects our view of the district's very strong market position and strong operational management assessment...”

The improved bond ratings should benefit MID customers in the future by reducing the borrowing costs for funding associated with larger District infrastructure enhancement and growth projects.

“Our employees work hard every day delivering water and power to our community. Maintaining our operations with the strongest possible financial management and controls remains a top priority. We could not be more pleased to have received this upgrade for the benefit of those we serve,” said MID General Manager John Sweigard.

In April 2019, for the fourth consecutive year, MID received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) through the Government Finance Officers Association. It represents the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and finance.

“We will continue to do all we can to ensure the strongest possible financial management at MID,” said Bhakta.

###

YARTS KICKS OFF 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN YOSEMITE

In September, the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) marked the 20th anniversary of its Joint Powers Authority with a special gathering in Yosemite. The event brought together public and private partners from Mariposa, Mono, Merced, Madera, Fresno, and Tuolumne counties to reflect on YARTS' success as well as plan for its future.

Scott Gediman, Public Affairs Officer for Yosemite National Park, was also on hand at the celebration. Scott shared his support of public transit both as an employee working to reduce congestion in the Park as well as a YARTS passenger who has been using the service since the very first bus drove into Yosemite Valley. He spoke of the importance of inviting people into the Park to enjoy it in person while at the same time preserving both the ecology of place and the visitor's experience. Gediman continues to promote YARTS to Park employees and guests, and urges residents in the gateway communities to use it for their everyday transportation needs. One such person who uses the bus as a result is his teenage son. "Having a safe and reliable mode of transportation, especially in mountain communities, is a critical resource for local families," Gediman said.

YARTS will continue its 20th anniversary festivities into 2020 with a public celebration in the spring marking the start of bus service. Details will be shared in the coming months. Stay tuned!



CI PAGE | 55

**THINK
PINK**
OCTOBER
**BREAST
CANCER**
AWARENESS MONTH



MCAG TO HOLD UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC HEARINGS

The MCAG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council is holding public forums to seek input from residents and discuss the future of bus service in the region. The four public hearings (listed below) are scheduled to receive testimony from community residents on unmet transit needs that may exist within the current bus system. These hearings are part of the ongoing commitment to improve the overall transit system and provide effective bus service to the greatest number of people in Merced County.

October 2, 2019	October 3, 2019
Merced Civic Center Sam Pipes Room	Gustine Council Chambers
678 W. 18th Street Merced, CA	352 5th Street Gustine, CA
3:00 pm AND 6:00 pm	3:00 pm AND 6:00 pm

The Bus will provide free fixed-route bus service to members of the community who are interested in attending a public hearing. For members of the community who are ADA-eligible, transportation can be arranged by calling (209) 384-3111. Spanish interpretation services will be available at each hearing. For additional language accommodations, contact Eva Garibay at (209) 723-3153 x 108 or eva.garibay@mcagov.org. Residents who are unable to attend a hearing but would like to provide comments may use the online survey: www.mcagov.org/UnmetTransitNeeds or contact Natalia Austin via email at natalia.austin@mcagov.org or 209.723.3153 ext. 127.

OCTOBER MEETINGS & EVENTS:

- 10/02** Unmet Transit Needs Hearings, 678 W. 18th St. Merced, 3:00 pm & 6:00 pm
- 10/03** Unmet Transit Needs Hearings, 352 5th St. Gustine, 3:00 pm & 6:00 pm
- 10/04** Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, MCAG office, 8:30 am
- 10/04** 1st Annual Merced County Veterans Stand Down & Resources Fair, 9:00 am- 4:00 pm Castle Commerce Center
- 10/05** Highway 59 & Billy Wright landfills open until 3:30 pm
- 10/05** Community Cleanup, Dos Palos Y Auction Yard, 8:30 am - 2:00 pm
- 10/10** MCAG Presentation at the Delhi MAC, Sarah Clegg Conference Center, 7:00 pm
- 10/16** Technical Review Board meeting, 12:00 pm, City of Los Banos
- 10/19** Downtown Merced Art Hop, Halloween theme, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm, West Main Street
- 10/19** Household Hazardous Waste event, Highway 59 Landfill, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
- 10/24** Governing Board meeting, Merced County Admin Bldg., 3:00 pm
- 10/29** Livingston Median Widening Groundbreaking Ceremony, Del Rio Avenue, 10:00 am

For more information about these events, or if your City or community has public events you would like published in our newsletter, contact Eva Garibay at: eva.garibay@mcagov.org

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

To receive text and/or email notifications from MCAG related to public meetings, traffic alerts, RFP releases, job opportunities, and more, visit www.mcagov.org and click on the "Notify Me" icon. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube!



YOSEMITE SUPERINTENDENT VISITS MCAG

Mike Reynolds, Yosemite National Park Superintendent and Transportation Planner, Jim Donovan, recently attended a meeting at MCAG regarding the reduction of vehicle congestion in Yosemite National Park. The superintendent outlined a strategy to significantly reduce traffic while encouraging visitors to consider using alternate methods of travel, such as public transit. The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) has been a key element of the Park's work to address the vehicle congestion issue since it's inception. The meeting marks the first time that a superintendent of Yosemite has visited YARTS and MCAG staff in 18 years.



Jim Donovan, Cindy Kelly, Stacie Dabbs, Mike Reynolds & Nav Bagri



REGIONAL WASTE AUTHORITY

The Merced County Regional Waste Authority Highway 59 and Billy Wright landfills are open every Saturday from 8:00 am to Noon. In addition, both landfill locations have extended hours until 3:30 pm during the first Saturday of the month and on any Saturday following a closed holiday. For more information please visit: www.mcrwma.org

HIGHWAY 59 LANDFILL
7040 N Highway 59
Merced, CA 95348
Phone: 209-723-4481

BILLY WRIGHT LANDFILL
17173 S Billy Wright Road
Los Banos, CA 95348
Phone: 209-826-1163

Monday - Friday:
7:00 am - 3:30 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am - Noon
October 5, 2019
(1st Saturday):
7:00 am - 3:30 pm

Monday - Friday:
8:00 am - 3:30 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am - Noon
October 5, 2019
(1st Saturday):
7:00 am - 3:30 pm

MeasureV

OCTOBER 2019—UPDATE

Measure V, Merced County's ½ cent transportation sales tax, was passed by Merced County voters with 71% approval in November 2016. In an effort to keep the community informed about this transformative measure, MCAG will feature monthly updates in this newsletter. You can also visit www.mcagov.org/measureV for the latest!

Over the past year and a half, local jurisdictions have made steady progress on Measure V projects around Merced County. Recently, the Merced County Public Works Department completed a \$750,000 project on Ashby Road. The project consisted of repaving the two mile stretch on Ashby Road between Franklin Road and Miles Court, as well as traffic striping, shoulder backing and roadside cleanup.

Additional Measure V funded projects recently completed by the County include: repaving of two miles on Columbus Avenue from Williams Avenue to August Avenue in Hilmar, and three miles of repaving on Palm Avenue from Santa Fe Drive to Winton Way in Winton.



Ashby Road Project

HAVE YOU SPOTTED MEASURE V AT WORK IN MERCED COUNTY?

Snap a picture and send it to measurev@mcagov.org or tag us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

@mcag_merced
or hashtag #measureV_mcag

OPENING FOR ETHNIC GROUP REP ON MEASURE V OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MCAG is currently accepting applications for a representative from an ethnic community group to sit on the Measure V Citizens Oversight Committee.

The Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) was created as a result of the passage of Measure V. Its main function is to review the local, half-cent transportation tax expenditures to assure they conform to the Measure V Expenditure Plan approved by Merced County voters. Committee members are appointed by the MCAG Governing Board to serve two-year terms. Each COC member may serve up to eight years, if reappointed. The COC meets quarterly at the MCAG office in Merced; all meetings are open to the public and governed by the Brown Act. Committee members are volunteers and receive no compensation.

Additional information about the COC and the application packet are available on the Measure V website: www.mcagov.org/MeasureV or at the MCAG office on 369 W. 18th Street in Merced. The deadline for submission is Friday, October 11th.

CONTACT:

Mary-Michal Rawling, MPA, Public Affairs Manager
(209) 723-3153 x 119 or mary-michal.rawling@mcagov.org

Yard

Insect Spray • Pesticides
Fertilizers • Herbicides • Weed Killers
Pool Chemicals • Bait or Poison for rodents

Home

Batteries • Aerosol Cans • Drain Cleaners • CFL Bulbs
Ammonia Based Cleaners • Oven Cleaners • Moth Balls
Bait/Poison • Spot Removers

Garage

Antifreeze • Motor Oil • Oil Filters • Brake Fluid • Grease
Batteries • Paint • Wood Preservatives • Paint Remover
Items containing Mercury • Fluorescent Lamps and Tubes
Chemicals



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT HIGHWAY 59 LANDFILL

7040 N Highway 59 Merced, CA 95348

⊘ WE DO NOT ACCEPT: ⊘

- Medical waste • Radioactive material • Large, compressed gas cylinders •
- Agricultural waste • Explosives • Munitions •
- Waste from large-quantity generators •

Note: There are some quantity restrictions and/or small fees associated with some household hazardous waste items, particularly for 'Conditionally-Exempt Small-Quantity Generators'. Please contact Clean Harbors in advance for more information:

Phone: 916-396-1505 Email: roa.renea@cleanharbors.com
www.mcrwma.org



"Strengthening Our Community"

71st Annual

Installation Dinner & Awards Ceremony

Merced County

Hispanic
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 4, 2019

San Joaquin Hall
Merced County Fair
900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Merced, CA 95341

Individual Tickets
Members - \$60
Non-Members - \$65

Table & Sponsorship Opportunities Available
Give us a call or send us an email TODAY!

MCHCC Office
info@mercedhcc.com
(209) 384-9537

Juan Roman
vicepresident@mercedhcc.com
(209) 769-4008

Join us for community bonding as we introduce and inaugurate our 2019-2020 Board of Directors and Officers. During the awards ceremony we will have the privilege of also recognizing and celebrating the achievements of various outstanding businesses, organizations and leaders from around Merced County.



SAVE THE DATE

October 5th, 2019

**HOPE 8th BI-ANNUAL BALL
PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY AWARDS
&
DEBUTANTE BALL**



**LOCATION: ATWATER COMMUNITY CENTER
760 Bellevue Rd, Atwater, CA 95301**

TIME: 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

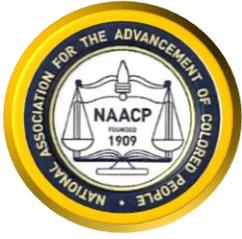
CONTACT PERSON: Gloria J. Morris (209) 626-9009 | Text: (209) 756-6777

EMAIL: hpehomeworkmatters@gmail.com

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 2771 MERCED, CA 95344

VHC/HFYTH, a Non-Profit (501)(c)(3) your gifts and donations are tax deductible!





MERCED COUNTY NAACP BRANCH 1047

58th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet Saturday, October 12, 2019

**“Knowledge Speaks With Education.
Wisdom Speaks with Experience”**

Prit Lila Dabar

Merced Senior Community Center
755 W. 15th Street, Merced CA

Keynote Speaker: Annissa Fragoso
Merced Hispanic Chamber

6:00 PM Social Hour
7:00 PM Program/Dinner

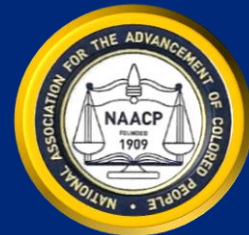
**SILENT
DESSERT AUCTION**
(Proceeds for Scholarships)

Dinner Tickets \$50.00 each
(No Tickets Sold At Door)

For further information or
to purchase tickets, please call:

Jerome Rasberry, Jr: (209) 354-6168

Ken Roberts: (209) 761-6869



MERCED HOMELESS CONNECT

ONE. DAY

Friday
October 11, 2019

ONE. PLACE

Central Presbyterian Church
1920 Canal Street | Merced, CA
Gym
SETUP: 8 A.M.
DOORS OPEN: 9:30 A.M.

ONE. GOAL

People Experiencing
Homelessness Receive
The Services That Will
Give Them A Hand Up
Out of Homelessness



FREE SERVICES AVAILABLE:



Health Insurance Enrollment,
Medical, Dental,
Wellness Exams, Vaccines,
Vision Resources



Coordinated Entry System 4
Housing, Career Building Services



Community Resources,
Haircuts, Veterans Services,
Benefit Enrollment



Lunch, Refreshments,
Give-a-ways, and much more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Tim Adam | (209) 722-9269
tadam@missionmerced.org

Sue Emanivong | (209) 724-0102
sue@healthyhousemerced.org



City of Merced
PLANNING COMMISSION
Agenda

SEMIMONTHLY REGULAR SESSION

Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities may be Prearranged
and Assisted Listening Devices Available in the Council Chambers
Please Contact the Recording Secretary at (209) 385-6858

CALL TO ORDER

Merced City Council Chambers
Wednesday, October 9, 2019

MOMENT OF SILENCE

7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. MINUTES: September 18, 2019

S P E A K E R S

Please be brief and to the point - preferably 3 to 5 minutes.

Max Time Limit prior to Agendized items: 15 minutes. Once the maximum has been reached, remaining speakers will be asked to wait until the end of the meeting to make their comments.

To address the Planning Commission, complete a Request to Speak Form and place in the drop box located to the right of the speaker podium prior to the opening of the public hearing or the announcement of the item by the Chairperson. 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.

Information/instruction on how the meeting will be run appears on the reverse side of this page.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/REPORTS:

Permits, license, and other entitlements:

Applicant's Representative – 15 minutes (including rebuttal)

Appellant's Representative – 15 minutes (including rebuttal)

All other speakers will have 5 minutes each.

All other issues:

3 or less speakers: 5 minutes each

Over 3 speakers: Maximum of 3 minutes each

A timer clock is located directly across from the podium, illuminating the speaker's remaining time. Once the time is exhausted, a buzzer sounds. Please be courteous and conclude your discussion promptly.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Planning staff can assist you with other planning questions on matters such as annexation to the city, land subdivision, downtown Merced projects, home occupation permits, zoning, population and housing. (Phone 385-6858) 678 West 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. Prior to each regular Commission Meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review in the Planning Department at 678 West 18th Street, Merced, and on the City's website at www.cityofmerced.org. Any documents provided to a majority of the Commissioners after this agenda is posted will be available for public inspection in the Planning Department during normal business hours.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION

The citizens of Merced elect the members of the City Council. They in turn appoint seven advisors, the Planning Commission, to make recommendations on planning matters. The Commissioners are civic-minded citizens who serve an average of 35 meetings a year with no pay. Meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesday nights following the first and third Mondays of the month, in addition to special meetings as called.

The staff assists the Commission but does not vote. The City Attorney provides legal assistance and assists the Commission on procedural matters; the Planning Director and staff prepare the agenda, provide reports, etc. Other City staff members such as the Civil Engineer also serve as advisors to the Commission.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Commissioners are interested in your views and want to hear them. Information on a proposed action is publicized before it is brought before the Planning Commission. For example, on a proposed zoning action, mailers are sent to all property owners within a 300-foot radius and a notice appears in the legal advertisement section of the Merced Sun-Star. Important pending items will also often be mentioned in pre-meeting references in the local newspaper.

Consent Items

Items noted as "(CONSENT)" are considered routine and will normally be approved without a staff presentation or discussion by the Planning Commission unless a Commissioner or member of the audience has a question(s) or wishes to make a statement or discuss an item. If so, please approach the microphone at the time the particular item is reached.

Public Hearings

The Commission will ask those who are for* or against** a proposal to speak at all public hearings. The sequence of events is:

1. Staff report of facts and a recommendation.
2. Applicant's statement.
3. Proponents* of the proposal.
4. Opponents** of the proposal.
- (5. If necessary, a summary statement or rebuttal from the applicant.)

If you decide to speak, please submit a "Request to Speak" form prior to the start of the public hearing. You will be called up to speak at the appropriate time by the Recording Secretary. Please start by giving your name and city of residence, then tell the Commissioners your concern. We want your views; don't worry about how to say them. If several people have spoken, try not to be repetitious. If there are several in your area with concerns, why not appoint a spokesman. The Commission is particularly interested in the specific reasons you are for or against a proposal because their decision has to be based on specific reasons.

A Commission denial of a request or proposal is final in the case of Conditional Use Permit Applications (unless appealed to City Council within five business days) and Tentative Subdivision Maps (unless appealed to City Council within 10 business days). On many other items, the Commission RECOMMENDS ACTION to the Council. If your item is passed on to the City Council, be sure to follow up by attending the Council hearings and expressing your point of view.

You may also find that the Commission may not get to your item - set for 7:00 p.m. public hearing - until 10:00 p.m. for instance. We regret you having to wait. Experience has shown that setting hearings 1/2 - 1 hour apart is unwise, however. Sometimes matters are withdrawn or are resolved quickly leaving the Commission and public in a position of waiting for an appointed time to arrive.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

At this time, any member of the audience may comment on any matter which is not listed on the agenda. Please submit a “Request to Speak” form prior to the announcement of the item by the Chairperson.

4. ITEMS

Any matters listed as (“CONSENT”) in the descriptions below are considered routine by the Planning Commission and will be adopted by one action of the Commission unless any citizen submits a “Request to Speak” form or Commission member has any question or wishes to make a statement or discuss an item. In that event, the Chairperson will remove that item from the Consent Calendar and place it for separate consideration.

- 4.1 **Conditional Use Permit #1233**, initiated by Gelt Holdings, Inc., on behalf of Shemoil Moradzadeh, property owner. This application involves a request to allow for the delivery and sale of beer and wine for on-site consumption within a restaurant (Pizza Hut) located at 580 W. Olive Avenue. The subject site is generally located on the south side of Olive Avenue, approximately 200 feet east of M Street, within Planned Development (P-D) #4, with a Neighborhood Commercial (CN) General Plan designation. *PUBLIC HEARING*

ACTION: Approve/Disapprove/Modify

1. Environmental Review #19-22 (Categorical Exemption)
2. Conditional Use Permit #1233

- 4.2 **Conditional Use Permit #1234**, initiated by Silvia Magallon on behalf of TD REO Fund, LLC, property owner. This application involves a request to operate a food truck within the 76/Circle K parking lot, generally located at the northeast corner of G Street and 21st Street (2104 G Street), within a Neighborhood Commercial (C-N) Zone. *PUBLIC HEARING*

ACTION: Approve/Disapprove/Modify

1. Environmental Review #19-23 (Categorical Exemption)
2. Conditional Use Permit #1234

- 4.3 **Sign/Zoning Ordinance Amendment #19-04**, initiated by the City of Merced. This application involves changes to the Merced Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 20.62 “Signs” of the Merced Municipal Code) and Sign Ordinance (Chapter 17.36 “Signs” of the Merced Municipal Code), including Article I—Definitions, Article II—General Regulations, Article III—Regulations for North Merced, and Article IV—Regulations for Downtown. This amendment would involve various additions and modifications to the City’s requirements for signs. *PUBLIC HEARING*

ACTION: Recommendation to City Council (tentatively scheduled for Council consideration on November 18, 2019)

1. Environmental Review #19-21 (Categorical Exemption)
2. Sign/Zoning Ordinance Amendment #19-04

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Calendar of Meetings/Events (see below)

6. ADJOURNMENT (Traditionally no later than 11:00 p.m.)

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS/EVENTS

October	7	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	9	Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
	21	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	22	Bicycle Advisory Commission, 3:00 p.m.
	23	Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
November	4	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	6	Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.
	18	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	20	Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m. (<i>May Be Cancelled</i>)

N:\shared\planning\PCAgenda