



To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Steven S. Carrigan, City Manager
Date: September 27, 2019
Re: City Council Information Report

CHANGES AT MCNAMARA TURF SOCCER FIELD

The Parks and Recreation Department is moving forward with a change of use at the McNamara Park turf soccer field. There is a high demand for use of the field because it is the only all-weather, turf soccer field in the City. Currently, one soccer organization has primary use six days per week and the City rents it out on Sunday afternoons. The change would give the City one more day of use of the field. The current and proposed use schedules are attached.



INSPECTION SERVICES REPORT

Please find the Inspection Services biweekly report attached.

EDUCATORS HONORED

The Merced County Office of Education will hold its Excellence in Education event Thurs. Oct. 3 in the Merced Theatre at 6:30 p.m. Additional information is attached.

BRIMMER ROAD SIDEWALK REPAIRS, STREET LIGHT SURVEY

Public Works Streets crews repaired a portion of sidewalk, curb and gutter on Brimmer Road this week. Crews also completed the Street Light Survey and discovered 111 street lights (out of the nearly 8,000 in the City) needed repair or replacement. Crews will continue working to get all street lights in working order.

BEFORE



DURING



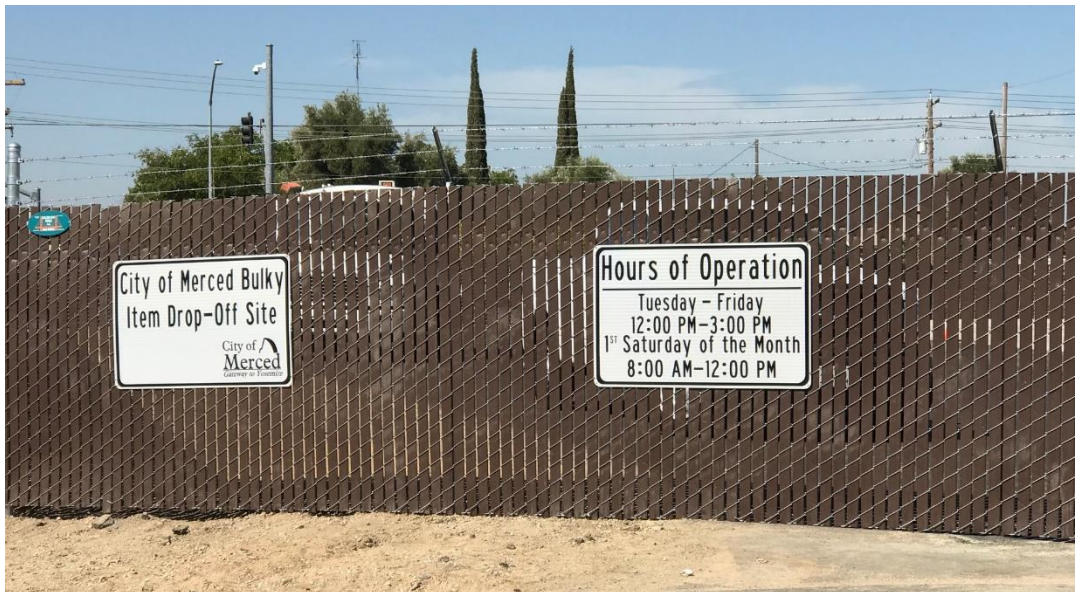
AFTER



BULKY ITEM DROP OFF (HIGHWAY 59 & YOSEMITE AVENUE)

Containers have been arranged by Public Works crews at the Bulky Item Drop-Off Site and informational signs have been posted along the fencing this week. The site will be opening to the public starting Tues., Oct. 1.

City customers can drop off furniture, mattresses, appliances, e-waste, and other bulky items Tuesday through Friday from noon to 3 p.m., as well as the first Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to noon.



RAHILLY PARK SWINGS

Public Works crews have added Fibar around the newly installed swing set at Rahilly Park (Parsons Avenue north of Brookdale). The swings are now open for public use.

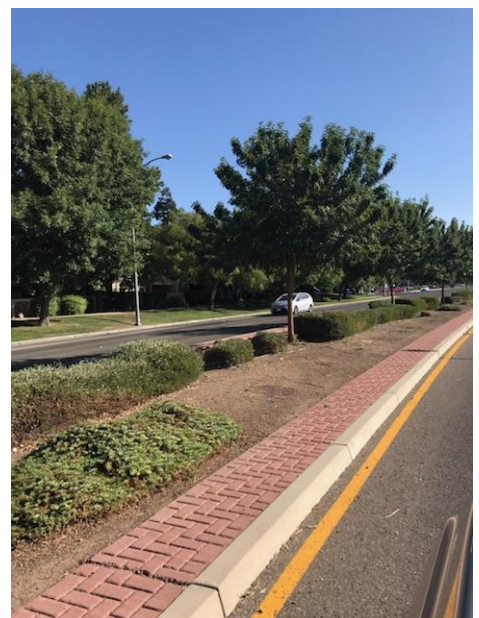


DOG PARK PATHWAY

A portion of pathway in the Dog Park (R Street & Yosemite) has been replaced this week by Parks crews.

MEDIAN CLEANUPS AND CONTINUED TREE PRUNING

Parks and Trees crews have been clearing and pruning medians around town, including the G Street and R Street medians. Crews have also continued area pruning of street trees. Trees along Conestoga Road have been trimmed this week.



WELL SITE 5 REPAIRS (R STREET)

The City's contractor, San Luis Pump, completed repairs to Well Site 5 this week. The drinking water well (located on R Street near Walgreens) was experiencing problematic sanding issues and was taken off-line. San Luis Pump sealed 3 holes along the well casing, then repaired and reinstalled mechanical parts to get the well site up and running again. The photo shows a "swaging" crew (swaging is a tooled process where metal bands are hydraulically pressed onto the existing well casing).



SLURRY SEAL WORK



The slurry seal work has completed on Canal Street. The road between Childs Avenue and 15th Street received the new surface.



CONFINED SPACE TRAINING STRUCTURE (WWTP)

Construction of a Confined Space Entry training structure at the WWTP was substantially completed this week. The structure is an above-ground manhole that will aid all City departments, including Sewer & Storm Drains, Water, WWTP, as well as the Fire Department, in regularly training on confined space entry.



LEAGUE FUNDRAISING GOLF TOURNAMENT

The League of California Cities Annual CitiPAC Golf Tournament will be held at the Diablo Grande Golf and Country Club in Patterson Thurs., Oct. 10 starting at 10:30 a.m. More information is attached.

MERCED COLLEGE AGGIE FEST 2019

The Merced College Aggie Fest 2019 Suds and Sausage Sampler will be held at the Merced County Fairgrounds from 4 to 6 p.m. Sat., Oct. 26. Additional information is attached.

MERCED PD UPDATES

Applegate Park cleanup

DART and Public Works have been busy all week working on cleaning up Applegate Park.



JAG Grant application

Attached is the application for a \$42,513 JAG grant that the Department is seeking. The Justice Assistance Grant would help fund the purchase of equipment that is not in the Department's budget, but is needed to fund and operate five programs.

MERCED COLLEGE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

Merced College will hold a Flag Raising Ceremony at the College front entrance Thurs., Oct. 17 from 5 to 6 p.m. Additional information is attached.

DY PROJECT FUNDRAISER

The Youth Leadership Institute DY Project screening/fundraiser will be held Tues., Nov. 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the MultiCultural Arts Center. A flier is attached.

STATE SENATOR CABALLERO OPEN HOUSE

State Senator Anna Caballero selected a location at the Bob Hart Square to locate her Merced-based district office. The public was invited to an open house where she met several of her constituents and presented awards to number of community-based organizations and distinguished citizens. Representing the City of Merced, Assistant City Manager Stephanie Dietz and

Economic Development Director Frank Quintero welcomed Senator Caballero and her staff to Downtown Merced.



QUOTE VALLEY INSURANCE GRAND OPENING



The Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the expansion of Quote Valley Insurance. The insurance company opened its doors at 840 W. Olive Ave. As customers asked for new products, the company was able to hire more employees, and demand continues to grow. Economic Development Director Quintero presented a certificate to the owner.

PIER 1 IMPORTS TO CLOSE STORES

Retailer Pier 1 Imports announced that it will close 70 or more stores. A list of store locations has not been released by Pier 1. A Pier 1 Imports store is located in Merced as part of the Merced Market Place shopping centered anchored by Lowe's Home



Improvement. Other Pier 1 Imports stores are located in Fresno, Visalia, Clovis,

Turlock, and Modesto. Staff will provide updates regarding the store closures as details are released.

BUILDERS ROUNDTABLE

The Development Services Department is holding a Builders Roundtable from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 2 in the Sam Pipes Room. Topics will include Updates to City Engineering Standards, subdivision Improvement and Map Check procedures, Building Code Update and a Public Facility Impact Fee Update. A copy of the agenda is attached.

A LOOK AT THE VALLEY NOW AND TOMORROW

Please find attached an article from the Sacramento Bee called, "How the Central Valley became the 'Appalachia of the West.'" Along with looking at the overall economic conditions in the San Joaquin Valley, it also examines what the effects new water regulations could have on the ag industry, and the Valley economy.

SAVE THE DATE

- Sept. 28 – Transitional Home Grand Opening, 2-4 p.m.
Sept. 29 – 40 Years of Youth Soccer Celebration, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Oct. 2 – Builders Roundtable, Sam Pipes Room, 9-noon
Oct. 2 – League of Cities Division Dinner, Long Beach, 6:30 p.m., Tequila Jacks
Oct. 3 – MCOE Excellence in Education Awards, Merced Theatre, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 4 – Peace for Families March & Gathering, 5:30-8 p.m.
Oct. 10 – League Division Golf Tournament, Patterson, 10:30 a.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. McNamara Field Schedules	P. 12
2. Inspection Services Report	P. 13
3. MCOE Excellence in Education	P. 14
4. League Golf Tournament flier	P. 15
5. Merced College Aggie Fest flier	P. 16
6. JAG Grant Application	P. 19
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8. DY Project flier	P. 28
9. Builders Roundtable Agenda	P. 29
10. Sacramento Bee article “Appalachia”	P. 30

CITY OF MERCED PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

McNamara Turf Soccer Field (CURRENT)

<i>USER GROUP ORGANIZATION</i>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Merced Soccer Academy	5:00pm to 9:00pm	5:00pm to 9:00pm	5:00pm to 9:00pm	5:00pm to 9:00pm	5:00pm to 10:00pm	8:00am to 10:00pm	8:00am to 2:00pm
City of Merced/Merced Youth Soccer Association Adult Soccer							2:00pm to 10:00pm

McNamara Turf Soccer Field (PROPOSAL)

<i>USER GROUP ORGANIZATION</i>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Merced Soccer Academy	5:00pm to 9:00pm	5:00pm to 9:00pm	5:00pm to 9:00pm	5:00pm to 9:00pm		8:00am to 10:00PM	
City of Merced/Merced Youth Soccer Association & Adult Soccer					5:00pm to 10:00pm		8:00am to 10:00pm

Inspection Services CI

For the period of September 9th through September 22nd, 2019, there were 33 New Single Family Dwelling Permits Issued.

The running total of New Single Family Dwellings in Plan Review is **81**.

Multi Family Permits in review:

Gateway Terrace Apartments located at 405 W 12th St, 1 Office/Lounge and 6, 2 story Apartments; 2 buildings have 16 units, 3 buildings have 30 units, and 1 building has 4 units.

Yosemite at Lake Apartments located at 2850 E. Yosemite Ave.; 15- 27,276 SF 3-story apartment buildings each with 15 units, and a 1,200 SF maintenance building.

Compass Pointe phase II: 128 units in 16, 8-plex buildings plus a clubhouse.

There were 0 multi-family permits issued during this period.

(No change since last report)

There was 1 new construction commercial permit issued during this period; for a well house at well site 21 located at 4357 G St.

There were 2 new tenant improvement permits issued during this period; one to split the old Sears building at the mall into 8 tenant spaces located at 1011 W. Olive Ave., and one for renovations for Buhach Preschool located at 750 Loughborough Dr.

There were 0 new commercial submittals during this period.

There were 3 new tenant improvement submittals during this period; one for complete interior tenant improvements for Burlington Coat Factory to be located at 3120 R St., one for a general remodel for Valley Performance Physical Therapy located at 1180 W Olive Ave., and one for complete tenant improvement for Sees Candy in the mall located at 851 W Olive Ave. Ste 640.

There were 4 CofOs issued for this period; one for the Green Door Cannabis dispensary tenant improvement located at 811 W Main St., one for Planet Fitness tenant improvement located at 3155 R St., one for a new 16,000 SF metal building for Titan Metal Doors and Windows located at 1891 Wardrobe, and one for the clubhouse at Compass Pointe Apartments located at 3779 Horizons.

2019



EXCELLENCE
IN EDUCATION
MERCED COUNTY

PLEASE JOIN

Merced County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steve M. Tietjen
&
Educational Employees Credit Union President/CEO Elizabeth J. Dooley
to acknowledge exemplary teachers, school employees and administrators



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019

6:30 p.m. | Merced Theatre | 301 W. Main Street

Please RSVP by September 26 to Stacie Arancibia at 209.381.5910 or events@mcoe.org



2019 Central Valley Division Golf Tournament!
Thursday, October 10 2019
Sponsorship Levels and Participation Form
10:30 a.m. Registration & Range Practice
12:00 pm. Shotgun Start
Awards Ceremony Immediately Following Tournament
Registration: Diablo Grande Golf and Country Club
9521 Morton Davis Dr. Patterson, Ca. 95363

Reserve your spot today, Registration Deadline September 27th 2019

- \$5,000** Tournament Sponsor
Recognition as Tournament Sponsor in program, 2-foursomes, 8 box lunches, 8 tickets to awards banquet, 1 ad in program, 2 green and 2 tee signs, range balls, free clinic and League Partner, Silver Level and invitation to the next four Division Quarterly Meetings
- \$2,500** Tournament Partner
1-foursome, 4 box lunches, 8 tickets to awards banquet, 1 ad in program, 1 green and 1 tee sign, range balls, free clinic and League Partner, Bronze Level and invitation to the next four Division Quarterly Meetings
- \$1,000** Tournament Supporter
1-foursome, 4 box lunches, 4 tickets to awards banquet, 1 tee sign, range balls, free clinic and League Partner, Basic Level and invitation to the next four Division Quarterly Meetings
- \$500** Tee Sponsor
2 players, 2 box lunches, 2 tickets to awards banquet, 1 tee sign, range balls and free clinic
- \$250** Green Sponsor
1 tee or green sign
- \$125** Individual player
1 player, box lunch, 1 ticket to awards banquet, range balls, and free clinic
- \$100** City official
1 player, box lunch, 1 ticket to awards banquet, range balls, and free clinic

- Yes, we would like to be a Tournament Sponsor for \$5,000
- Yes, we would like to be a Tournament Partner for \$2,500
- Yes, we would like to be a Tournament Supporter for \$1,000
- Yes, we would like to be a Tee Sponsor for \$500
- Yes, we would like to be a Green Sponsor for \$250
- Yes, I am an Individual player for \$125
- Yes, I am an Elected official for \$100
- Sorry, we are unable to sponsor at this time, but we are interested in providing promotional items for raffles or goody bags.

State Campaign finance laws require the following information. Political contributions are not tax-deductible.

Company Name (to be used for printed program, on sponsor board and banner (Tournament Sponsor))

Contact Person	Phone	Email
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Players Names

Company Name (to be used for printed program, on sponsor board and banner (Tournament Sponsor) Make checks payable to CITIPAC and mail with reservation form to Stephen Qualls, P.O. Box 785 Hughson, Ca. 95326 Phone 209-614-0118 Fax 209-883-0653 and/or email squalls@cacities.org (not printed with public funds)



3600 M Street, Merced CA 95348-2898
(209) 386-6658 – Misty Terrill Agriculture Admin. Assistant
(209) 381-6444 – Fax
www.mccd.edu

Dear MC Agriculture Advocate:

We are excited to welcome your participation in the 13th Annual AggieFest “Suds and Sausage Sampler” **on Saturday, October 26th at the Merced County Fairgrounds - Yosemite Hall between 4-7pm.** AggieFest participants will enjoy over 200 different brands of beer, wine, sausages, cheeses, and more to delight the taste buds. The evening will also include auctions and drawings for fantastic prizes!

The net proceeds from this event will benefit agriculture students at Merced College in the form of scholarships, funding leadership activities, supporting our fitting & showing team, and educating the public about agriculture and higher education. Our students are the future of our agricultural industry. Your support will help ensure their success and facilitate “passing the torch” to the next generation.

Several hundred guests and agricultural industry sponsors made last year’s AggieFest a great success! We look forward to another grand event this year! Tickets are \$45.00 each. ***Tickets may be purchased in the MC Agriculture Office, directly from an Ag Ambassador, or online through our Facebook page Merced College Agriculture (Events tab).*** NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR! Participants must be at least 21 years old to be admitted.

Our students would appreciate your support by making a personal or corporate contribution to the “Merced College Agricultural Ambassadors”. Please review the Sponsorship Opportunities page for more details regarding how to make a contribution. **Please Mail or Fax this sponsor form by Friday, October 18th, 2019** to assure your sponsorship and/or purchase your AggieFest tickets before they run out!

It is our hope that you will support our Merced College Agricultural students and participate in this fun event. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Misty Terrill (209-386-6658) misty.terrill@mccd.edu, Kim Donaher (209-384-6298) donaher.k@mccd.edu or Nikki Maddux (209-384-6299).

NEW... online ticket sales!

For details, check out our [Merced College Agriculture](#) Facebook page for additional information!

Sincerely,

2019 AggieFest Committee
Tax ID# 23-7385578

Chris Vitelli
Superintendent/President

Board of Trustees
Carmen Ramirez, Board President

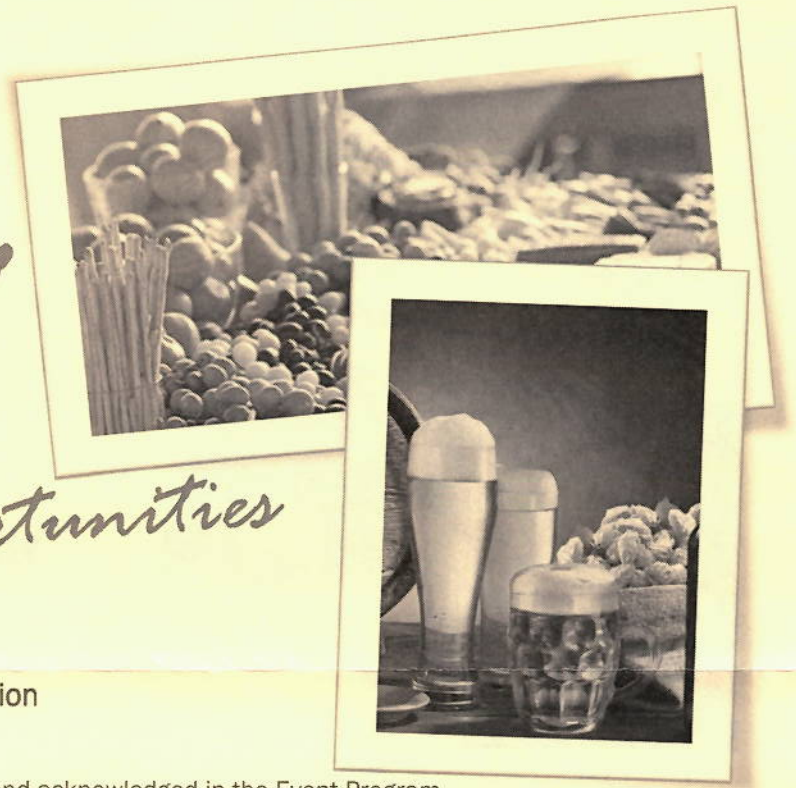
Ernie Ochoa, Vice President
Joe Gutierrez, Clerk

John Pedrozo
Sue Chappell

Jean Upton
Mario Mendoza

AggieFest 2019

Sponsorship Opportunities



◆ Blue & Gold Sponsorship - \$1,000+ Donation

- Four complimentary tickets to the event
- You will be recognized with a Large Banner and acknowledged in the Event Program.

◆ Aggie Sponsorship - \$301 - \$999 Donation

- Two complimentary tickets to the event
- You will be recognized with a Large Sign and acknowledged in the Event Program.

◆ Table Sponsorship - \$300 Donation

- Two complimentary Event Tickets for company representatives who will serve beer at this table. (All beer and serving supplies will be provided by Merced College.)
- Donors are encouraged to bring company paraphernalia, samples, brochures, etc. for advertising purposes. (Please, no product sales)
- A large sign will identify your sponsored table.
- Feel free to decorate your table and promote your company!

◆ Event Sponsorship - \$100 Donation

- Donors will be recognized on the "Stein of Fame" sign.

◆ Monetary Donations - \$

- All cash donations welcome! If you wish to specify that your donation go towards the *Sage Gilbert Memorial Scholarship*, please indicate this on the attached sponsorship form.

◆ Auction/Drawing Items and/or Food Donations -

- Items for the Silent Auction & Raffle are gratefully accepted.
- If you wish to donate beer, wine, cheese, fruit, sausage, etc. please contact Kim Donaher at 209.384.6298 donaher.k@mccd.edu or the Ag Office at 209.384.6250

Thank you for your continued support!

MERCED COLLEGE
AGRICULTURAL AMBASSADORS

Present:

AggieFest 2019

“Suds and Sausage Sampler”

Saturday, October 26, 2019

4:00 ~ 7:00 p.m.



NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR.
MUST be at least 21 years old to be admitted
IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED

Merced County Fairgrounds

Yosemite Hall

900 Martin Luther King Way ~ Merced, CA 95340



Sponsorship, Auction Donations & Ticket Orders

Name/Business _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Contact Person _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
Email _____

_____ Tickets @ \$45 Total \$ _____

*You may also purchase tickets through Merced College
Agriculture Facebook (Events tab)*

I am interested in a Sponsorship:
(Please see description of Sponsorship options on back page)

- Blue & Gold Sponsorship (\$1,000)
- Aggie Sponsorship (\$301-\$999)
- Table Sponsorship (\$300)
- Event Sponsorship (\$100)
- Monetary Donation

Total \$ _____

I have enclosed my check payable to:
“Merced College Ag Ambassadors”

Please mail this form and payment to:
Merced College Agriculture Division – Aggiefest!
3600 M Street, Stop #38
Merced, CA 95348-2898

AUCTION / DRAWING DONATIONS:

I would like to donate an auction and/or drawing item:

Donated Item (s) _____

Estimated Value \$ _____

Description: _____

- Gift certificate or actual auction/drawing item is enclosed
- I will send/deliver item at a later date: _____
- Please contact me to arrange for the item(s) to be picked up
(phone number): _____

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUES

The City of Merced Police Department (MPD) is submitting this application for \$42,513 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program FY 2019 Local Solicitation. In this year's application, we are requesting financial assistance to fund/operate a program titled "Improving Law Enforcement Programs". Our application requests funds to accomplish five projects including: training for converting from UCR Summary to UCR National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), purchasing safety equipment and supplies for vehicles driven by command staff, annual subscription to a customized wellness application, and costs associated with cell phone service charges. The projects described in this grant application support the MPD's continuing effort to improve and enhance its current law enforcement programs and operations.

PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

FBI NIBRS Compliance

We are setting aside three percent (3%) of our 2019 JAG award to assist with NIBRS implementation. The funds that we set aside will be used in the OTHER budget category to pay the software vendor of our Records Management System (RMS) to travel and train our personnel on the new process. No city funds are currently budgeted for this estimated project and costs. At this point, we are unsure of an implementation date or beginning to our transition from UCR

Summary to UCR NIBRS. However, we are confident that it will require training and travel by our software vendor.

Command Staff Vehicle Safety Equipment and Supplies

The vehicles driven by our Command Staff are underequipped in providing immediate and essential aid. Several incidents over the past year proved to us that we need to equip Command Staff Vehicles with equipment and supplies that are needed at high risk calls for service. Many of these items are included as standard equipment with our Specialty Units, but those Specialty Units do not respond to every call for service. On calls for service that do require the presence of specialty units, their estimated time of arrival will be minutes away from the immediate need. We are requesting the following safety equipment and supplies that will be placed inside vehicles driven by Command Staff. Vehicles will be equipped with: ammunition boxes, extra rounds of ammunition for rifles and handguns, magazines for ammunition, jumper cables, portable roll up ballistic shields, and tactical portable ladders. Each item is needed in order to increase the availability of safety equipment and supplies at calls for service and especially calls that require special tactics beyond the normal supplies maintained in Patrol Vehicles and Command Staff Vehicles.

Officer Wellness Software Application

In this day and age, the issue of law enforcement safety and wellness is an important issue. Our agency reported ten officers assaulted on the Law Enforcement Officers Killed or Assaulted report for calendar year 2018. As of the date of this application, six officers have been assaulted in 2019 with one resulting in personal injury. Our department plans to focus on the tactical

officer safety concerns as well as on the health and wellness of the officers. Studies have shown that this may have a direct impact on officer performance and safety. Our officers need the tactical skills necessary and also to be physically and mentally well, to perform, survive, and be resilient in the face of the demanding duties of their profession. Subsequently, we are requesting funding for a one year subscription to a wellness software application. The application can be used on desktops or mobile devices. The application contains a variety of content and features including, but limited to, the following topics: alcohol abuse, anger management, behavioral health tools, critical incidents, depression, family support, financial fitness, officer wellness tools, peer support, posttraumatic stress, stress response, and work-life balance. The application will be available to all employees of our department. Personnel will have unlimited access to all features of the application. Because we know that home life affects work life, spouses and significant others will also have unlimited access to the features of the application. We want our personnel to be well in all aspects of their life.

Cell Phone Service

We are requesting funds to assist with paying for cell phone service for recently added cell phones on a previous year JAG. The phones and service were not included in the budget; however, the need for the phones and corresponding service have proved urgent. Most staff that currently have department issued cell phones have older style flip phones or are using their personal cell phone. Flip phones are inefficient for texting and searching the Internet. Using personal cell phones for police activities/actions is not ideal due to the issue of Public Records Act requests and the concern of their phones being seized for evidence. Law enforcement is

quickly having to adapt to issues of both transparency and what is and is not searchable, especially in the state of California. We proposed on a previous JAG to buy the phones. We need funding to help pay for some of the service needed to keep the phones active. The grant funds will be used to cover monthly service charges for recently purchased smart phones assigned to those officers with outdated cell phones or did not have a department issued smart phones.

CAPABILITIES & COMPETENCIES

The MPD has one assigned Grant Director that writes, implements, and monitors all grants. The City of Merced provides a Program Accountant that provides all financial support. The MPD has an impeccable record in grant management. Due dates of program/fiscal reports are met on a consistent basis. The JAG is an annual grant provided to the MPD and managed directly by the Grant Director.

On each project listed above, the Grant Director will assign a person to carry out the procurement process of the supplies. Purchase orders and invoices will pass through the Grant Director for approval. The Program Accountant processes all invoices for reimbursement on grant projects.

Our projects do not require participating or joint efforts with other criminal justice agencies locally or within the state.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The MPD will use BJA's online Performance Measurement Tool to track/monitor/record progress on its grant projects. The MPD currently uses PMT for other awarded grants, so no additional training is needed. Goals and objectives along with projects will be submitted and updated throughout the term of the grant.

CONCLUSION

The Merced Police Department plans to use \$42,513 of 2019 JAG funding to improve law enforcement programs within our department. MPD staff are exceptional employees that will ensure that all projects are completed in a timely manner, within the scope of the grant, and support the goals stated for this application.

Budget Worksheet
BJA FY18 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program

A. Personnel	\$ - 0 -
B. Fringe Benefits	\$ - 0 -
C. Travel	\$ - 0 -
D. Equipment	\$ - 0 -
E. Supplies	\$21,237

The vehicles driven by our Command Staff are underequipped in providing immediate and essential aid. Several incidents over the past year proved to us that we need to equip Command Staff Vehicles with equipment and supplies that are needed at high risk calls for service. Many of these items are included as standard equipment with our Specialty Units, but those Specialty Units do not respond to every call for service. On calls for service that do require the presence of specialty units, their estimated time of arrival will be minutes away from the immediate need. We are requesting the following safety equipment and supplies that will be placed inside vehicles driven by Command Staff.

(8) Ammunition Boxes x \$8 = \$64
(4) Cases of Ammunition x \$363 = \$1,452
(96) Ammunition Magazines x \$17 = \$1,632
(8) High Grade Jumper Cables x \$22 = \$176
(4) Mobile Ballistic Shields x \$1,970 = \$7,880

Total = \$11,204

We are requesting funds to assist with paying for cell phone service for recently added cell phones on a previous year JAG. The phones and service were not included in the budget; however, the need for the phones and corresponding service have proved urgent. We need funding to help pay for some of the service needed to keep newly purchased smart cell phones active. The grant funds will be used to cover monthly service charges for recently purchased smart phones assigned to those officers with outdated cell phones or did not have a department issued smart phones.

(228) Monthly Charges x \$44 = \$10,032
(1) Overage/Rounding x \$1 = \$1

Total = \$10,033

F. Construction	\$ - 0 -
G. Consultants/Contracts	\$ - 0 -
H. Other	\$21,276

We are requesting funding for a one year subscription to a wellness software application. The application can be used on desktops or mobile devices. The application contains a variety of content and features including, but limited to, the following topics: alcohol abuse, anger management, behavioral health tools, critical incidents, depression, family support, financial fitness, officer wellness tools, peer support, posttraumatic stress, stress response, and work-life balance. The application will be available to all employees of our department. Personnel will have unlimited access to all features of the application. Because we know that home life affects work life, spouses and significant others will also have unlimited access to the features of the application. We want our personnel to be well in all aspects of their life.

(1) Year Subscription x \$20,000 = \$20,000

We are setting aside three percent (3%) of our 2018 JAG award to assist with NIBRS implementation. The funds that we set aside will be used to pay the software vendor of our Records Management System (RMS) to consult, travel and train our personnel on the new process, and the implement the compliance/conversion. No city funds are currently budgeted for this estimated project and costs. At this point, we are unsure of an implementation date or beginning to our transition from UCR Summary to UCR NIBRS. However, we are confident that it will require training and travel by our software vendor. Our grant application is requesting \$1,626 for the use of NIBRS transition and implementation.

(1) Consultation x \$1,276 = \$1,276

I. Indirect Costs	\$ - 0 -
Total Direct Costs	\$42,513

Budget Summary Page

A. Personnel/Salary Costs	<u>\$0</u>
B. Fringe Benefits	<u>\$0</u>
C. Travel	<u>\$0</u>
D. Equipment	<u>\$0</u>
E. Supplies	<u>\$21,237</u>
F. Construction	Unallowable
G. Consultants/Contracts	<u>\$0</u>
H. Other	<u>\$21,276</u>
I. Indirect Costs	<u>\$0</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	<u>\$42,513</u>
Federal Request	<u>\$42,513</u>
Applicant Funds, if any, to be applied to this project	<u>\$0</u>



The Merced College Foundation
Cordially Invites You to the Merced College

Flag Raising Ceremony

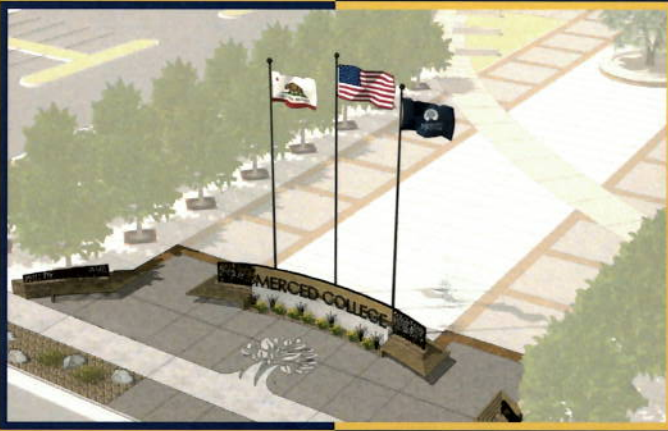
Location: Merced College Front Entrance

Date: Oct 17th

Time: 5-6pm

Light refreshments will be served

If you have any questions please call
Stacey Sherrill at 209•384•6176



THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE PRESENTS

NOVEMBER 19TH • 6PM • THE MULTICULTURAL ARTS CENTER



THE DY PROJECT

EMPOWERING HOMELESS AND DISPLACED YOUTH

FUNDRAISER & FILM SCREENING

Become a Donor

SUPPORT YOUTH WORK

LEADERS OF THE FUTURE AND THE NOW

Raffle Items

- Gift Basket
- Gift Card
- Homemade Items
- Etc

Jesse Ornelas: jornelas@yli.org

Monetary

- \$50
- \$100
- \$150
- Other Amount_

Alejandro Jurado: ajurado607@gmail.com

Youth Opportunities

- Cultural Events
- Recreational Activities
- Leadership development
- Others





City of Merced
Builders Roundtable
October 2, 2019

- 9:00** Welcome and Introductions
- 9:15** Attendee Self Introductions - Projects
- 9:30** City Development Update
- 9:45** Inspection Services Update – Getting ahead of 2019 Code Update, Master Plans, Flood Zone issues, FAQ
- 10:00** Fire Department Update – Code Update and Local Amendments
- 10:15** SCIP and BOLD Programs
- 10:30** Break
- 10:45** Public Works Update – CFD’s – landscape maintenance and construction waste diversion issues
- 11:00** Engineering Update- Engineering Standards Update, CIP projects, Map/Subdivision Review Requirements and Timing
- 11:15** ERP Update – changing the permitting and planning system
- 11:30** Planning Update – Public Facilities Finance Plan (AB 1600) Update, ADU’s, SB 2 Planning Grant
- 11:45** Questions and Answers - Feedback

How the Central Valley became the 'Appalachia of the West.'

Now, new threats loom for economy

Sacramento Bee (California)

September 26, 2019 Thursday

VALLEY STILL LEFT BEHIND

Facing major challenges from California's groundwater conservation law, the San Joaquin Valley already lags the rest of the state on many social and economic measures.

County	Population	Unemployment	Poverty rate	High school graduation	Bachelor's degree or higher
California	39,927,315	4.1%	13%	83%	34%
San Joaquin	770,385	5.8%	14%	81%	18%
Stanislaus	558,972	5.8%	16%	79%	17%
Merced	282,928	7.2%	22%	69%	14%
Madera	159,536	6.5%	20%	71%	14%
Fresno	1,018,241	6.6%	21%	76%	20%
Kings	153,710	7.0%	17%	74%	13%
Tulare	479,112	9.2%	22%	70%	14%
Kern	916,464	7.4%	20%	73%	16%

Table: Michael Finch II Source: California Department of Finance, California Employment Development Department, US Census Bureau/American Community Survey [Get the data](#)

Byline: Dale Kasler

The Sacramento Bee

Dateline: Fresno

Body

Pockmarked with drab storefronts, modest skyscrapers and vacant lots, the downtown core of the San Joaquin Valley's largest city offers little to inspire confidence in its future.

Except for the stylish brick-and-glass headquarters of Bitwise Industries, where a block-long mural advertises Bitwise as the "motherhip of technological education, collaboration and innovation in Fresno."

Bitwise is Fresno's rock star, a promising young software company that wants to build nothing less than a full-fledged tech industry in the heart of the chronically-depressed Valley.

"We can do extraordinary things in Fresno," said co-founder Jake Soberal, a native who returned to his hometown after earning his law degree in Southern California. "There isn't any reason why we can't transform the economy in a decade."

It might take longer than that.

Throughout its history, the San Joaquin Valley -- the vast middle of California, home to 4.3 million residents and the greatest agricultural bounty on earth -- has defied quick or easy fixes.

In good times and bad, it has trailed the rest of California on practically every socioeconomic measure the experts can quantify: unemployment, poverty, educational achievement, health. While unemployment in California was 4.1 percent in August, it was 6.6 percent in Fresno. The Visalia area was at 9.2 percent, one of the highest in the nation.

"There has been some recovery ... but it feels like there's unfinished business in the Valley," said Veronica Garibay, co-founder of the Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability. "Almost everything hits the Valley the hardest and we're always the slowest to recover."

Series logo nav

The Valley's problems are so deeply ingrained, some community leaders fear they've stamped the region with a sense of hopelessness that can discourage bold economic thinking.

"When people refer to us as the 'Appalachia of the West,' the 'Valley of the poor,' it takes its toll," said Benjamin Duran, who leads the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium, a nonprofit aimed at improving the region's workforce skills through education. "For years, for decades, it's suffered from low self-esteem."

Valley left behind econ chart

Now the Valley is about to confront a series of problems that could cripple the region for decades to come.

The recovery could stall out altogether -- and the Valley could move backward again. Its inability to diversify its largely rural economic base, even as boom times have reduced unemployment rates, leaves the region acutely vulnerable as the nation faces the prospect of another recession.

Meanwhile, the Valley's ability to do the one thing it does best -- feeding the world -- is going to be challenged as never before.

Water shortages, already the scourge of the Valley, are about to get worse. A powerful state law called the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act will curb access to water and shrink agriculture's footprint in the next two decades. Thousands of acres will be turned into solar-energy farms and other non-agricultural uses. The long-term effect of climate change, meanwhile, will squeeze water supplies even more.

All of which suggests a bleak future for a region that is among America's poorest. In July, the latest month for which national statistics were available, six of the ten highest metropolitan unemployment rates in the country were found in the Valley, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau's records cover 389 metropolitan areas.

The groundwater law affects the whole state but will have its greatest impact in the Valley, where farmers pumped so much groundwater during the drought that the aquifers became seriously depleted and portions of the Valley floor literally sank.

Farmers will have to begin moving toward sustainability in January. They'll have 20 years to complete the task, but the transition could be excruciating. Forecasters at the Public Policy Institute of California say at least 535,000 acres will be permanently retired. That's about one-tenth of the irrigated farmland in a place that leads the nation in the production of milk, almonds, table grapes and a cornucopia of other commodities.

And that's if things go well; the institute says the law could take out as many as 750,000 acres in the Valley unless farmers can augment their water supplies somehow. If clumped together, that would be enough land to cover all of the agricultural acreage in San Joaquin County, where farming is a \$2.5 billion-a-year business.

Some Valley leaders say the problem might be far bigger than even the Public Policy Institute estimates. Jason Phillips, chief executive of the Friant Water Authority, which delivers water to farmers on the Valley's east side from the federal government's Central Valley Project, said as many as 1 million acres could be retired under a worst-case scenario, with a disastrous effect on unemployment.

"We haven't seen any analysis that takes it to less than 300,000," he said. "You're talking about tens of thousands of jobs in the most seriously disadvantaged areas of the state."

While Phillips and other Valley leaders are trying to bring new water supplies to the region and minimize the land retirement, Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration is developing aid packages to help Valley cope with the fallout.

"We're really trying to figure out how to support that broader economic transition," said Wade Crowfoot, secretary of the Natural Resources Agency.

'It's all agriculture'

The potential impact weighs heavily on places like Farmersville (population 11,000), a Tulare County city where the morning rush hour is dominated by farmworkers heading out to the nearby orchards.

"It's all agriculture," said Rosa Vasquez, the city's mayor pro tem and owner of the La Mejor del Valle grocery store. "You name it, we have walnuts, peaches, grapes, oranges."

But little else. Farmersville, as the name implies, depends heavily on agriculture. It's the kind of town where progress is measured in small doses, as when Sam's Foods, the only full-line grocer in Farmersville, opened earlier this year.

"We need more business for the city to grow," Vasquez said. "Everybody struggles, trying to make a living." It breaks her heart that, when the kids finish high school, they go elsewhere to find opportunities.

Tacos without salsa? New groundwater law would affect everybody, says market owner Higher prices for produce would be just one effect of the possible reduction of productive farmland due to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act taking effect in January.

The eight blocks of Farmersville Boulevard that make up the city's main commercial district consists largely of humble merchants such as the Muebleria el Alto furniture store ("Easy Credit," the window says), Aguila Auto Sales, and Donuts & Burgers. More than a few businesses on the boulevard advertise their services for wiring money to Mexico.

"We have three industries here. Fast food restaurants, heavy on the Mexican, used car lots and convenience store mini-marts," said Ralph Anderson, who owns an income-tax preparation service on the main strip. "There is no industry here, other than ag."

His wife Pilar, operates a Spanish-language translation and immigration-services business from the same storefront location.

Anderson said Farmersville has enjoyed fleeting moments of optimism, as when a circuit-board maker opened a factory. It closed years ago. For the most part, the city and its concerns get ignored by the "liberal idiots in Sacramento" who know nothing about farming, he said.

"We're definitely politically and economically a minority," he said. "We have no muscle to flex."

Experts say the Valley's reliance on agriculture has a tendency to depress the economy. Last year the average Californian made \$59,150 a year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The average wage for farmworkers was \$26,240. A UC Davis study of 2016 pay data says average farmworker salaries were even lower, at \$16,142.

Farmworkers suffer from low hourly wages and a shortage of full-time work. "It really is the inability to string together a lot of hours," said Phil Martin, a UC Davis professor emeritus who's studied farm labor issues. "That seasonality has long been an issue."

An estimated 12.6 percent of Californians lived in poverty last year, according to U.S. Census data. The poverty rate was higher than California's in every county in the Valley, and was nearly 20 percent or higher in five of the region's eight counties. Tulare County had the highest percentage of its population in poverty in the Valley, at 22.3 percent.

The north end of the Valley, thanks in part to the spillover of Bay Area residents seeking a cheaper cost of living, has generally done better than the south Valley. The warehouse and logistics industries have boomed, led by five Amazon warehouses opened in recent years in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties. Amazon also has opened a warehouse in Fresno, as did cosmetics company Ulta Beauty.

The south Valley is another story. Dependence on agriculture is higher; unemployment and poverty are more severe. To make matters worse, the groundwater shortages are far more acute in the south Valley, putting even more pressure on the region's farm economy as the state law takes hold in the coming years, said economist Jeff Michael of the University of the Pacific.

The Valley suffers on multiple levels. Its pollution is so bad, it has its own page on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website, which says the region has "some of the nation's worst air quality, high rates of childhood asthma, and contaminated drinking water."

Thousands of Valley residents drink water tainted with arsenic, nitrates and other dangerous chemicals. The Legislature in July enacted SB 200 to dedicate \$130 million a year on cleaning up contaminated water systems.

The help won't come soon enough in places like Plainview, a small Tulare County farm community full of ramshackle homes. Some of Plainview's groundwater contains unsafe levels of nitrates -- largely the result of fertilizer use -- and nearly one in five households has had to rely on bottled water for the past five years.

"We've got one well that's good, and two that are not," said Cruz Rivera, general manager of Plainview Mutual Water Co. Water is delivered in five-gallon jugs by Culligan, with costs covered by the state.

Rivera is hoping to secure \$2 million from the state to drill a new well, but is afraid of being overlooked. "We're a small, rural community," he said. "We get forgotten."

The Valley's overall socioeconomic problems are getting more attention from Sacramento. The governor has made a point of pledging to help the region share in California's prosperity. Discussing the state's bullet-train project during his first state of the state address in February, Newsom described it as a long-overdue effort to boost the Valley's fortunes.

"The people of the Central Valley ... have suffered too many years of neglect from policymakers here in Sacramento. They deserve better," he said.

Yet the high-speed rail project so far has been less of an economic catalyst than a symbol of how difficult it is to bring change to the Valley.

Although it's created thousands of construction jobs, the project is plagued with significant cost overruns and delays. It will be years before the initial segment, linking Merced with Bakersfield, is completed. What's more, Newsom expressed doubt about whether the rail line will ever extend beyond the Valley and connect with the Bay Area and Southern California. That statement helped spark a funding dispute with the Trump administration, putting billions of federal dollars for the project at risk.

The suggestion that the rail line might be cut short didn't go over well in the Valley, where high-speed rail was already viewed by many as an out-of-control boondoggle that devours farmland but will deliver few tangible benefits. Now even some of its supporters in the business community are beginning to have doubts about the project's viability.

"The pessimists have overtaken the optimists in this area," said Jim Ford, chief executive of Central Valley Community Bank in Fresno.

Is a recession coming?

It's not as if the recovery has bypassed the Valley. The unemployment rate in the Visalia-Porterville area, for instance, has shrunk by more than half since the worst of the recession, from 19.2 percent to 9.2 percent.

But that still leaves a lot of catching-up to do.

The other day, Jesus Sandoval, 40, was leaving the Tulare County Employment Connection office in Visalia, clutching a flier for a job fair scheduled for the city's convention center.

A former construction worker, these days he scratches out a living performing occasional farm labor and "selling stuff at swap meets" -- old stereo equipment, clothing and whatever else he can find at yard sales. His wife, a restaurant worker, is the main breadwinne, but their income isn't enough to buy a home even in Visalia, where the median home price is \$236,000.

Sandoval's goal? He's trying to pull together some financial aid to go to trucking school. But he has no great expectations about Visalia climbing out of its economic rut overnight.

"It's always been this way," he said.

In mid-August economists began warning that a global slowdown could occur. Sung Won Sohn, an economic consultant in Southern California, pegged the possibility of a recession starting within a year at 35 percent.

The last recession was especially painful in the Valley. Several Valley cities experienced a surge in speculative housing development, and then a surge in foreclosures when the bubble burst.

Ford said it's unlikely the next recession will be as bad; there's been no major housing boom this time.

"We don't see any big signs of excesses," he said. "We don't see real estate prices skyrocketing."

On the other hand, the resounding economic recovery that much of California has enjoyed would have to be graded as "incomplete" when it comes to the Valley. Ford said that, despite "pockets of improvements," the Valley is still struggling to create the manufacturing and high-tech jobs it needs.

One key problem is workforce. Employers from other regions say they're reluctant to bring jobs to the Valley because "they have a hard time finding certain high-qualified or very high-tech types of individuals," Ford said.

About 83 percent of Californians have at least a high school degree, according to census figures. In most Valley counties, graduation rates are about 5 to 10 percentage points lower.

In Merced County -- site of the Valley's only University of California campus -- just 69 percent of residents have a high school diploma.

Opened in 2005 with billions of dollars in state support, UC Merced was touted as a means of raising the Valley's educational profile. But the school started small and has built itself up gradually. It has graduated a total of 10,420 students, of whom 3,800 still live in the Valley, said university spokesman Kenneth Mashinchi.

"Changing the education levels of a population -- that's a long-term project, it takes generations," said Michael, director of the University of the Pacific's Center for Business Policy and Research. "The (Valley) is slowly improving education levels but it's not closing the gap with other areas. That's a large problem that stands in the way of building a more modern and diverse economy."

Some Valley leaders had hoped UC Merced would do for the Valley what Stanford did for the Bay Area, generating a pipeline of inventions that would lead to a gusher of new industries. That hasn't happened yet, either.

Last year patented technology from UC schools spawned 93 startup companies, according to data compiled by the UC Office of the President. The leader was UC San Diego, a powerhouse in biotech research, with 26 startups.

UC Merced was credited with one -- a company called Eirene Technologies that's developing systems for detecting security threats. The company's chief executive has moved to the San Diego area but university officials say it could potentially employ workers in the Merced area.

Officials at UC Merced acknowledge that fostering more startup activity in the region has been a slow process. Peter Schuerman, associate vice chancellor for research and economic development, said the university has had to overcome an innate conservatism that can get in the way of risk taking. The Merced campus has created outreach programs to mentor potential entrepreneurs, and is housing dozens of promising businesses in an incubator it built in downtown Merced.

One resident of the incubator is developing a respirator system for premature infants. Another, Sweep Energy, which is developing a WiFi-based system for diagnosing problems with industrial equipment. Its founder, a UC Merced graduate, just hired six students from the campus.

"We've got a lot of seeds in the ground," Schuerman said.

'Trapped in systemic poverty'

Raquel Garcia -- "Rocky" to her friends -- survived a hardscrabble upbringing. She spent much of her childhood being shuffled between her parents in Fresno and Caruthers. She sometimes lived in a truck camper and, as a 17-year-old, went to work in a bar cleaning up broken bottles and worse.

A college dropout, she was struggling to save money, thinking she'd go to trade school and become an auto mechanic. Then she heard about Bitwise Industries and its ultra-trendy headquarters building, carved out of an old car dealership located near the auto-body shops, consignment stores and other businesses at the south end of downtown.

Though she barely knew how to operate a laptop, she enrolled in Bitwise's software coding school and got through the program in 12 weeks. She then landed a job with a tech startup.

Then she hit a major bump. She worked for several months without pay at a struggling startup before finally returning to Bitwise in early 2018, this time as an employee. Now she's a solutions architect at a Bitwise subsidiary. She works with clients, develops cost estimates for their projects and writes technical documents that spell out in detail what they need done.

"I never thought I could land a job or a career" without college, said Garcia, 26. "Here I am, I have a career in the tech industry."

The leaders of Bitwise Industries have an almost evangelical zeal about trying to repair Fresno's chronic economic problems -- and overcoming its acceptance of failure.

"We have, for at least 40 years, been OK with the city trapped in systemic poverty," Soberal said. "That gnawed at us."

Bitwise is a three-headed economic development monster. It's a software company, developing code on contract for government agencies and corporate clients. It's a benevolent landlord, leasing space and providing utilities and other services to young

companies in five buildings across central Fresno. And it's an educator, providing software-code training through a program called Geekwise Academy.

Students pay \$250 per six-week session, meeting two nights a week. Many get tuition assistance through grants Bitwise has secured from the state Department of Rehabilitation and philanthropies such as the James Irvine Foundation.

Soberal bristles at the suggestion that the Valley can't produce tech workers. In six years, Geekwise Academy has trained 4,000 software coders. Roughly 1,000 of its graduates have found information technology jobs, some of them at Bitwise itself and many others in the Fresno area.

FRS_Groundwater_JakeSoberal01 (1).JPG Jake Soberal is the CEO and co-founder of Bitwise Industries, a technology company that helps educate and enable innovation for high achievers in California's Central Valley.

"The average student walks in the door making \$21,000 a year," Soberal said. "They walk out making \$60,000."

Bitwise just secured a \$27 million investment from a group of Silicon Valley venture capital firms. Some of the new money will be spent on an expansion planned for Bakersfield, where the company hopes to replicate "this eco-system that we've created" in Fresno, said Channele Charest, Bitwise's vice president for operations.

Carved out of a former car dealership near Fresno's AAA ballpark, the main Bitwise building has a distinctly Silicon Valley vibe -- lots of open spaces, conference rooms with walls that double as white boards, a kitchen and lounge area with a pool table.

On a recent afternoon, ten young coders were sitting around a conference table in a second-floor lobby area, working on a project for Salesforce, the San Francisco tech company. Bitwise co-founder Irma Olguin Jr.'s shih tzu mix, Bruce, scampered about, looking for treats.

Behind the feel-good vibe, however, lies a somewhat grim realization: Building a tech sector in the Valley is difficult. Even for an up-and-coming company like Bitwise.

The address alone is a handicap. Being from Fresno means Bitwise has to work harder to compete for business. Soberal said potential clients have to be sold on using a software company from the Valley.

"We've had to scratch and claw," Soberal said. "There's a higher degree of grit in getting over that threshold ... because we're from Fresno."