NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #13-01 AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION

A public hearing will be held by the Merced City Planning Commission on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard in the City Council Chambers located at 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA, to consider the following:

"AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS IN CHAPTERS 2.20, 'PLANNING COMMISSION,' 17.36, 'SIGNS,' AND 17.54, 'HISTORIC PRESERVATION,' AND CHAPTER 20.86, 'SITE PLAN AND ARCHITECTURAL APPROVAL,' OF THE MERCED MUNICIPAL CODE."

This ordinance is intended to amend the Municipal Code to shift the duties previously assigned to the Design Review Commission/Historic Preservation Commission to the Planning Commission and City staff for projects within the Downtown area and historic preservation projects. Other changes to the Municipal Code would re-title references within the sign code to the Merced Redevelopment Agency and Redevelopment Areas, which no longer exist, without changing the sign requirements.

An environmental review checklist has been filed for this project, and a Categorical Exemption from further environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act has been issued. A copy of this exemption is available for public inspection at the City of Merced Planning Department during regular business hours, at 678 West 18th Street, Merced, California. A copy of this document can also be purchased at the Planning Department for the price of reproduction.

All persons in favor of, opposed to, or in any manner interested in this request for a Zoning Ordinance Amendment are invited to attend this public hearing or forward written comments to the Director of Development Services, City of Merced, 678 West 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. The public review period for the environmental determination begins on April 18, 2013, and ends on May 8, 2013. Please feel free to call the Planning Department at (209) 385-6858 for additional information. If you challenge the decision of the Planning Commission in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Merced at, or prior to, the public hearing.

After the Planning Commission makes its decision on this matter, the matter will also be considered at a public hearing before the City Council. A separate notice of that public hearing will also be given.

/s/ Kim Espinosa

April 12, 2013

Kim Espinosa
Planning Manager