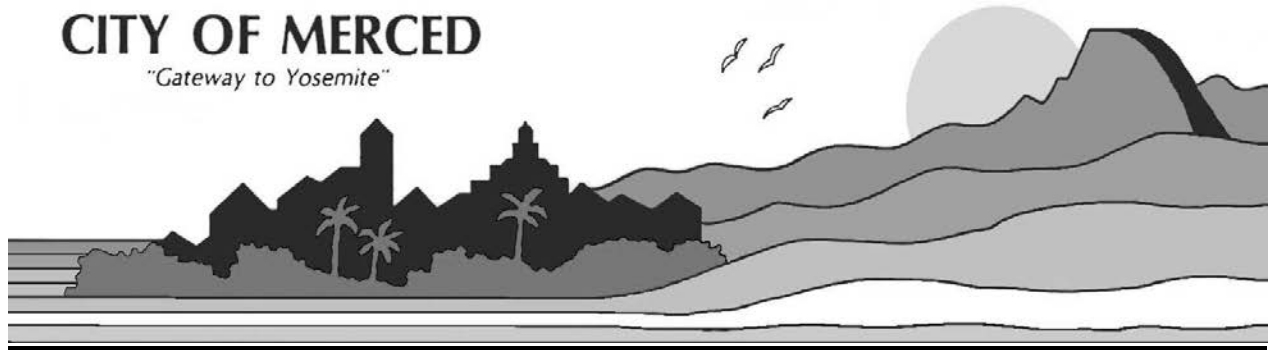


CITY OF MERCED

"Gateway to Yosemite"



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC REVIEW **FOR THE WATER MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

A public review period for Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (DMND) #17-15 for the City of Merced's Water Master Plan Update will commence on **Thursday, October 19, 2017, and end on Monday, November 20, 2017**, concerning the potential environmental effects of the proposed plan. The City proposes to implement the Water Master Plan Update to address the infrastructure requirements and water supply needs to meet growth as described in the *Merced Vision 2030 General Plan*. The water system infrastructure improvements described in the Water Master Plan include the construction of up to six new 2,500-gpm wells, 3-million gallon storage tanks, three booster pump stations (5.0 million gallons per day), and approximately 41 miles of new pipeline. The exact locations of the proposed improvements are not known. The Water Master Plan also identifies a Surface Water Treatment Facility as a potential project; however, the location, footprint, and timing for this facility is not known at this time. At full buildout under the General Plan, the City proposes to supply up to 44,600 acre-feet of water by 2030. The projected water service area, also known as the Specific Urban Development Plan (SUDP) boundary, is the 2030 growth boundary of the City. The boundary of the SUDP is coterminous with the boundary of the City's Sphere of Influence (SOI). The SUDP/SOI contains 28,730 acres (45 square miles). The Water Master Plan water service area occupies the same areas as the SUDP/SOI.

The Initial Study for the project found that while there are potentially significant environmental impacts that may result from the proposed project, they can be mitigated to a less than significant level by the mitigation measures proposed in this DMND.

The DMND and reference documents may be reviewed at the City Planning Division office at 678 West 18th Street, Merced during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. All persons interested in obtaining printed copies of the DMND for a reproduction cost of \$0.10 per page are invited to contact the Merced City Planning Division at the address indicated above. There is a \$5 reproduction cost for a CD. Otherwise, the documents may be downloaded from the City of Merced Planning Division website at www.cityofmerced.org

All comments concerning the DMND must be submitted to the Planning Division in writing, on or before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2017. Postmarks will be accepted. Please direct written comments to Michael Hren, Principal Planner, Planning Division, 678 West 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340, or via email at hrenm@cityofmerced.org. Questions may also be directed to 209-385-6858.

October 16, 2017

/s/ Michael Hren

MICHAEL HREN

Principal Planner