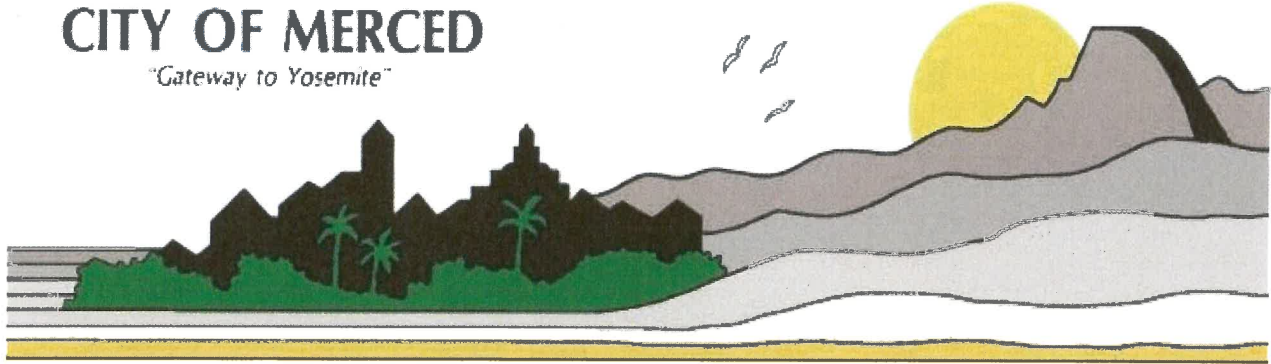


CITY OF MERCED

"Gateway to Yosemite"



City of Merced, Public Works-Engineering
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Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report

Date: May 7, 2018
To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Federal Agencies, Interested Parties and Organizations
Project: Well 3 Tank Demolition Project
Lead Agency: City of Merced
Contact: Joseph Angulo, Environmental Project Manager, Public Works - Engineering
Public Review Period: Thursday, May 10, 2018 – Monday, June 25, 2018

Purpose of the Notice

The intent of this Notice of Availability (NOA) is to inform agencies and interested parties that the City of Merced has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Well 3 Tank Demolition Project in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15087. This NOA provides information about the project and its environmental effects and requests that comments be provided on the content of the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR has been completed and is available for viewing online at:

https://www.cityofmerced.org/depts/cd/planning/documents_and_handouts/default.asp

An electronic copy of the document is also available on CD-Rom free of charge to any individual or group (there will be a \$5 reproduction cost for each additional CD).

Project Location

Northwest corner of W. 12th Street and Canal Street. Assessor parcel number: 031-321-015.

Background

The City of Merced is proposing to demolish an existing water tank on the project site to address safety concerns related to: on-site vehicle access, land subsidence, and stability of the water tank, which does not meet current seismic standards. The 300,000-gallon steel water tank was constructed in 1934 and once served as an active component of the City's water system, maintaining system pressure; however, the water tank has not been connected to the on-site well (Well 3) since 2016.

Project Description

The applicant is proposing to demolish an inactive water tank on the project site that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. The water tank is 148 feet in height, 40 feet in diameter, and is mounted on six steel supports set in concrete; a 30-inch wide balcony with a handrail circles the tank. The project would include demolition of the water tank, excavation to remove the tank's supporting concrete piers, backfilling, and grading, as well as additional surface paving and construction of a new gate on the north side of the site to allow trucks to drive through the site. The exposed water tank footprint would be covered in gravel and/or paved in asphalt following demolition, consistent with existing coverage on the site. All equipment and structures on-site other than the water tank would remain in place and would not be demolished.

Potential Environmental Effects

An Initial Study was prepared for the proposed project and found that the project would have a less than significant impact or less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated for all resource areas evaluated under CEQA, except for historical resources. The Draft EIR evaluates the project's impact to a historical resource and provides mitigation to reduce the project's adverse effects to a historical resource. However, because the project would involve demolition of a historical resource, this impact would remain significant and unavoidable. The Draft EIR also evaluates three alternatives that avoid demolition of the water tank, including a no project alternative, renovation of the water tank, and relocation of the water tank.

Providing Comments

The City of Merced is soliciting comments on the Draft EIR. Comments provided will be considered in the Final EIR in accordance with CEQA Guidelines, Section 15088. Because of time limits mandated by state law, comments should be provided no later than **Monday, June 25, 2018 by 5:00 p.m.**, which ends the comment period. You may submit comments in writing in two ways: (1) by U.S. mail, or (2) by electronic mail (email).

If sending by mail, please send comments to:

Joseph Angulo
Public Works - Engineering
City of Merced
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

If sending by email, please send comments to:
anguloj@cityofmerced.org

Please include “NOA Comments-Well 3 Tank” in the subject line, and the name and physical address of the commenter in the body of the email.

The NOA, Draft EIR, and all public review documents for this project are available for viewing online at:

https://www.cityofmerced.org/depts/cd/planning/documents_and_handouts/default.asp

Please contact Joseph Angulo if you have any questions about the environmental review process:

- Phone: (209) 388-7507
- Email: anguloj@cityofmerced.org



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