



**MERCED**

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**To:** The Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Stephanie R. Dietz, Interim City Manager  
**Date:** September 4, 2020  
**Re:** City Council Information Report

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## **BAG O' CRAB RAISES A SIGN AT THE FORMER IHOP RESTAURANT**

The Bag O' Crab submitted a building permit application for tenant improvements in late July 2020.

Work is underway within the building to transition the former IHOP to Bag O' Crab. With restaurants in Berkeley and Fairfield, the Cajun and Creole restaurant specializes in seafood.



Some may remember, the former Merced IHOP closed in March 2020. The building transaction was represented Coldwell Banker Commercial – Gonella Realty. Staff will provide more details about Bag O' Crab and its targeted opening date.

## **TREE TRIMMING IN COMPASS POINTE CFD**

Grover Landscape has been contracted to perform tree pruning and removal services in the Compass Pointe CFD (Horizon Avenue, Lehigh Drive, Pacific Drive, and Colma Avenue areas). Crews began work this week to trim over 500 trees in this area.





## **PARKS/TREES CREWS TRIMMING & IRRIGATION WORK**

Public Work Parks and Trees crews continue with trimming and irrigation repairs in various locations throughout Merced this week. Shown below is trimming near the Civic Center in Downtown, as well as irrigation work at Santa Fe Park Strip.



## **BEAR CREEK PRIVATE PROPERTY SIGNS INSTALLED**

Public Works crews installed signs along Bear Creek, west of G Street, as requested to help alleviate individuals loitering in the creek bed.





## ENGINEERING UPDATE

### *Cooper Lift Station*

Phase 1 Construction crew is working on installation of the underground electrical. This project is approximately 50% complete.





### ***Water Well site #20***

Clark Bros. Inc. is crew grading the site and installing electrical systems inside building. This project is approximately 60% complete.



### **Upcoming Construction Projects (Council Award Date)**

1. 119006 – Alpine Drive – G St. to Wainwright Ave. Improvements (11/2/2020)

### **Projects in Design**

1. Highway 59 Widening (Kickoff Meeting with Caltrans in 2-3 weeks)
2. Highway 59 and 16<sup>th</sup> Street Signal and Channelization (90%)
3. R Street, Loughborough to Buena Vista (95%)
4. Motel Drive Multi-Use Path (95%)
5. V Street, 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Streets, Road Improvement (90%)
6. N Street, 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Streets, Roadway Improvement (95%)
7. Gerard Avenue Sewer, Hwy 99 to Kibby (75%)
8. R Street, 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> (40%)
9. B Street Improvements (30%)



## **FIREFIGHTERS CHANGE MENU FOR FUNDRAISER**

*A note from the Merced Firefighters Association:* Merced Firefighters are trying something a bit different this year. Each year we host our annual Pancake Breakfast and it's a great event to interact with the community. However, due to Covid 19, we will not be hosting the Pancake Breakfast.

We still wanted to do something in order to give back to the community. So this year we are hosting a Drive-Thru BBQ dinner. Uncle Bucks Catering will be serving up some delicious BBQ plates on Oct. 2, between 4:30 and 7 p.m.

Where else can you get a great tasting plate of BBQ for only \$10? This is a drive-thru only event and no tickets will be sold at the event. We are also limited on the amount of tickets we can sell so please get your orders in soon.

We are donating the money we raise locally to help Merced Youth Sports and "Random Acts of Kindness". We invite you join us in what we hope to be a successful event. Please share with your friends and friends. *Attached is the flyer with all of the information on it.* The QR code takes you directly to the website for ticket ordering. There are 2 different meat plates to choose from. Your invoice is your ticket for you meals on the day of the event. Breast Cancer T Shirts will also be available for pickup on the day of the event if you order those as well.

Here is the direct link to the site for ordering. The site does not work well with internet explorer: <https://merced-city-firefighters-association.square.site/s/shop>

## **LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

Attached are letters of support to legislators regarding items of interest to the City. One is regarding SB 1447, a bill that would give tax credits to small businesses for hiring workers. The other is a letter supporting to the High Speed Rail Authority regarding the EIR for the Central Valley Wye.

## **MCAG**

Please find attached the Merced County Association of Governments newsletter for the month of September.



## **SAVE THE DATE**

Sept. 7 – Labor Day holiday

Sept. 8 – Council meeting

Sept. 10 – Central Division League virtual meeting, 6 p.m. social, 6:30 dinner

Sept. 21 – Council meeting

## **REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

- |                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| 1. Firefighters BBQ flier | Pg. 8  |
| 2. Letters of Support     | Pg. 9  |
| 3. MCAG newsletter        | Pg. 12 |



OCTOBER 2, 2020



**UNCLE BUCKS**  
CATERING

&

EST 1963  
**MERCED CITY**  
Fire fighters  
IAFF LOCAL 1975



## DRIVE THRU BBQ FUNDRAISER

Friday, October 2, 2020

**\$10**  
PER MEAL  
TICKET

- **Choice of meat:** BBQ Chicken Thighs or BBQ Pulled Pork.
- **Every meal includes:** Twice Baked Mac & Cheese, Coleslaw and a Cheese-topped Dinner roll.
- **No tickets** will be sold **on day of event.**
- Presale tickets **ONLY.**

### BENEFITING THE:

MERCED YOUTH SPORTS  
&  
"RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS"

### PICK UP:

**4:30PM - 7:00PM**

**FIRE STATION 51**

99 E. 16th St.  
Merced, CA

\*ENTER FROM E. MAIN St. & F St.\*





# CITY OF MERCED

(209) 385-6834 • (209) 723-1780 FAX

September 3, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of the State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: SB 1447; Income tax: sales and use tax: credit: small business; (Bradford, Caballero, Cervantes)**  
**SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Merced has reviewed SB 1447; Income tax; sales and use tax: credit: small business: (Bradford, Caballero, Cervantes) and respectfully requests your signature.

SB 1447 establishes a Small Business Tax Credit for businesses that hire additional employees between July 1 to November 30, 2020. The tax credit allows a small business to use the credit to offset either income tax or sales and use tax liability.

The coronavirus has deeply affected the businesses and industries in the City and County of Merced that had barely recovered from the Great Recession. In February of this year, Merced County had an unemployment rate of 9.8 percent, but after the pandemic hit our April unemployment rate reached 18.7 percent. With this jobs bill, we believe we could be back the way we were last year, when September 2019 saw a 5.8 percent jobless rate.

Questions regarding this letter and our support may be addressed by Frank Quintero, Director of Economic Development, 209-385-6826.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Murphy, Mayor  
City of Merced

678 WEST 18TH STREET MERCED, CA 95340





# CITY OF MERCED

(209) 385-6834 • (209) 723-1780 FAX

September 3, 2020

Tom Richards, Vice-Chair  
California High-Speed Rail Authority  
770 L Street, Suite 620  
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: Support for Central Valley Wye Final Supplemental EIR/EIS

Dear Honorable Vice-Chair Richards,

The City of Merced strongly supports the Governor's Plan and CHSRA's staff recommendations (2020 Draft Business Plan released February 12) to pursue a Merced-Fresno-Bakersfield HSR interim operating segment with stops at Kings/Tulare and Madera to provide high-speed rail service to Californians at the earliest possible time. The approval of the Central Valley Wye Supplemental EIR/EIS is critical to the implementation of the Merced-Fresno-Bakersfield HSR Interim Operating Segment.

The Authority identified the SR 152 (North) to Road 11 Wye Alternative as the Preferred Alternative because it would maximize regional transportation investments and minimize impacts on environmental and community resources. Additionally, the SR 152 (North) to Road 11 Wye Alternative would have lower capital costs than the other Central Valley Wye alternatives.

The Preferred Alternative achieves the HSR system's purpose and need while resulting in fewer impacts on both the natural environment and community resources than the other three alternatives. It also better meets other non-environmental criteria because of its proximity to existing transportation corridors. Both USACE and USEPA concurred that the CHSRA's Preferred Alternative is the preliminary least environmentally damaging practicable alternative. The Preferred Alternative is the environmentally superior alternative that best meets environmental regulatory requirements and best minimizes impacts on the natural environment and community resources.

678 WEST 18TH STREET MERCED, CA 95340

The City of Merced requests that CHSRA continue to work with Madera County to resolve the issues raised in their comment letter on the Central Valley Wye Supplemental EIR/EIS.

The City of Merced is very pleased to submit this letter of support for the approval of the Central Valley Wye Final Supplemental EIR/EIS.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Murphy, Mayor  
City of Merced

cc Brian Kelly, CEO; Brian Annis, CFO; Chad Edison, CalSTA



### TEMPORARY SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR THE BUS

Due to the impact of COVID-19, The Bus moved to a weekend schedule as of Monday, August 17. The weekend service schedule is operating daily and will apply to all of the fixed-routes throughout the County, except for the UC route which will not change. All fares to ride The Bus continue to be suspended and masks are required to be worn in order to ride.

Dial-a-Ride service will be provided to those who need it during the hours of 6:00 - 8:00 am and 6:00 - 8:00 pm Monday-Friday when the fixed-route service will not be operating. To receive assistance with trip planning, including making reservations for Dial-a-Ride, passengers may call customer service at 1-800-345-3111. Paratransit service will continue as normal.

"We are fortunate that we have been able to avoid changes to our service levels for the past five months for our passengers who depend on The Bus to access essential jobs and services," said Christine Chavez, MCAG Transit Manager. "It has now reached a point where we are seeing significant impacts to The Bus' operations, maintenance, and ridership levels and we have to respond accordingly."

The temporary service reduction will be in place until further notice with operational capacity being re-assessed on a weekly basis. The Bus is experiencing a 45 percent decrease in ridership from this time last year.

All bus schedules and hours of operation can be found at [www.mercedthebus.com](http://www.mercedthebus.com) or by calling (209) 723-3100.



Road Supervisors Gilbert and Rene on standby at Transpo ready to wipe down buses between routes.

### MERCED LANDFILL OFFERS CARPET RECYCLING

Merced County residents and businesses are able to bring old carpet to the Highway 59 landfill to be recycled. The program is made possible by a grant from the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), which operates a carpet stewardship program in California designed to increase the amount of carpet kept out of landfills in the state. The grant from CARE allowed for the installation of a shelter, pad and equipment needed to be able to properly receive and store the carpet at the landfill. The Merced facility is among 75 carpet recycling drop-off locations in California currently participating in the program.

In order for carpet to be accepted for recycling, it must be dry, free from debris and cut into manageable sections that have been separated from the carpet pad and rolled. Carpet pads that are clean and rolled are also accepted. Customers should bring the carpet to the landfill located at 7040 N. Highway 59 in Merced and stop at the scale house for instructions on where to drop it off at the site.

The carpet recycling program started in Merced last fall. Since then, more than 27,000 pounds of carpet have been diverted from the local landfill and recycled for other purposes. Recycled carpet fiber is made into useful new products like insulation, construction materials, rubber mats, as well as new carpet and carpet padding. Disposal costs for carpet brought to the Merced landfill for recycling start at \$19; this rate usually applies to the average load brought from a single-family residence. Larger loads, usually brought by businesses, are charged at a higher rate depending on the volume.

"Keeping carpet out of the landfill by participating in this recycling program provides a great benefit to the communities of Merced County," said Eric Zetz, Director of the Regional Waste Management Authority. "By getting bulky items like carpet out of our landfill, the lifetime of the site is extended which saves rate payers a lot of money in the long run."

Visit the CARE website at [www.carpetrecovery.org](http://www.carpetrecovery.org) for more information.

## MCAG SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

- 09/04** CAC Meeting, 8:30 am  
**09/09** Technical Review Board meeting, 12:00 pm  
**09/17** Governing Board meeting, 3:00 pm  
**09/21** YARTS JPA Meeting, 1:00 pm  
**09/21** Measure V COC Meeting, 3:00 pm

Please note: All MCAG meetings will be held via video/audio conference until further notice. The call-in number and passcode will be located on the cover of each agenda. To access the agendas for the meetings listed, please visit:

[www.mcagov.org/agendacenter](http://www.mcagov.org/agendacenter)

For more information about these meetings, please contact Eva Garibay at: [eva.garibay@mcagov.org](mailto:eva.garibay@mcagov.org)



### HIGHWAY 59 LANDFILL

7040 N. Highway 59  
Merced, CA 95348  
Phone: 209-723-4481  
Monday - Saturday  
7:00 am - 3:30 pm

### BILLY WRIGHT LANDFILL

17173 S Billy Wright Road  
Los Banos, CA 95348  
Phone: 209-826-1163  
Monday - Saturday:  
7:00 am - 3:30 pm

For more information about Regional Waste Authority please visit: [www.mcrwma.org](http://www.mcrwma.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](http://www.mcagov.org) and click on the "Notify Me" icon. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube!



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT IN LOS BANOS

The Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority (RWA) is hosting a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event in conjunction with



the City of Los Banos Fall Cleanup on Saturday, September 19th, from 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The HHW event will be held at 403 F Street, Los Banos. Please note, the trash cleanup is for City of Los Banos residents only, but the Household Hazardous Waste event is open to all residents and businesses of Merced County.

HHW is any household product that contains ingredients that are corrosive, reactive, flammable, and/or toxic. Some examples of HHW are ammonia-based cleaners, fluorescent tubes, car batteries, paint, and used motor oil. Items commonly found in homes that cannot be brought to the landfill at any other time except HHW collection days include wet chlorine tablets, full or partially full aerosol containers, and lithium-ion batteries that have started to bulge or become hot. This kind of battery is found inside rechargeable devices such as cordless tools, mobile phones, laptops, cameras, and children's shoes, and should be brought to the landfill for disposal in the item it is powering. RWA partners with Clean Harbors to conduct quarterly HHW collection in Merced County.

Before bringing items to the landfill, customers should call Clean Harbors at 916-396-1505 to identify the amount and type of HHW that will be dropped off. Please note that under State of California transportation regulations, there are quantity limitations on how much HHW can be transported. There is no cost for residents of Merced County to dispose of their HHW waste at this collection event, but quantity limitations apply. Disposal fees do apply for businesses considered Conditionally-Exempt Small Quantity Generators by the U.S. EPA.

For more information on types of HHW or what quantities will be accepted at the landfill, please visit [www.mcrwma.org/31/Household-Hazardous-Waste](http://www.mcrwma.org/31/Household-Hazardous-Waste) or call the RWA at (209) 723-4481.



# MeasureV

## SEPTEMBER 2020 - 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 30 year measure, MCAG will feature monthly updates in this newsletter. You can also visit [www.mcagov.org/measureV](http://www.mcagov.org/measureV) for the latest!

The 30-year Measure, which commenced in April of 2017, allocates 50% of all its revenue to the cities of Merced, Los Banos, Gustine, Atwater, Livingston and Dos Palos, along with the County of Merced, to pay for local transportation projects including roads, bike paths, and sidewalks. Regional transportation projects located on both the east and west sides of the county receive 44% of the funding with five percent reserved for public transit purposes. MCAG receives one percent of the monies to administer all fiduciary and reporting requirements.

Since the inception of Measure V, local jurisdictions have been busy making progress on various Measure V projects around the County including some regional projects. Merced County completed its Sandy Mush Road Phase 1 project. The upgrades on Sandy Mush Road begin at S. Highway 59 and run to Turner Island Road, approximately 12.75 miles. The project consisted of roadway reconstruction, road shoulder work and the installation of pavement striping and markings. A total of \$2,465,420 Measure V East Side Regional Funds were allocated for this project in the 2018 Implementation Plan. The total project cost is estimated at \$3,520,000. These improvements will relieve the traffic congestion on Highway 59 near Merced by providing an improved route to Highway 99. The improved roadway will increase safety by enhancing the condition of the road.

### HAVE YOU SPOTTED MEASURE V AT WORK IN MERCED COUNTY?

Snap a picture and send it to  
[measurev@mcagov.org](mailto:measurev@mcagov.org)  
or tag us on Facebook,  
Instagram and Twitter

@mcag\_merced  
or use the hashtag  
#MeasureV\_mcag



#### CONTACT:

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



# Carpet Recycling in California

\*Fees Starting at \$19

Merced County



**California Carpet  
Stewardship Program**

An initiative of CARE: Carpet America Recovery Effort



## Is Your Carpet Ready for Recycling?

Follow these simple steps to prepare carpet for recycling:

**Step 1:** Keep it Dry.

**Step 2:** Keep it Debris Free.

Remove tack strips, nails, trash and dirt

**Step 3:** Prepare the Carpet.

- Cut carpet into manageable sections
- Separate carpet from pad
- Roll carpet
- Roll, stack or fold carpet pad
- Stack carpet tile

**Step 4:** Recycle Carpet at:

**Merced County Regional  
Waste Management Authority  
Highway 59 Landfill**

7040 North Highway 59, Merced

Mon – Sat 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(209) 723-4481



## Why Recycle Carpet?

More than 340 million pounds of carpet are buried in California landfills every year, where it stays for centuries without breaking down. But there is a better way: recycling.

Recycling carpet saves natural resources, conserves landfill space, and reduces dependency on fossil fuels.

Old carpet can be recycled and made into useful new products, like traffic signs, insulation, new carpet and carpet padding.

In 2010 California passed a Carpet Stewardship law to increase carpet recycling. Since then over 100 million pounds of carpet have been diverted from our landfills and recycled. By working together, we can do more!

This program is supported by Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE). CARE works to create market-based solutions to increase carpet recycling and divert carpet from landfill.

**Thank you for recycling!**



# Reciclaje de alfombras en California

\*Tarifas Empezando desde \$19

Merced County



**California Carpet  
Stewardship Program**

An initiative of CARE: Carpet America Recovery Effort



## ¿Está su alfombra lista para ser reciclada?

Siga estos pasos simples para preparar alfombras para su reciclaje:

**Paso 1:** Manténgala seca.

**Paso 2:** Manténgala libre de desechos.

Retire las tiras con tachuelas, clavos, basura y tierra

**Paso 3:** Prepare la alfombra.

- Corte la alfombra en secciones fáciles de manejar
- Separe la alfombra de la almohadilla
- Enrolle la alfombra
- Enrolle, apile o doble la almohadilla para alfombra
- Apile las losetas de alfombra modular

**Paso 4:** Recicle alfombras en:

**Merced County Regional  
Waste Management Authority  
Highway 59 Landfill**

7040 North Highway 59, Merced

Lun. – Sáb. 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(209) 723-4481



## ¿Por qué reciclar alfombras?

Cada año en rellenos sanitarios de California se entierran más de 340 millones de libras de alfombras, donde permanecen por siglos sin descomponerse. Pero hay una mejor manera: reciclar.

Reciclar alfombras ahorra recursos naturales, conserva espacio en los rellenos sanitarios y reduce la dependencia de combustibles fósiles.

Las alfombras viejas pueden ser recicladas y convertidas en nuevos productos útiles, como letreros de tránsito, aislamiento, alfombra nueva y almohadilla para alfombras.

En 2010 California aprobó una Ley de Administración de Alfombras para aumentar el reciclaje de alfombras. Desde entonces, más de 100 millones de libras de alfombra han sido derivadas de nuestros rellenos sanitarios y recicladas. ¡Trabajando juntos podemos hacer más!

Este programa es apoyado por el Programa de Recuperación de Alfombras de Estados Unidos (Carpet America Recovery Effort o CARE). CARE trabaja para crear soluciones basadas en el mercado para aumentar el reciclaje de alfombras y evitar que las alfombras vayan al relleno sanitario.

**¡Gracias por reciclar!**