



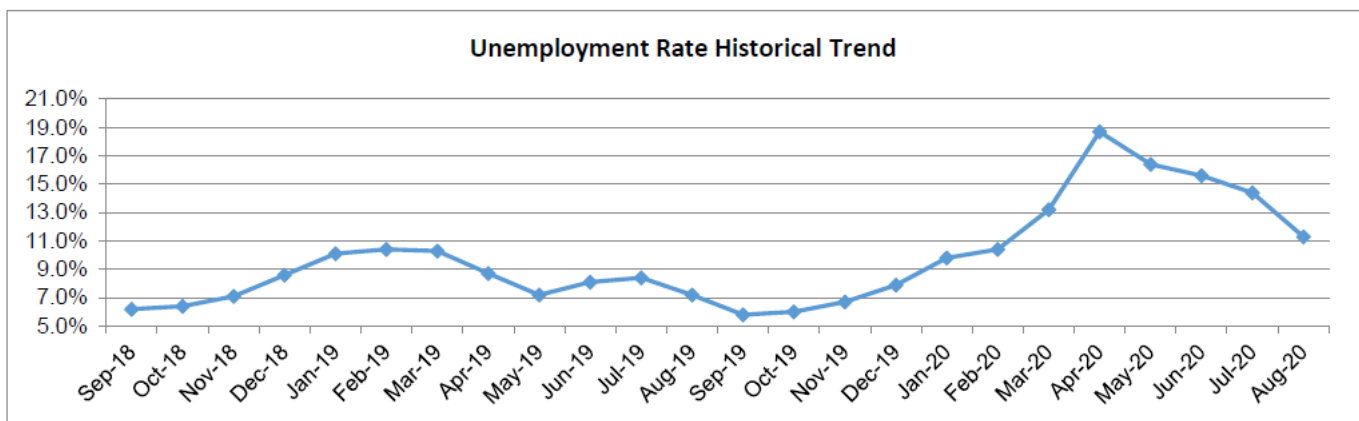
MERCED

THE CI

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Stephanie R. Dietz, Interim City Manager
Date: September 18, 2020
Re: City Council Information Report

NEW UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES ANNOUNCED

The unemployment rate in the Merced County was 11.3% in August 2020, down from a revised 14.4% in July 2020, and above the year-ago estimate of 7.2%. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 11.6% for California and 8.5% for the nation during the same period. The Labor Market Reports for August 2020 are attached for your review.



PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC REGIONAL CENTER EXPANSION

Pacific Gas and Electric was given Site Plan Review approval to construct a 16,800-square-foot metal building for the existing Regional Service Center located at 4155 E. Childs Avenue. The site is located at the University Industrial Park. The Regional Service Center includes management offices, recycling yard, and a garage/warehouse building.

MEET THE NEW PIZZA HUT

Pizza Hut has opened – again. The pizza maker moved across the street from its old location on W. Olive Avenue. The new address is 580 W. Olive Avenue. Some may remember this site as the former Starbucks. The restaurant owners previously announced the restaurant would open on September 17th, but the date was changed to Saturday, September 19, 2020. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to midnight, with the same tasty menu, and it has more than pepperoni on it. Pizza Hut will be heavily focused on take-out, even after the pandemic ends.



AND THE OLD PIZZA HUT SITE?

Dutch Brothers secured Site Plan Review approval for their project to open a second location in Merced at the former Pizza Hut on Olive Avenue. The company has plans to modify the existing 2,410 square-foot building and convert it to a dual drive-through coffee shop.



CHICKEN SHACK SIGN PERMIT

The Chicken Shack will soon be one of Merced's newest eateries. A sign permit has been approved for the location at 560 W. Olive Avenue, next to Deli Delicious. The Chicken Shack was first introduced to the Downtown Subcommittee on February 29, 2020, during their tour of the Fresno Brewery District with Tioga Sequoia Brewing owner Michael Cruz. There are currently three other locations, one in Hanford and two in Fresno.



MERCED FIRE CAPTAIN COLE RETIRING



Fire Captain Jeff Cole is currently battling the Creek Fire above Clovis and on September 21st, he will begin readying to enjoy his retirement after signing off for the last time on September 20th.

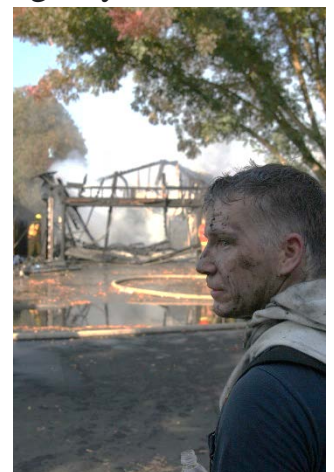
While at the Merced Fire Department, Fire Captain Cole worked up the ranks from a Firefighter to his current rank of Fire Captain and during that time received the coveted award of Firefighter of the Year.

Throughout his 30-year career, Captain Cole has served in a variety of roles for the department from Emergency Medical Services to Health & Wellness.

Today, a large crowd of friends, family, and co-workers are surprising him at the Creek Fire to congratulate him and share their favorite memories.

Despite retiring at the age of 56, he will have no trouble finding ways to pass the time as he and his family have recently sold their house and are moving into their new house in Tennessee.

Congratulations, Captain Cole!



I.T. REPLACES AGING NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE

The Information Technology Department is nearing completion of a three year project to replace the City's aging network infrastructure equipment. Most of the equipment being replaced was over 15 years old. The photo to the right is the equipment replaced in the last and final phase of project. The new equipment will help enable our computer network infrastructure for current and future digital demands of all City Departments. The new network equipment will not only allow for improved performance and network communication, but will help keep pace with the ever-increasing cyber security and regulatory demands for municipal networks.



STOP SIGNS VANDALIZED

The Streets crew replaced a vandalized stop sign today on Gerard Avenue.



REPLACEMENT SLIDE AT FAHRENS PARK

Public Works crews installed a replacement spiral slide Wednesday at the Fahrens Park playground area, located along Buena Vista Drive.



DEAD BRUSH CLEARED ALONG BEAR CREEK BIKE PATH

Public Works crews cleared dead brush and tree branches laying along part of the Bear Creek Bike Path, from G Street to Wainwright Ave., in these *before* photos.



TREE TRIMMING IN COMPASS POINTE CFD

Grover Landscape continues with tree pruning and removal services for over 500 trees in the Compass Pointe CFD (Horizon and Colma Avenues, Lehigh and Pacific Drives). Crews completed a large segment of Lehigh Drive this week.

BEFORE (Lehigh Drive)



AFTER (Lehigh Drive)



ENGINEERING UPDATE

Water Well site #20

Clark Bros., Inc., crew is working to install the 12-inch water line.

This project is approximately 70% complete.



Water Well site #21

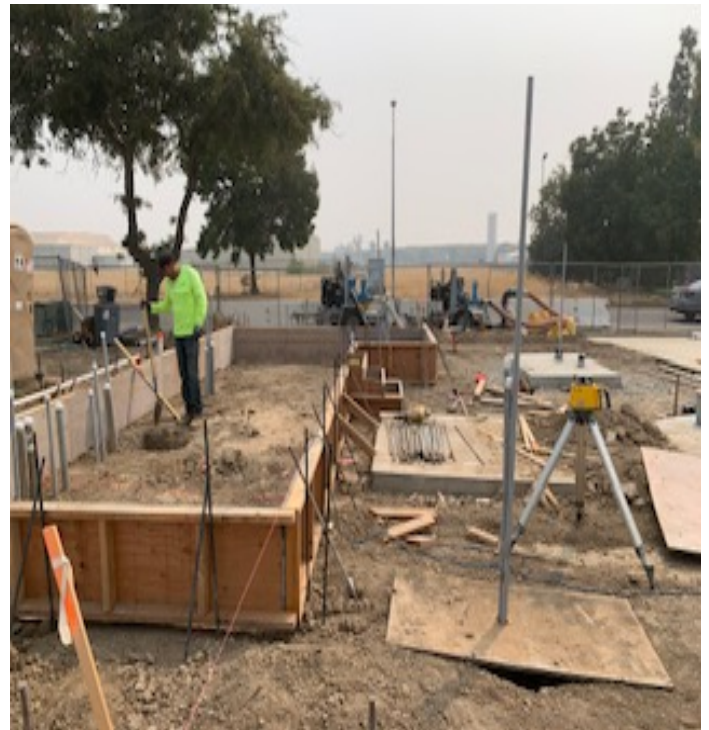
Hobbs Construction, Inc., is performing the final touches in the Chemical Room.

This project is approximately 95% complete.

Cooper Lift Station

The Phase 1 Construction crew is forming the building pad.

This project is approximately 60% complete.



Lab Building & Solid Handling Building Restrooms

The Daguerre Construction crew is working on the bathroom building.

The project is approximately 10% complete.

Upcoming Construction Projects (Council Agenda Date)

1. 117020 – Gerard Ave. Sewer Main Hwy 99 to Kibby Road (10/19)
2. 119006 – Alpine Drive – G St. to Wainwright Ave. Improvements (10/19)
3. 119003 – R St. Rehabilitation Loughborough Dr. to Buena Vista Dr. (10/19)

Projects in Design

1. Highway 59 Widening (Kickoff Meeting with Caltrans in 1 week)
2. Highway 59 and 16th Street Signal and Channelization (90%)
3. Motel Drive Multi-Use Path (100%)
4. V Street, 16th to 18th Streets, Roadway Improvement (90%)
5. N Street, 16th to 18th Streets, Roadway Improvement (95%)
6. Gerard Avenue Sewer, Hwy 99 to Kibby (75%)
7. R Street, 16th to 18th (40%)
8. B Street Improvements (30%)

PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR HOUSING PLANS

The City will be holding two virtual meetings on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 6 PM and Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at 6 PM to share information and receive public comments on the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 Annual Action Plan.

Information on these events has been published in both local newspapers, in multiple languages, posted on the City's website, and shared via email with past public service providers and with the Merced County Board of Realtors. The Leadership Counsel has also been involved in the process. See attached public hearing notice.

Notice has also been provided on the 30-day Comment Period which begins on October 2, 2020, and ends on November 2, 2020. There are also two planned City Council Public Hearings, October 19, 2020, and November 16, 2020.

Anyone interested in participating in the meetings is encouraged to contact housing@cityofmerced.org to receive a meeting invitation. The events will also be available on Facebook live.

UPCOMING PARKS & RECREATION EVENTS:

October 10th & 17th – Paint at the Park: Participants grades K - 12 will enjoy a fun day of painting at the Merced Open Air Theater (MOAT). There will also be a family class on November 14th. The event is free, and all supplies will be provided.

October 21st – Tiny Tots Pumpkin Party: The event will be held at Applegate Park Zoo from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM. The fee is \$10 per participant, ages 2 – 10 years.

* * Masks are required for all events. Participants must pre-register at the Parks and Recreation Office. * * See attached event flyers for more information.

Visit our Facebook page and cast your vote for the upcoming Drive-In Movie on October 23rd. Details to follow in next week's CI.

NEW HOURS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT LOBBY

The Merced Police Department has announced it is extending the lobby hours at the police station. Monday through Thursday, the lobby will be open until 6 p.m. to better serve the public. Other services have also been expanded. The lobby will continue to close at 4 p.m. on Friday. The news release of the announcement is attached.

SJRRC AWARDS BUILD GRANT

Please see the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRC) press release regarding the \$20 million BUILD grant awarded for the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project.

CENTRAL VALLEY RAIL PROJECT UPDATE

Please see the attached Central Valley Rail Working Group's environmental/schedule and progress update.

SAVE THE DATE

Sept. 21 – Council meeting

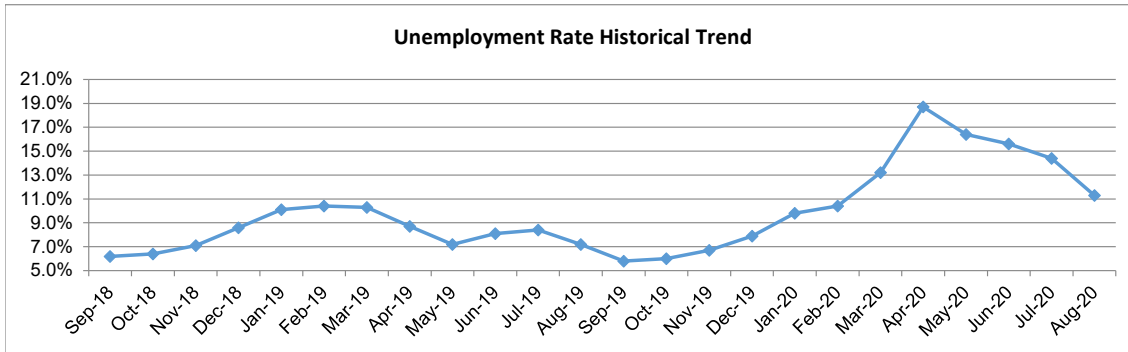
Oct. 5 – Council meeting

REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

1. Labor Market Information	Pg. 12
2. Public Hearing Notices	Pg. 16
3. Parks & Rec Event Flyers	Pg. 18
4. Police Department News Release	Pg. 20
5. SJRRC Press Release	Pg. 21
6. Central Valley Rail Update	Pg. 22

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 MERCED METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)
 (Merced County)

The unemployment rate in the Merced County was 11.3 percent in August 2020, down from a revised 14.4 percent in July 2020, and above the year-ago estimate of 7.2 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 11.6 percent for California and 8.5 percent for the nation during the same period.



Industry	Jul-2020	Aug-2020	Change		Aug-2019	Aug-2020	Change
	Revised	Prelim				Prelim	
Total, All Industries	76,800	80,200	3,400		85,800	80,200	(5,600)
Total Farm	14,700	15,100	400		15,600	15,100	(500)
Total Nonfarm	62,100	65,100	3,000		70,200	65,100	(5,100)
Mining, Logging, and Construction	2,800	2,700	(100)		2,800	2,700	(100)
Manufacturing	9,700	9,900	200		11,200	9,900	(1,300)
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,300	13,600	300		13,900	13,600	(300)
Information	200	200	0		300	200	(100)
Financial Activities	1,800	1,900	100		1,900	1,900	0
Professional & Business Services	4,100	4,100	0		4,400	4,100	(300)
Educational & Health Services	10,000	10,200	200		10,700	10,200	(500)
Leisure & Hospitality	4,700	4,600	(100)		6,100	4,600	(1,500)
Other Services	1,400	1,400	0		1,500	1,400	(100)
Government	14,100	16,500	2,400		17,400	16,500	(900)

Notes: Data not adjusted for seasonality. Data may not add due to rounding
 Labor force data are revised month to month
 Additional data are available on line at www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Aug 19	Jun 20	Jul 20 Revised	Aug 20 Prelim	Percent Change	
					Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force (1)	115,500	114,600	112,300	113,200	0.8%	-2.0%
Civilian Employment	107,200	96,700	96,100	100,400	4.5%	-6.3%
Civilian Unemployment	8,300	17,900	16,200	12,800	-21.0%	54.2%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	7.2%	15.6%	14.4%	11.3%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	4.2%	15.1%	13.9%	11.6%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	3.8%	11.2%	10.5%	8.5%		

Total, All Industries (2)	85,800	78,500	76,800	80,200	4.4%	-6.5%
Total Farm	15,600	14,600	14,700	15,100	2.7%	-3.2%
Total Nonfarm	70,200	63,900	62,100	65,100	4.8%	-7.3%
Total Private	52,800	47,300	48,000	48,600	1.3%	-8.0%
Goods Producing	14,000	12,300	12,500	12,600	0.8%	-10.0%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,700	-3.6%	-3.6%
Manufacturing	11,200	9,500	9,700	9,900	2.1%	-11.6%
Nondurable Goods	9,800	8,200	8,300	8,500	2.4%	-13.3%
Service Providing	56,200	51,600	49,600	52,500	5.8%	-6.6%
Private Service Providing	38,800	35,000	35,500	36,000	1.4%	-7.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,900	13,100	13,300	13,600	2.3%	-2.2%
Wholesale Trade	1,800	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0%	-22.2%
Retail Trade	8,300	8,800	8,900	9,000	1.1%	8.4%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	3,800	2,900	3,000	3,200	6.7%	-15.8%
Information	300	200	200	200	0.0%	-33.3%
Financial Activities	1,900	1,800	1,800	1,900	5.6%	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	4,400	3,900	4,100	4,100	0.0%	-6.8%
Educational & Health Services	10,700	10,100	10,000	10,200	2.0%	-4.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	6,100	4,600	4,700	4,600	-2.1%	-24.6%
Other Services	1,500	1,300	1,400	1,400	0.0%	-6.7%
Government	17,400	16,600	14,100	16,500	17.0%	-5.2%
Federal Government	700	700	700	1,000	42.9%	42.9%
State & Local Government	16,700	15,900	13,400	15,500	15.7%	-7.2%
State Government	3,500	2,700	2,700	3,000	11.1%	-14.3%
State Government Education	2,900	2,100	2,100	2,400	14.3%	-17.2%
State Government Excluding Education	600	600	600	600	0.0%	0.0%
Local Government	13,200	13,200	10,700	12,500	16.8%	-5.3%
Local Government Excluding Education	4,000	3,900	3,800	3,800	0.0%	-5.0%
Special Districts plus Indian Tribes	600	600	600	600	0.0%	0.0%

Notes:

(1) Civilian labor force data are by place of residence; include self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike. Data may not add due to rounding. The unemployment rate is calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Industry employment is by place of work; excludes self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike. Data may not add due to rounding.

These data are produced by the Labor Market Information Division of the California Employment Development Department (EDD). Questions should be directed to: Steven Gutierrez 559-230-4102 or Frances Gines 951-955-3204

These data, as well as other labor market data, are available via the Internet at <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>. If you need assistance, please call (916) 262-2162.

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**Monthly Labor Force Data for Cities and Census Designated Places (CDP)
August 2020 - Preliminary
Data Not Seasonally Adjusted**

Area Name	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment Number	Unemployment Rate	Census Ratios Emp	Census Ratios Unemp
Merced County	113,200	100,400	12,800	11.3%	1.000000	1.000000
Atwater city	11,800	10,400	1,400	11.6%	N/A	N/A
Delhi CDP	5,200	4,600	600	10.8%	0.046133	0.043455
Dos Palos city	2,100	1,900	200	8.6%	0.019164	0.014083
Gustine city	2,700	2,400	300	11.8%	0.023744	0.024879
Hilmar Irwin CDP	2,700	2,600	100	3.8%	0.025419	0.007913
Le Grand CDP	800	700	100	14.8%	0.006879	0.009321
Livingston city	6,400	6,000	400	5.8%	0.060202	0.028836
Los Banos city	16,700	14,400	2,200	13.5%	N/A	N/A
Merced city	34,500	30,100	4,400	12.7%	N/A	N/A
Planada CDP	2,000	1,700	300	14.2%	0.016963	0.021862
South Dos Palos CDP	800	600	200	22.7%	0.005914	0.013546
Winton CDP	5,000	4,000	900	18.7%	0.040200	0.072157

CDP is "Census Designated Place" - a recognized community that was unincorporated at the time of the 2014-2018 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS).

Notes:

- 1) Data may not add due to rounding. All unemployment rates shown are calculated on unrounded data.
- 2) These data are not seasonally adjusted.
- 3) N/A = Estimate created by Bureau of Labor Statistics

Methodology:

Monthly city labor force data are derived by multiplying current estimates of county employment and unemployment by the relative employment and unemployment shares (ratios) of each city at the time of the 2014-2018 American Community Survey. Ratios for cities were developed from special tabulations based on ACS employment, unemployment, and population and Census population from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For smaller cities and CDPs, ratios were calculated from published census data.

Monthly CDP's labor force data are derived by multiplying current estimates of county employment and unemployment by the relative employment and unemployment shares (ratios) of each CDP at the time of the 2014-2018 ACS survey. Ratios for CDPs' were developed from special tabulations based on ACS employment and unemployment from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This method assumes that the rates of change in employment and unemployment since the 2014-2018 American Community Survey are exactly the same in each city and CDP as at the

REPORT 400 C
Monthly Labor Force Data for Counties
August 2020 - Preliminary
Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

COUNTY	RANK BY RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	---	18,729,400	16,557,600	2,171,800	11.6%
ALAMEDA	35	806,200	727,100	79,200	9.8%
ALPINE	50	460	410	50	11.2%
AMADOR	32	14,200	12,880	1,320	9.3%
BUTTE	28	93,200	84,800	8,400	9.0%
CALAVERAS	6	20,570	19,020	1,550	7.5%
COLUSA	49	10,070	8,970	1,100	11.0%
CONTRA COSTA	35	535,700	483,200	52,400	9.8%
DEL NORTE	33	9,370	8,490	880	9.4%
EL DORADO	14	88,500	81,400	7,100	8.0%
FRESNO	47	444,200	395,800	48,400	10.9%
GLENN	17	12,410	11,400	1,010	8.1%
HUMBOLDT	21	59,200	54,200	4,900	8.4%
IMPERIAL	58	69,200	53,400	15,900	22.9%
INYO	5	8,190	7,580	610	7.4%
KERN	55	370,700	322,200	48,500	13.1%
KINGS	43	55,500	49,600	5,900	10.7%
LAKE	24	28,640	26,100	2,530	8.8%
LASSEN	1	8,970	8,370	600	6.7%
LOS ANGELES	57	4,929,600	4,111,400	818,300	16.6%
MADERA	39	61,800	55,600	6,200	10.0%
MARIN	4	132,400	123,200	9,300	7.0%
MARIPOSA	22	7,790	7,130	670	8.5%
MENDOCINO	24	36,840	33,620	3,230	8.8%
MERCED	52	113,200	100,400	12,800	11.3%
MODOC	2	3,060	2,860	210	6.8%
MONO	53	6,890	6,090	800	11.6%
MONTEREY	33	195,400	177,100	18,300	9.4%
NAPA	19	71,600	65,600	5,900	8.3%
NEVADA	14	45,510	41,860	3,650	8.0%
ORANGE	37	1,556,200	1,402,400	153,800	9.9%
PLACER	10	181,000	167,000	14,000	7.7%
PLUMAS	18	7,890	7,240	650	8.2%
RIVERSIDE	50	1,082,900	962,100	120,700	11.2%
SACRAMENTO	41	701,900	629,500	72,400	10.3%
SAN BENITO	31	30,400	27,600	2,800	9.2%
SAN BERNARDINO	45	949,900	847,600	102,400	10.8%
SAN DIEGO	37	1,559,100	1,404,700	154,300	9.9%
SAN FRANCISCO	24	565,700	515,900	49,800	8.8%
SAN JOAQUIN	54	322,100	283,700	38,400	11.9%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	13	129,600	119,500	10,200	7.8%
SAN MATEO	6	440,500	407,600	33,000	7.5%
SANTA BARBARA	14	210,600	193,800	16,800	8.0%
SANTA CLARA	6	1,024,100	947,200	76,900	7.5%
SANTA CRUZ	23	130,900	119,600	11,300	8.6%
SHASTA	19	72,700	66,700	6,000	8.3%
SIERRA	10	1,220	1,120	90	7.7%
SISKIYOU	29	15,790	14,350	1,440	9.1%
SOLANO	41	201,700	181,000	20,700	10.3%
SONOMA	10	252,000	232,500	19,500	7.7%
STANISLAUS	47	236,000	210,300	25,700	10.9%
SUTTER	43	41,800	37,300	4,400	10.7%
TEHAMA	24	24,310	22,170	2,140	8.8%
TRINITY	2	4,510	4,200	310	6.8%
TULARE	55	189,400	164,600	24,800	13.1%
TUOLUMNE	40	19,560	17,560	2,000	10.2%
VENTURA	29	406,500	369,600	36,900	9.1%
YOLO	6	103,800	96,000	7,800	7.5%
YUBA	45	28,000	25,000	3,000	10.8%

Notes

- 1) Data may not add due to rounding. The unemployment rate is calculated using unrounded data.
- 2) Labor force data for all geographic areas now reflect the March 2019 benchmark and Census 2010 population controls at the state level.

CITY OF MERCED

REQUEST FOR RESIDENT AND SERVICE PROVIDER PARTICIPATION; NOTICE OF 30-DAY REVIEW AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT; AND, NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2020-2024 FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND 2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Note: this public notice intends to inform City residents about multiple opportunities to participate in this process – see details of these opportunities further below:

1. Two Virtual Resident Discussion and Input Meetings via Microsoft Teams meeting link
2. A 30-day comment period, during which comments will be accepted regarding the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan draft documents.
3. Two City Council Public Hearings for preliminary and final review/approval of the draft plans

1. REQUEST FOR RESIDENT AND SERVICE PROVIDER PARTICIPATION

Virtual Resident Discussion and Input Meetings – Via Microsoft Teams Link

The City will be hosting two virtual meetings held online (instructions below):

MEETING #1 – Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.: this meeting will include a brief overview and presentation of preliminary drafts of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and the 2020 Annual Action Plan and the public comments that have been received to-date. Afterwards, City staff will receive any new comments that City residents may have, including requests to include any new community need priorities not already included in the Draft plans, and will answer any questions. MEETING #2 – Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.: this meeting will review all comments heard at the last meeting, and City staff will discuss the sections within the draft documents where the public's suggestions may potentially be applied for the final version if included. HOW TO ATTEND: You must pre-register by 2:00 p.m. the day of each meeting. Please email your request to housing@cityofmerced.org. If you are a resident, please include your name, email address, residential address, and a contact phone number. If you are a service provider, please include the organization name and name(s), email address(es), and contact phone numbers for all attendees from your organization. For all registration requests received, you will receive a return email with a Microsoft Teams link to the live online virtual meeting. Please pre-register by 2 p.m. on the day of each meeting to allow our staff time to respond with your link. Please send a separate pre-register request for each meeting date (do not combine into one email), with the meeting date in the subject line. Each meeting is anticipated to be one hour or more in length. If you need language interpretation services, please email your request as early as possible so that we can arrange for an interpreter to attend.

2. NOTICE OF 30-DAY REVIEW AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan 30-day Comment Period

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Merced will conduct a 30-day review beginning on October 2, 2020, and ending on November 2, 2020, regarding the development of the proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and the Fiscal Year 2020 (First Year) Annual Action Plan. The purpose of the 30-day review is to provide an opportunity for residents and interested organizations to express their views regarding the City's plans for use and expenditure of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Federal grant funds. During this 30-day period, comments will be accepted and considered for inclusion in the final drafts. HOW TO VIEW PLANS: Copies of the proposed 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 Annual Action Plan will be available for review at the following locations from October 2, 2020, through November 2, 2020.

City of Merced, Housing Division
2nd Floor Civic Center/City Hall
678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA

Housing Division Website:
www.cityofmerced.org/departments/economic-development/housing-division

Due to restrictions to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus, no other physical viewing locations are currently available. If public building restrictions are lifted before final review and approval, copies may be available at other locations if safe to do so. Updates will be posted on the City's website. HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, and to reduce the spread of COVID-19, comment submissions by email are strongly encouraged and preferred. You may email comments to: housing@cityofmerced.org. Please enter "ConPlan/AAP Comments" in the subject line of your email. Written comments may also be mailed and/or submitted in person to: Attn: Consolidated-Annual Action

Plan, City of Merced Housing Division, Merced Civic Center (2nd Floor), 678 W. 18th Street, Merced CA 95340. Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 2, 2020.

3. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

For Preliminary Review and Final Review and Approval of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, 2020 Annual Action Plan, and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Merced City Council will hold two virtual Public Hearings at the Council meetings of October 19, 2020, and November 16, 2020. The 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, 2020 Annual Action Plan, and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing draft documents will be presented in Final Preliminary Draft form at the October 19, 2020, Public Hearing. Following this first Public Hearing, all plans and documents will then be finalized and presented for final review and approval at a second Public Hearing to be held at the November 16, 2020, City Council meeting. Public comments for both scheduled Public Hearings will be accepted via normal City Council citizen participation procedures for virtual meetings. For instructions, please visit: www.cityofmerced.org/departments/city-clerk/council-meetings. ACCESSIBILITY: In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this process, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (209) 388-8650. Notification at least 48 hours prior to when services are needed will assist City staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility or service. Hmong and Spanish language translation will be provided for all submitted comments; however, please allow at least 48 hours in advance for translation of any written or voicemail comments submitted for each of the Public Hearings.

WHAT IS A CONSOLIDATED PLAN? - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has established three broadly framed National Objectives that guide and capture the range of community impacts that occur as a result of CDBG and HOME program activities: Creating Suitable Living Environments, Providing Decent Housing, and Creating Economic Opportunities. The Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) is a five-year strategic plan developed to determine how these objectives will be met over the next five years within the City of Merced city limits using its CDBG and HOME entitlement grant funds. The 2020-2024 ConPlan strategizes anticipated funding, objectives, and outcome goals for the 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 Program Years. Each Program Year of the ConPlan coincides with the City's fiscal year, which is July 1 through June 30 of each calendar year. WHAT IS THE ANNUAL ACTION PLAN? - Each year, the City of Merced receives a formula-based allocation of CDBG and HOME entitlement grant funds from HUD. The principal purpose of the Annual Action Plan is to show how these allocations will be expended during the coming year in a way that addresses the needs, priorities, and objectives contained in the City's ConPlan. The 2020 Annual Action Plan implements the first program year of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and is developed at the same time. The City's 2020 CDBG allocation is expected to be \$1,124,056, and the expected 2020 HOME allocation is \$542,776. WHAT IS THE ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE (AI)? - The AI focuses on actions, omissions, and decisions made because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin, which restrict, or have the effect of restricting, housing choices or the availability of housing choices in the City of Merced and is useful in helping to determine where and how funding should be spent to correct or improve those impediments to housing choice. While not subject to HUD's requirement for a 30-day public comment period, the Draft AI will be posted at the same location as the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan when the final draft is ready to view.

CITY OF MERCED PARKS AND RECREATION

PAINTING IN THE PARK

With Tonia Hemme

COST: FREE!

MUST PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND

All paint days will be at
Applegate Park Merced Open Air Theater.
Corner of N and 26th st.

ONE TIME REGISTRATION

October 10th

K-3rd: 10AM-12PM

4th-6th: 1:30PM- 3:30PM

October 17th

7th-12th: 10AM-12PM

November 14th

Fun Family Paint Day for all ages: 10AM-12PM
Max of 5 people per family

MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND
SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES WILL STILL BE IMPLEMENTED



http://



632 W. 18TH ST. MERCED, CA 95340 (209) 385-6235
CALL OR DROP BY OUR OFFICE TO REGISTER

PARKS & RECREATION

5TH ANNUAL TINY TOTS: HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN PARTY



COSTUMES ARE ENCOURAGED
AGES 2-10YRS
SPACE IS LIMITED **\$10**



October 21, 2020 | 4:30pm-7:30pm

Offering 2 time slots

Location: 1045 W. 25th Street
~Merced Applegate Park Zoo~



PUMPKIN DECORATING | HALLOWEEN CRAFTS |
PHOTO BOOTHS | HALLOWEEN ZOO MAZE

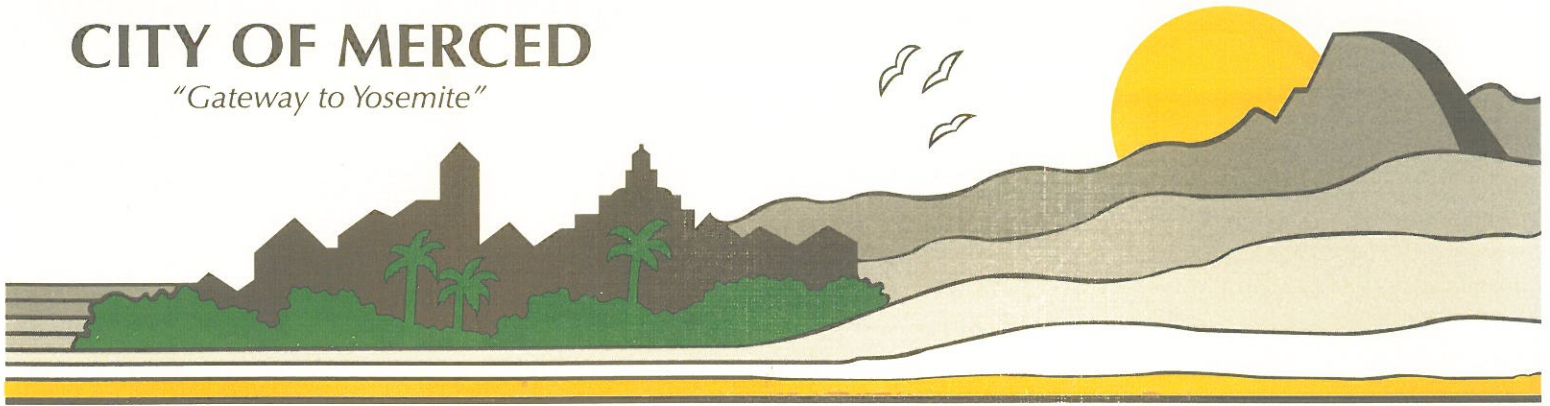


Pre-Register at 632 W.18th or call 385-6235



CITY OF MERCED

"Gateway to Yosemite"



POLICE DEPARTMENT • 611 West 22nd Street, Merced, California 95340

(209) 385-6912

MERCED POLICE ANNOUNCE EXPANDED LOBBY HOURS; ENHANCED PROPERTY SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: JAMIE BERTRAM 385-6912

MERCED – Effective immediately, the lobby of the police department's Central Station (611 W. 22nd St.) will remain open to the public two hours longer, four days a week.

The lobby and Records Unit, which has been closed on weekends and on business days at 4:00 p.m. for the last several years, will now remain open and staffed until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday to better serve the community. The lobby will continue to close to the public at 4:00 p.m. on Fridays.

According to Chief Tom Cavallero, the change is an effort to be sensitive to the needs of the community. "Those working traditional shifts, using public transportation or caring for school-aged children who are distance learning and need records-related services may have been challenged by the previous business hours. We hope this helps," said Cavallero.

Additionally, a Property Technician will remain available until 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays to accommodate those who need to collect personal effects or other items held by the police department.

Appointments with a Property Technician can be arranged by calling 385-6922.

The Central Station lobby and Records office will continue to close at 4:00 p.m. on Friday afternoons.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2020

Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project Wins \$20 Million BUILD Grant from USDOT, Only Rail Project Selected in Nation

STOCKTON, CA – The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has awarded a \$20 Million Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project. It is one of two awards to the State of California during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 cycle and the only rail project in the United States to be selected.

The BUILD grant application was prepared by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The \$237 million project would improve mobility through the busiest, most congested at-grade rail junction in California. The construction of a grade separation at this at-grade crossing will make this rail infrastructure more efficient and predictable for both current and future use.

“We greatly appreciate the support of Congressman McNerney, the entire Central Valley Congressional Delegation, USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao, FRA Administrator Ronald Batory, and both the BNSF Railway and Union Pacific Railroad for the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation effort,” said Christina Fugazi, Chair of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission. “Untangling the Diamond will provide immediate benefits to residents of Stockton, support our plans to expand both the ACE commuter rail service and San Joaquins intercity passenger rail service, and improve freight movements throughout the region. We are extremely proud that this was the only rail project in the nation to win a BUILD award.”

The proposed project is a critical element in SJRRRC’s vision to expand intercity and commuter rail service between the San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento, and the Bay Area. SJRRRC is currently in the planning and environmental phase of its nearly \$1 billion “Valley Rail” service expansion program for both the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) and Amtrak San Joaquins. [The Valley Rail Program](#) will implement two new daily round-trips for the Amtrak San Joaquins service and extend the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) service between Sacramento and Merced. It also supports converting the San Joaquins train and thruway bus network to renewable diesel fuel and is a key component to improving air quality in the region.

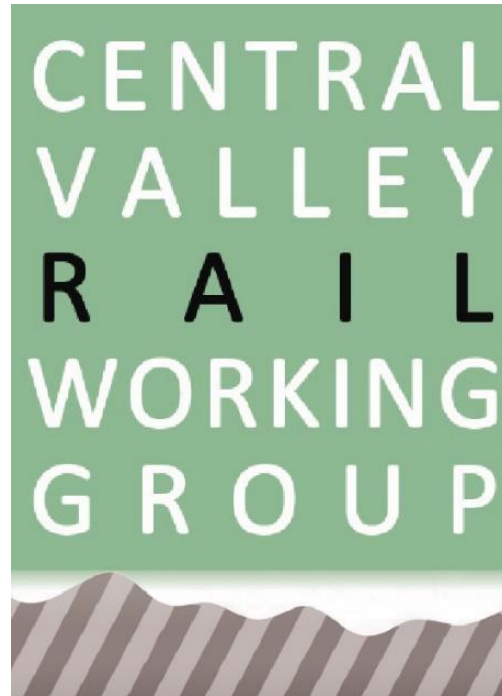
“This critical project will improve both passenger and freight rail while pushing economic growth in the San Joaquin Valley,” said Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin. “The project will help reduce delays, improve air quality and expand access to the Port of Stockton.”

On August 19, 2020, the [SJRRRC launched the Environmental Review process for the project](#), in cooperation with the Federal Railroad Administration and the California High Speed Rail Authority. For more information about the project and the environmental process underway, visit stocktondiamond.com.

“This project is a critical step in unlocking freight and passenger rail mobility in Northern California. The Stockton Diamond Grade Separation will fix one of the most congested rail corridors, enhance safety, reduce emissions and provide faster, more reliable passenger rail options for our riders,” said Kevin Sheridan, SJRRRC Director of Capital Projects and the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project Manager.

Seen as a regional priority, the federal grant application was supported by numerous local and state agencies and organizations. [\[Click Here to View Supporter List\]](#).

EXCERPT



Item 6

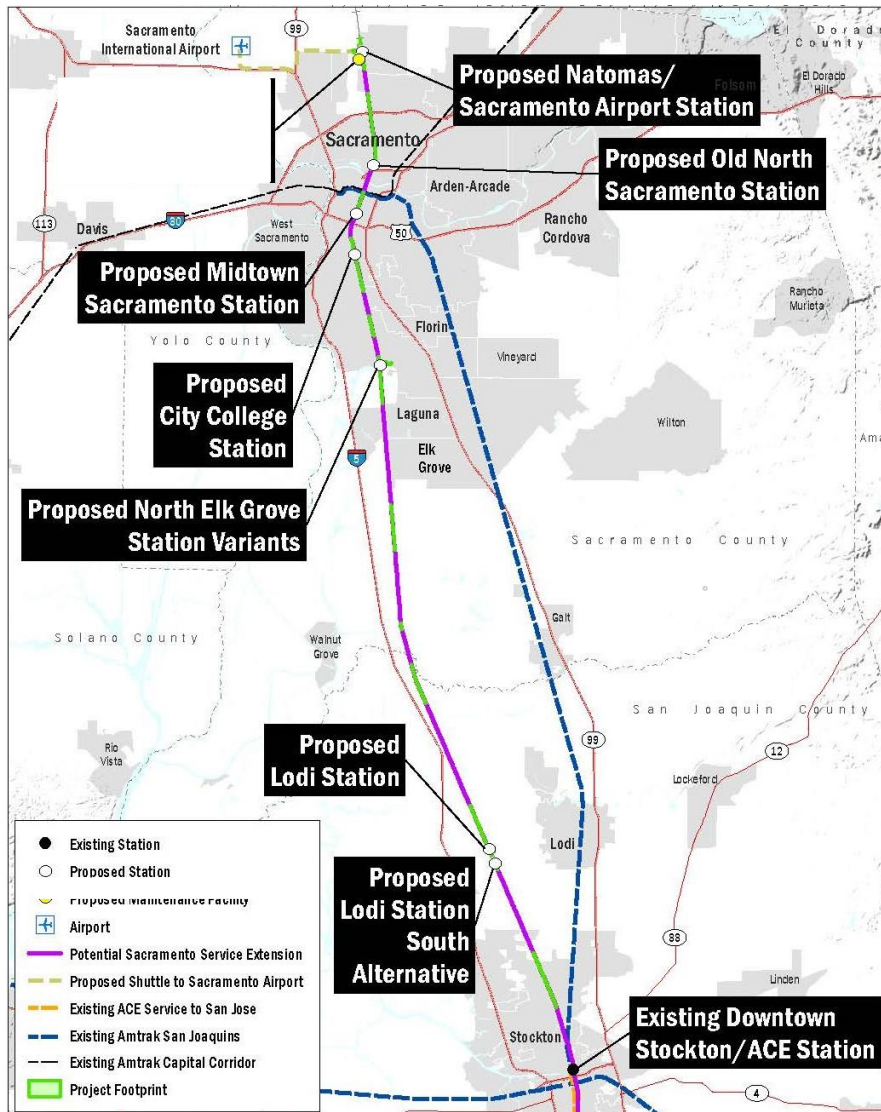
Valley Rail Program Update Environmental/Schedule & Progress

Kevin Sheridan



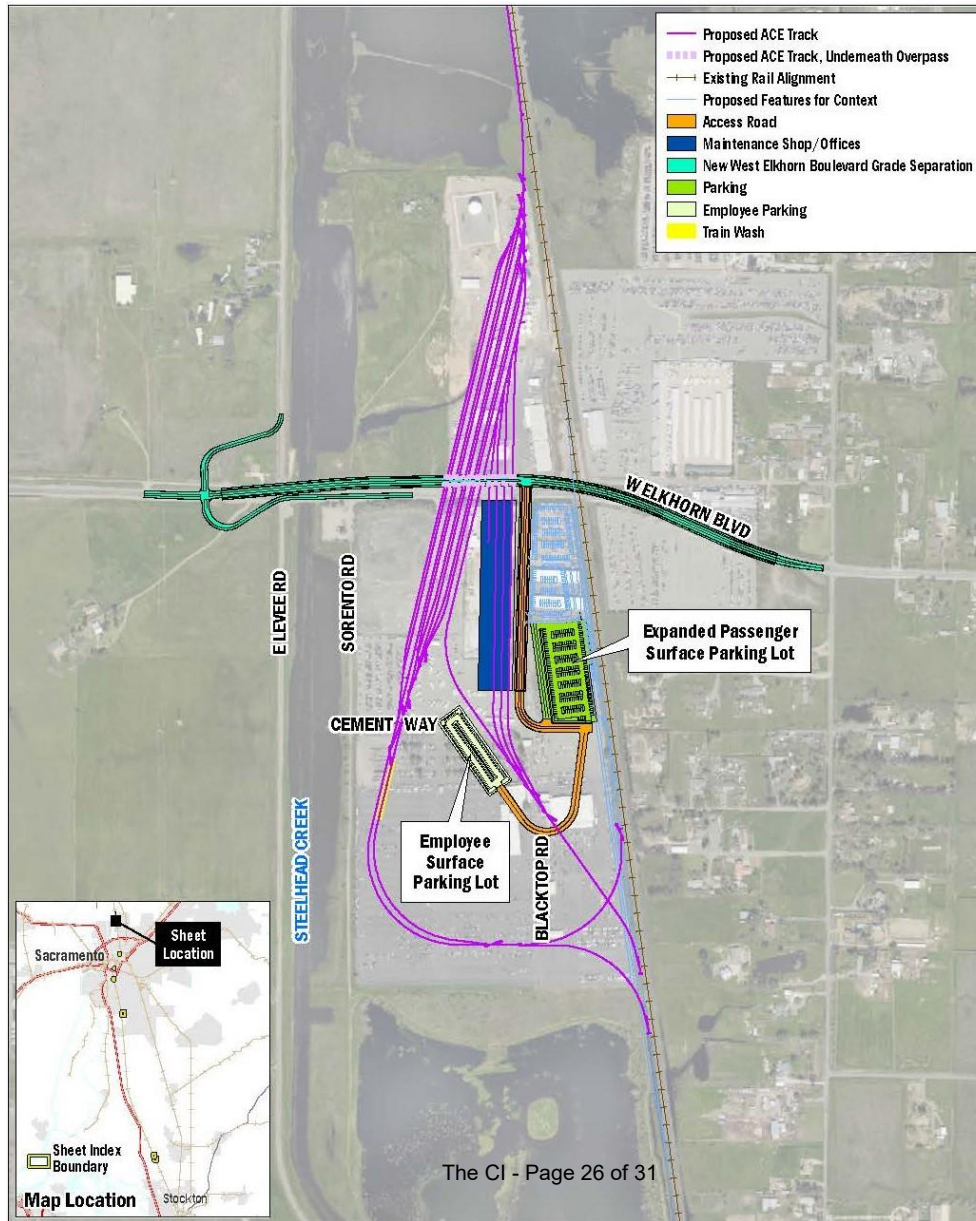
- Valley Rail Program includes expansion of both ACE and the San Joaquins Services
- Valley Rail is funded by the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and other state funding sources.

Overview of the Sacramento Extension

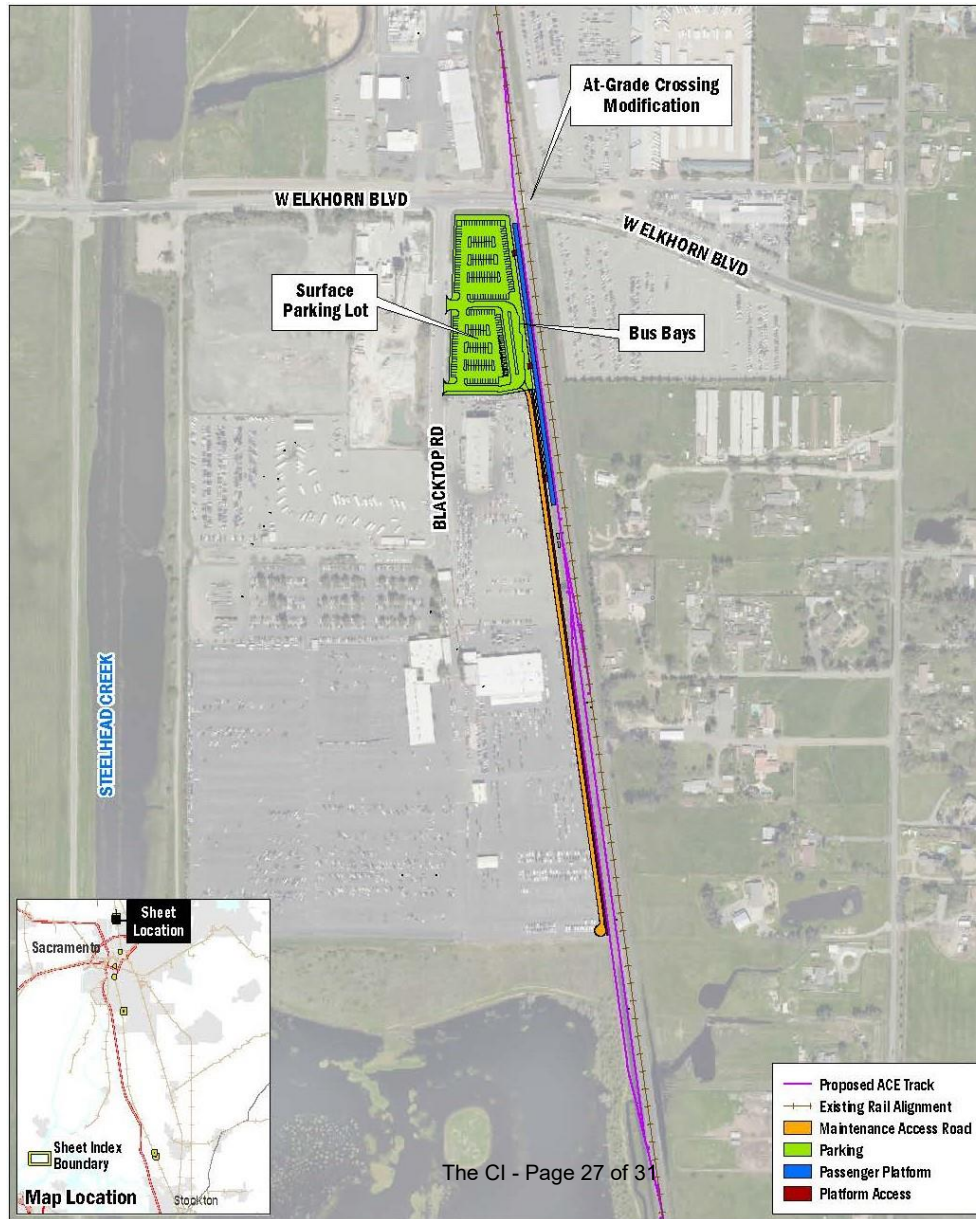


- Current service to Sacramento Valley Station is capped by UPRR
- Available service on the Sacramento subdivision by UPRR
- Service will support additional San Joaquins service and new ACE service

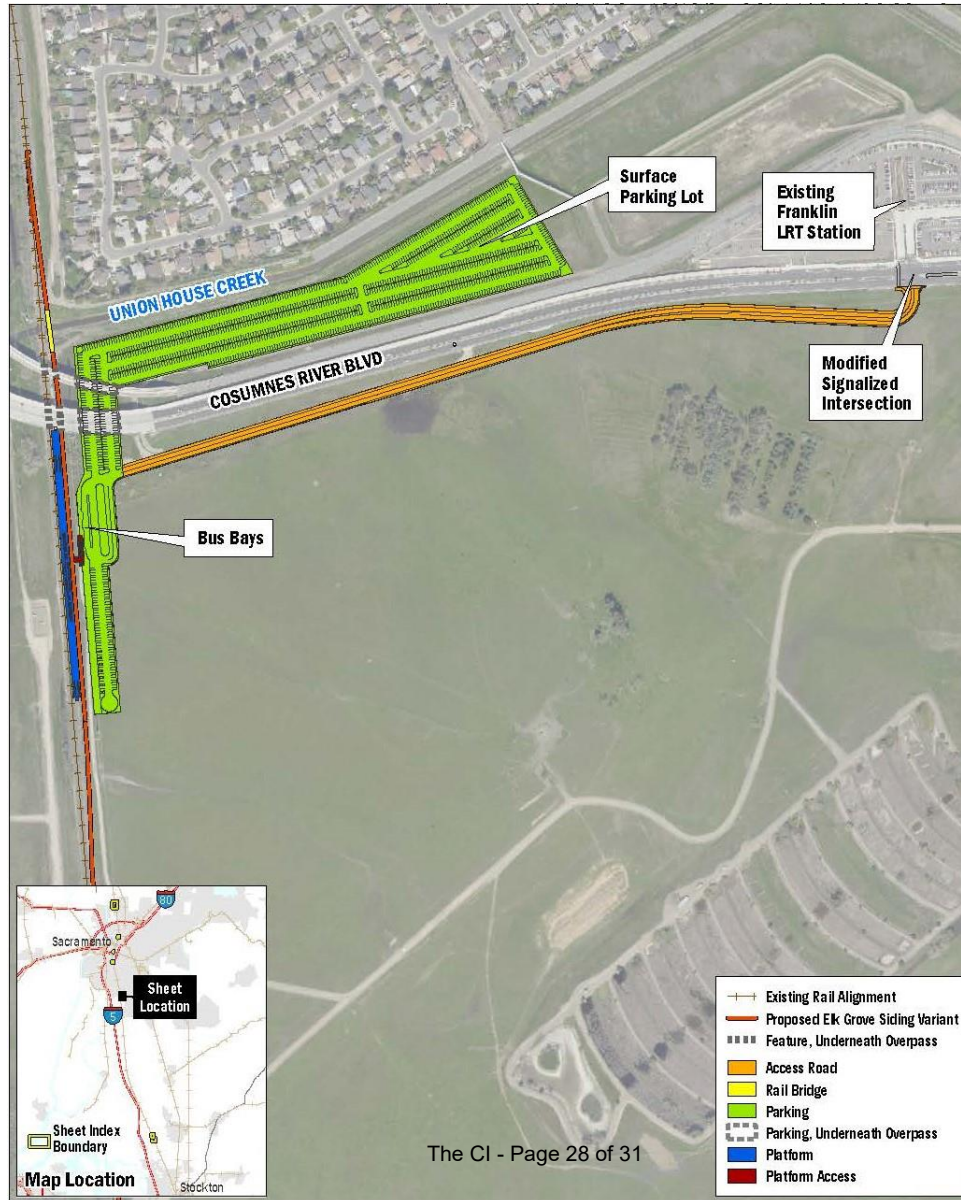
Removal of Phase 2 Maintenance Facility



Full Extent of Natomas Improvements



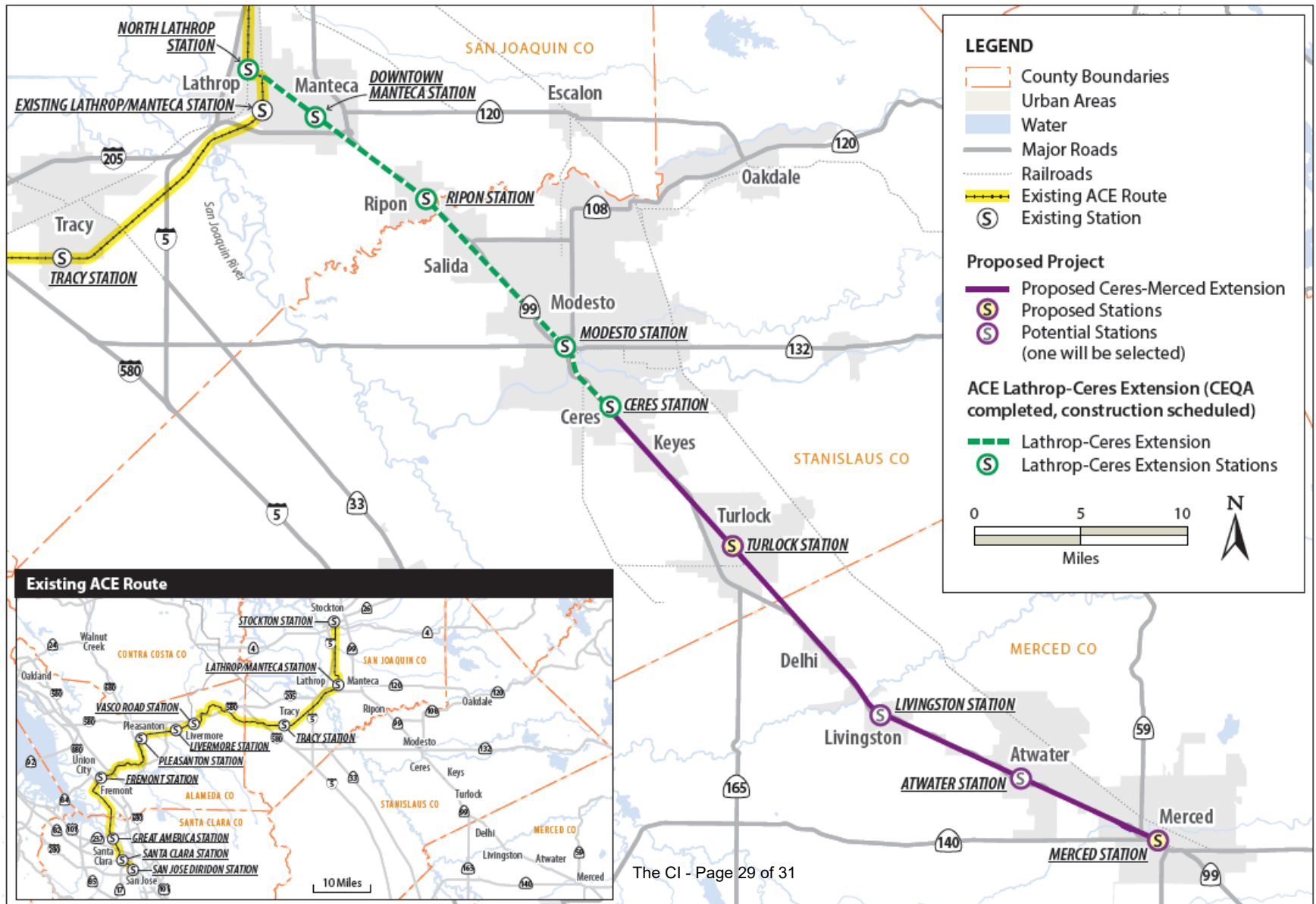
North Elk Grove Station Removed from Consideration



The CI - Page 28 of 31



Project Overview: Project Location





Project Overview:

Project Location (Close-Up View)





Key Project Milestones and Timeline

