

# NEWSLETTER

## CITY OF MERCED

### KIDS ON BIKES

Operation Get Out, with the support of its partners, led a successful Bike Give Away as a kick off to this weekend's Gran Fondo Hincapie event, donating 50 bikes and helmets to local kids. This initiative was made possible through collaboration with Mellow Johnny's Bike Shop, Hincapie Sports, Centurion Boats, Trek Bicycles, and the City of Merced.

The giveaway took place on Friday, March 14th, in the Sentinel Room inside the El Capitan Hotel. On Saturday, March 15th, these young cyclists will arrive early and kick off the ride, leading the group down the red carpet corral. The Boys & Girls Club of Merced played a key role in helping connect local kids with this opportunity.





## CELEBRATING DOWNTOWN GROWTH AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

**This week, the City of Merced came together to celebrate downtown Merced and the expansion of Bob Hart Square. The event brought together many dedicated downtown business owners, along with representatives from Senator Anna Caballero and Senator Alex Padilla's offices, to highlight the importance of our growing and vibrant downtown.**

**Downtown businesses have long been the heartbeat of our community. Their hard work, dedication, and investment have made downtown a place where people gather, connect, and support one another. The city expressed deep gratitude for their contributions in keeping Merced thriving.**

**As construction on Bob Hart Square progresses, the community looks forward to celebrating again at the upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremony. A big thank you goes out to all who joined in the festivities and to those who continue to invest in the future of downtown Merced.**





**BOB HART SQUARE CONCEPTUAL PLANS**

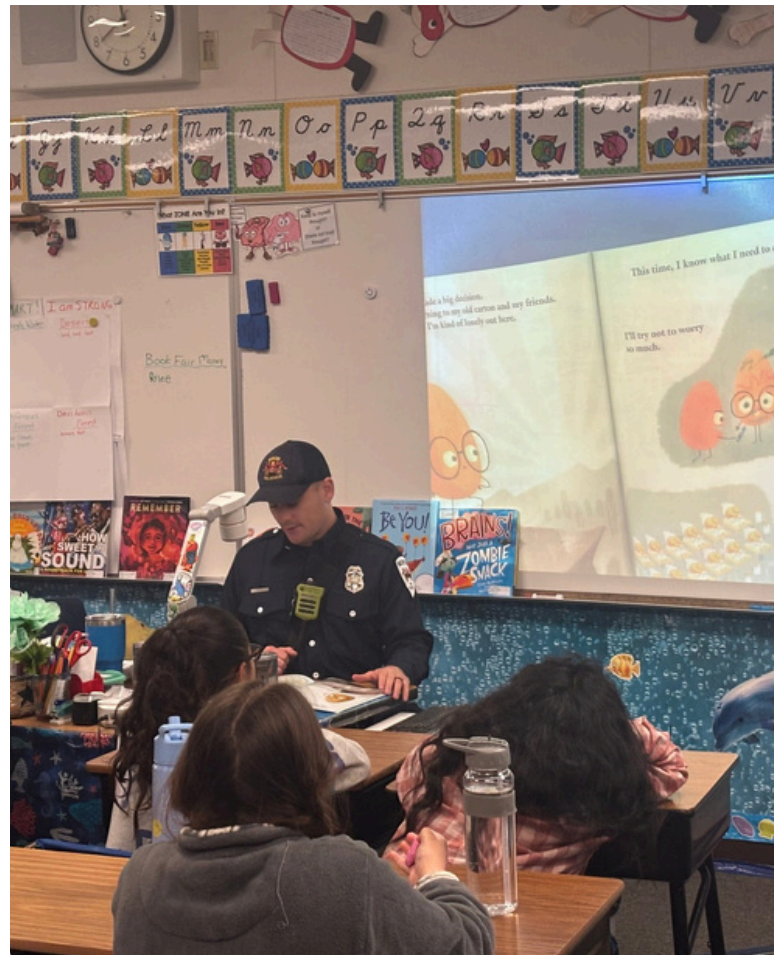


## PD AND FIRE BRING STORYTIME TO PIONEER ELEMENTARY

Earlier this week, Merced PD and Fire visited Pioneer Elementary to read to the students. The children were excited to have Officer Trevino and Firefighter Reid there and asked many questions. After listening the story, each student received a copy of the book to take home as a keepsake from the day.

A big thank you goes out to Starfish Assignment for donating the books and supporting the Books & Badges program.

And of course, thank you to Pioneer Elementary for the invitation. These visits help create meaningful experiences for the students.





## Progress Update: Stephen Leonard Building Rehabilitation Drywall Installation Completed for Kitchen & Bathrooms





## CMAQ SIDEWALK PROJECT TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

**The City is launching the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Sidewalk Project to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility. Funded by Measure V and a CMAQ grant, the project will fill sidewalk gaps in several neighborhoods, creating safer routes for residents and students.**

**The project involves installing new sidewalks, curb ramps, and driveways while restoring affected areas. Key locations include sections of Parkwest Street, McGregor Street, Windsor Avenue, Woodward Avenue, and Home Avenue. These improvements will enhance walkability, promote pedestrian activity, and provide safer access to community spaces.**

**Additionally, the City is working on a traffic signal synchronization project along major corridors to optimize road safety and efficiency, with completion expected in 2026.**





## **Community Park 42: Soil Preparation and Shade Structure Installation**

**Crews worked on soil amendments in the fields and began erecting the shade structure, making progress on the park's development.**





## MCE Airport Terminal: Exterior Siding Installed

**Crews completed the installation of the building's outside metal siding, marking a key step in the terminal's construction.**



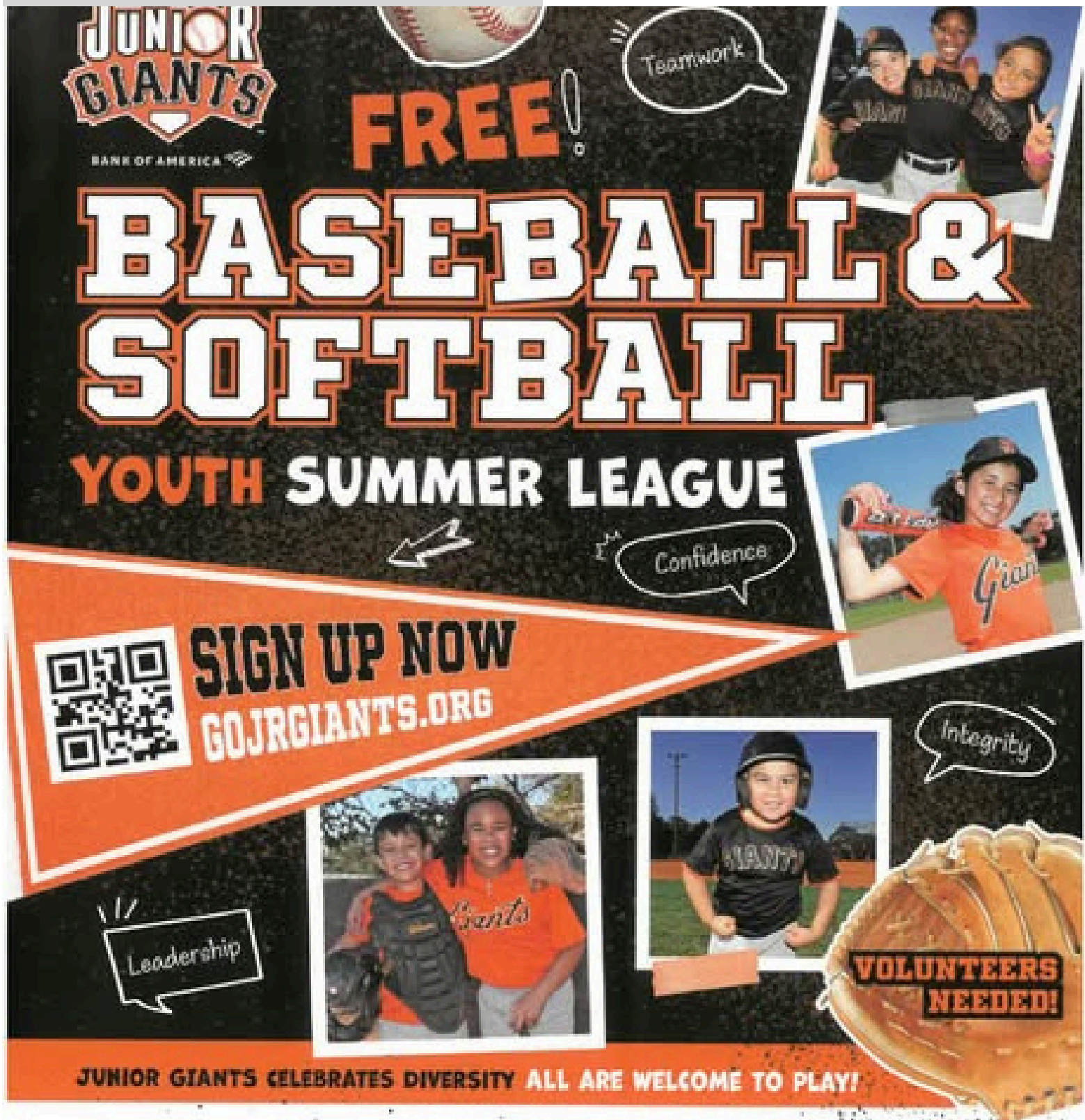


## Wastewater Treatment Plant: Stainless-Steel Pipes Installed

Crews completed the installation of the new stainless-steel pipes from the wet well to the headworks. The pumps are scheduled for installation soon.







**JUNIOR GIANTS**  
BANK OF AMERICA

**FREE!**

**BASEBALL & SOFTBALL**

**YOUTH SUMMER LEAGUE**

**SIGN UP NOW**  
[GOJRGIANIS.ORG](http://GOJRGIANIS.ORG)

**Teamwork**

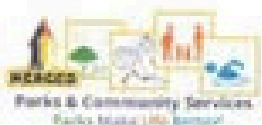
**Confidence**

**Integrity**

**Leadership**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**JUNIOR GIANTS CELEBRATES DIVERSITY ALL ARE WELCOME TO PLAY!**



**City of Merced**  
Sign up online starting April 1 at [gojrgiants.org](http://gojrgiants.org)!

League starts early June | Ages 5-13

For questions, please contact:

Sophia Ornelas

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# CITY OF MERCED

City Council Chamber  
Merced Civic Center  
678 W. 18th Street  
Merced, CA 95340

## Meeting Agenda

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, March 19, 2025

6:00 PM

City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Merced Civic  
Center, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340

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#### NOTICE TO PUBLIC

##### WELCOME TO THE MEETING OF THE MERCED PLANNING COMMISSION

At least 72 hours prior to each regular Planning Commission meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the City's website at [www.cityofmerced.org](http://www.cityofmerced.org) or at the Planning Division Office, 678 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340. All public records relating to an open session item that are distributed to a majority of the Commission will be available for public inspection at the Planning Division Office during regular business hours. The Planning Commission also serves as the Board of Zoning Adjustment and the Design Review/Historic Preservation Commission. Assisted hearing devices are available for meetings held in the Council Chamber.

##### PUBLIC COMMENT: OBTAIN SPEAKER CARD FROM THE CLERK

Members of the audience who wish to address the Planning Commission are requested to complete a speaker card available at the podium against the right-hand side of the Council Chamber. Please submit the completed card to the Clerk before the item is called, preferably before the meeting begins. Speakers will be called up, 3 to 5 at a time, in the order in which the forms are received. Please use the microphone and state your name and city of residence for the record. For permits, licenses, and other entitlements, the applicant will be allowed 15 minutes (including rebuttal), the appellant/leader of the opposition will be allowed 15 minutes (including rebuttal), and all other speakers shall have 3 minutes each, unless the number of speakers is over 10, which in that case, comments shall be limited to 2 minutes each. For all other issues, for 3 or less speakers, 3 minutes each and for over 10 speakers, 2 minutes each shall be allotted. A timer clock is located above the City Council dais illuminating the remaining time. Once the buzzer sounds, please be courteous and conclude your remarks.

Material may be emailed to [planningweb@cityofmerced.org](mailto:planningweb@cityofmerced.org) no later than 1 PM on the day of the meeting. Please specify which portion of the agenda you are commenting on, for example, Item # or Oral Communications. Your comments will be presented to the Planning Commission at the appropriate time. Any correspondence received after 1 PM will be distributed to the Planning Commission and retained for the official record.

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

##### A.1. Moment of Silence



## A.2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**B. ROLL CALL****C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public who wish to speak on any matter not listed on the agenda may speak during this portion of the meeting and will be allotted 3 minutes. The Chairperson may, at their discretion, reduce the time to 2 minutes if there are more than 10 speakers, in order to accommodate as many speakers as possible. State law prohibits the Planning Commission from acting at this meeting on any matter raised during the public comment period. Members of the public who wish to speak on a matter that is listed on the agenda will be called upon to speak during discussion of that item. Please submit a Request to Speak card prior to the item being called.

**D. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Adoption of the Consent Calendar may be made with one motion of the Planning Commission provided that any Planning Commission member, individual, or organization may request removal of an item from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration. If a request for removal of an item from the Consent Calendar has been received, the item will be discussed and voted on separately. With Consent items, there is generally no staff presentation but staff is available for questions.

**D.1**     [25-219](#)                      **SUBJECT:** Planning Commission Minutes of February 5, 2025

**ACTION:**

Approving and filing the Planning Commission Minutes of February 5, 2025

**E. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS**

Members of the public who wish to speak on public hearings listed on the agenda will be heard when the Public Hearing is opened, except on Public Hearing items previously heard and closed to public comment. After the public has commented, the item is closed to further public comment and brought to the Commission for discussion and action. Further comment will not be received unless requested by the Commission.

**E.1**     [25-077](#)                      **SUBJECT:** Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1335 ("Bellevue Ranch North Village 24") initiated by Benchmark Engineering, applicant for Hostetler Investments, LLC, property owner. This application involves a request to subdivide approximately 17.90 acres into 55 single-family lots within a gated community. The lots would range in size from approximately 8,000 square feet to approximately 18,000 square feet. The subject site is generally located on the west side of G Street, south of E. Old Lake Road, within Planned Development (P-D) #42, with a



General Plan designation of Low Density Residential (LD); \*PUBLIC HEARING\*.

**ACTION:** Approve/Disapprove/Modify

- 1) Environmental Review #24-41 (CEQA 15162 Findings)
- 2) Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1335

**SUMMARY**

The subject site is located west of G Street, south of E. Old Lake Road, as shown at Attachment B. The proposed subdivision would subdivide approximately 17.90 acres of land into 55 single-family lots within a gated community (Attachment C). The lots would generally range in size between 8,000 square feet and 18,000 square feet, with most of the lots being approximately 10,000 square feet.

This subject site is part of the Bellevue Ranch Master Development Plan and is commonly referred to as Village 24 (Attachment E). This subdivision would be the second phase of a gated community. The first phase of the gated community was approved in 2019 by the Planning Commission (Village 23 - 58 single-family lots on 23.20 acres) and is currently pending construction. Together Villages 23 and 24 would total 113 single-family lots within this gated community.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve Environmental Review #24-41 (CEQA Section 15162 Findings) and Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1335 - "Bellevue Ranch North Village 24" (including the adoption of the Draft Resolution) subject to the conditions in Exhibit A and the findings/considerations in Exhibit B of Draft Resolution #4148 at Attachment A of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-077.

**E.2**     [25-158](#)

**SUBJECT:** Conditional Use Permit #1284, initiated by Merced City School District, property owner. This application involves a request to build an off-campus education center at 2600 K Street. The subject site is generally located on the east side of K Street, approximately 75 feet north of West 26th Street. The subject site has a General Plan designation of Public/ General Use (PG) and a zoning classification of Low Density Residential, (R-1-6). \*\*PUBLIC HEARING\*\*



**ACTION:** Approve/Disapprove/Modify

- 1) Environmental Review #24-40 (*Categorical Exemption*)
- 2) Conditional Use Permit #1284

**SUMMARY**

Merced City School District is requesting conditional use permit approval to build an off-campus education center. The subject site currently has a steel building which would be demolished with approval of this conditional use permit, located on a 0.69-acre parcel on the east side of K Street, approximately 75 feet north of West 26th Street. Community Assembly uses are considered a conditional use within a Low Density Residential (R-1-6) Zone. The Planning Commission will be reviewing this proposal to ensure that the site plan is designed in a manner that minimizes negative impacts to the existing site and promotes compatible and orderly development with the surrounding uses. Staff is recommending approval with conditions.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Planning staff has reviewed this request and recommends that the Planning Commission approve Environmental Review #24-40 (Categorical Exemption) and Conditional Use Permit #1284, including the adoption of the Draft Resolution at Attachment A subject to the conditions in Exhibit A and the findings/considerations in Exhibit B.

**E.3**     [25-184](#)**SUBJECT:**

General Plan Amendment #24-02/ Site Utilization Plan Revision #3 to Planned Development #20/ Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1332 / Site Plan #551/ Minor Use Permit #24-13, initiated by Eric Gonsalves, on behalf of Yosemite 1380 LLC, property owner. The General Plan Amendment would change the General Plan land use designation from Commercial Office (CO) to Business Park (BP) for 2.72 acres and from Commercial Office (CO) to High Medium Density (HMD) residential for the remaining 4.48 acres. The Site Utilization Plan Revision would change the land use designation within P-D #20 from Commercial Office to Self-Storage for 2.72 acres and to Single-Family Residential (Gated Community) for the remaining 4.48 acres. The Minor Use Permit would be for interface review to allow commercial development adjacent to or across from a Low Density Residential (R-1-6) Zone. The Site Plan Review Permit would allow the development a self-storage facility (approximately 500 storage units). The vesting tentative subdivision map would divide the self-storage from the residential lots and create the 41 residential lots. \*PUBLIC



HEARING\***ACTION:**

## PLANNING COMMISSION:

Recommendation to City Council:

- 1) Environmental Review #24-25 (*Negative Declaration*)
- 2) General Plan Amendment #24-02
- 3) Site Utilization Plan Revision #3 to Planned Development #20

Approve/Disapprove/Modify:

- 1) Environmental Review #24-25 (*Negative Declaration*)
- 2) Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1332
- 3) Site Plan Review Permit #551
- 4) Minor Use Permit #24-13  
[subject to City Council approval of General Plan Amendment #24-02, and Site Utilization Plan Revision #3 to Planned Development #20]

## CITY COUNCIL:

Approve/Disapprove/Modify:

- 1) Environmental Review #24-25 (*Negative Declaration*)
- 2) General Plan Amendment #24-02
- 4) Site Utilization Plan Revision #3 to Planned Development #20

**SUMMARY**

The Project site consists of two parcels that total approximately 8.05 acres located at 1380 Yosemite Avenue (APN: 006-050-068) and 3595 Parsons Avenue (APN: 006-050-072) (Attachment C). The subject site has a General Plan designation of Commercial Office (CO) and a Zoning classification of Planned Development #20. The subject site is surrounded by a variety of uses which include residential to the east, south, and west, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection to the north and University Surgery Center immediately to the northeast vicinity of the project site.

The applicant is requesting approval to develop a gated community (41 single-family homes) and a self-storage facility. 17 of the 41 of the residential lots would be single story single-family homes and the remaining 24 would be two-story single-family homes. The proposed residential lots would range in size between 2,160 square feet and 5,374 square feet. These lots would be located within the southern portion of the subject site and would total approximately 4.48 acres. The remainder 2.72



acres would be used to establish a self-storage facility. The northern portion of the parcel along E. Yosemite Avenue, would be reserved for the self-storage with approximately 500 storage units. The applicant has provided a site plan floor plans, and elevations (Attachment E) for this proposal.

### RECOMMENDATION

#### General Plan Amendment Site Utilization Plan Revision to Planned Development

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval to the City Council of Environmental Review #24-25 (Negative Declaration), General Plan Amendment #24-02, and Site Utilization Plan Revision #3 to Planned Development #20 (including the adoption of the Draft Resolution at Attachment A) subject to the conditions in Exhibit A and the findings/considerations in Exhibit B of the Draft Resolution.

#### Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map, Site Plan Review, and Minor Use Permit

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1332, Site Plan #551 and Minor Use Permit #24-13 (including the adoption of the Draft Resolution at Attachment B) subject to the conditions in Exhibit A, the findings/considerations in Exhibit B, and the Mitigation Monitoring Program in Exhibit C of the Draft Resolution, and contingent upon City Council approval of General Plan Amendment #24-02 and Site Utilization Plan Revision #3 to Planned Development #20.

## F. INFORMATION ITEMS

- F.1**     [25-220](#)     **SUBJECT:** Report by Temporary Director of Development Services of Upcoming Agenda Items

### ACTION

Information only.

- F.2**     [25-221](#)     **SUBJECT:** Calendar of Meetings/Events

Mar.	17	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	19	Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.
Apr.	7	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	9	Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.
	21	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	22	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, 4:00 p.m.

	23	Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m. <b>(May Be Cancelled)</b>
May	5	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	7	Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.
	19	City Council, 6:00 p.m.
	21	Planning Commission, 6:00 p.m.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**