

CITY OF MERCED
Planning Commission

Resolution #4153

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2025, the Merced City Planning Commission at its regular meeting held a public hearing to consider **Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1332 and Environmental Review #24-25 (Negative Declaration)** initiated by Eric Gonsalves, on behalf of Yosemite 1380 LLC, property owner for the property located at 1380 E Yosemite Avenue and 3595 Parsons Avenue. The Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map would divide the self-storage from the residential lots and create 28, single-family, residential lots. The approximate 8.05-acre subject site is generally located on the southwest corner of E. Yosemite Ave and Parsons Ave. The property being more particularly described as Lots “A” and “B”, as shown on the certain map entitled “Oakmount Village Unit No. 5”, recorded in Volume 46, page 38 of Merced County Records; also known as Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) 006-050-068 and 006-050-072; and,

WHEREAS, at this meeting, the Merced City Planning Commission voted 3-2 in favor of approving Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1332, Site Plan Review #558, Minor Use Permit #24-13 and Environmental Review #24-25 (Negative Declaration); and,

WHEREAS, Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1332 and Environmental Review #24-25 (Negative Declaration) were deemed approved as these item required a simple majority vote by the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, Site Plan Review #558, and Minor Use Permit #24-13 were deemed denied since they failed to receive the required four (4) affirmative votes pursuant of Merced Municipal Code section 20.64.040 (e) and a separate resolution was prepared for this entitlement; and,

WHEREAS, the resolution for approval of Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1332 and Environmental Review was updated to reflect the approval of this entitlement only, and brought back to the Planning Commission for their meeting on November 5, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the Merced City Planning Commission concurs with Findings/Considerations A through J of Staff Report #25-835 (Exhibit B of Planning Commission Resolution #4153); and,

WHEREAS, the Merced City Planning Commission concurs with the Findings for Tentative Subdivision Map Requirements in Merced Municipal Code Section 18.16.80, 18.16.90, and 18.16.100 as outlined in Exhibit B ; and,

NOW THEREFORE, after reviewing the City’s Initial Study and Draft Environmental Determination, and fully discussing all the issues, the Merced City Planning Commission does resolve to hereby adopt a Negative Declaration regarding Environmental Review #24-

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25, and approve Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1332, subject to the Conditions set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

Upon motion by Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioner(s)

NOES: Commissioner(s)

ABSENT: Commissioner(s)

ABSTAIN: Commissioner(s)

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November 17, 2025

Adopted this 5th day of November 2025

Chairperson, Planning Commission of
the City of Merced, California

ATTEST:

Secretary

Exhibits:

Exhibit A – Conditions of Approval

Exhibit B – Findings/Considerations

Conditions of Approval
Planning Commission Resolution # 4153
Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1332

1. The proposed project shall be constructed/designed as shown on Exhibit 1 (Site Plan, Floor Plans and Elevation at Attachments E and F of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-835), and as modified by the conditions of approval within this resolution.
2. The Project shall comply with all applicable conditions set forth in the resolutions for Annexation No. 137 (Southwest Yosemite and Parsons Annexation) previously approved for this site.
3. All other applicable codes, ordinances, policies, etc., adopted by the City of Merced shall apply.
4. The developer/owner is required to finance the annual operating costs for police and fire services as well as storm drainage, public landscaping, street trees, streetlights, parks and open space, which may include a financing mechanism such as a Community Facilities District (CFD) or, assessment district. Procedures for financing these services and on-going maintenance shall be initiated before final map approval or issuance of a certificate of occupancy for any building, whichever comes first. Developer/Owner shall submit a request agreeing to such a procedure, waiving right to protest and post deposit as determined by the City Engineer to be sufficient to cover procedure costs and maintenance costs expected prior to first assessments being received.
5. The developer/applicant shall indemnify, protect, defend (with counsel selected by the City), and hold harmless the City, and any agency or instrumentality thereof, and any officers, officials, employees, or agents thereof, from any and all claims, actions, suits, proceedings, or judgments against the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, and any officers, officials, employees, or agents thereof to attack, set aside, void, or annul, an approval of the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, advisory agency, appeal board, or legislative body, including actions approved by the voters of the City, concerning the project and the approvals granted herein. Furthermore, developer/applicant shall indemnify, protect, defend, and hold harmless the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, against any and all claims, actions, suits, proceedings, or judgments against any governmental entity in which developer/applicant's project is subject to that other governmental entity's approval and a condition of such approval is that the City indemnify and defend (with counsel selected by the City) such governmental entity. City shall promptly notify the

EXHIBIT A

OF PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION #4153

developer/applicant of any claim, action, suits, or proceeding. Developer/applicant shall be responsible to immediately prefund the litigation cost of the City including, but not limited to, City's attorney's fees and costs. If any claim, action, suits, or proceeding is filed challenging this approval, the developer/applicant shall be required to execute a separate and formal defense, indemnification, and deposit agreement that meets the approval of the City Attorney and to provide all required deposits to fully fund the City's defense immediately but in no event later than five (5) days from that date of a demand to do so from City. In addition, the developer/applicant shall be required to satisfy any monetary obligations imposed on City by any order or judgment.

6. The developer/applicant shall construct and operate the project in strict compliance with the approvals granted herein, City standards, laws, and ordinances, and in compliance with all State and Federal laws, regulations, and standards. In the event of a conflict between City laws and standards and a State or Federal law, regulation, or standard, the stricter or higher standard shall control.
7. The project shall comply with all requirements of the California Building Code and all flood requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as well as the requirements for the California Urban Level of Flood Protection (CA 200-year flood).
8. All landscaping in the public right-of-way shall comply with State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 2015-0032 "To Adopt an Emergency Regulation for Statewide Urban Water Conservation" and the City's Water Conservation Ordinance (Merced Municipal Code Section 15.42). Xeriscape or artificial turf shall be used in place of natural sod or other living ground cover. If turf is proposed to be installed in park-strips or on-site, high quality artificial turf (approved by the City Engineer and Development Services Director) shall be installed. All irrigation provided to street trees, parking lot trees, or other landscaping shall be provided with a drip irrigation or micro-spray system. All landscaping shall comply with the City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MMC Section 20.36.030).
9. All landscaping shall be kept healthy and maintained in good condition and any damaged or missing landscaping shall be replaced immediately.
10. Trees and or fast-growing vines or other plants shall be planted on or near the block wall along E Yosemite Avenue to soften the visibility of the site. Details to be worked out with Planning staff during the building permit stage.

11. Full public improvements shall be installed/repared if the permit value of the project exceeds \$100,000.00. Public improvements may include, but not be limited to, repairing/replacing the sidewalk, curb, gutter, and street corner ramp(s), so that they comply with ADA standards and other relevant City of Merced/State/Federal standards and regulations.
12. Any missing or damaged improvements along the property frontage shall be installed/repared to meet City Standards. Any improvements that don't meet current City Standards shall be replaced to meet all applicable standards.
13. The applicant shall work with the City's Refuse Department to determine the proper location for a trash enclosure at the self-storage facility and if a recycling container will be required to comply with AB 341. The container(s) shall be enclosed within a refuse enclosure built to City Standards.
14. All mechanical equipment shall be screened from public view.
15. The parking lot layout shall comply with all applicable City Standards. Parking lot trees shall be provided at a ratio of one tree for every six parking spaces provided for customers (this does not apply to the long-term parking spaces). These trees shall be installed per the City's Parking Lot Landscape Standards, shall be a minimum of 15-gallons, and be of a type that provides a 30-foot minimum canopy at maturity (trees shall be selected from the City's approved tree list).
16. The driving aisles of the self-storage facility shall be paved with an impervious surface, as approved by the City Engineer.
17. The driving aisles in the self-storage facility and internal streets in the residential subdivision shall be designed to meet all City of Merced Engineering and Fire Department requirements, including those pertaining to turning radius, unless otherwise approved by the city engineer.
18. All vehicular gates shall be provided with a "click-to-enter" access and remote controls shall be provided to the City of Merced Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. The device used shall be approved by the City prior to installation.
19. All gates shall be provided with a Knox box, as required by the Fire Department.
20. All service drives including the access and egress gates shall be posted as Fire Lanes. All signs and markings shall be as required by the Fire Department.
21. The developer shall use proper dust control procedures during site development in accordance with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District rules.

22. Parking lot lights and building lights shall be shielded or oriented in a way that does not allow “spill-over” onto adjacent lots or be a nuisance to adjacent residential properties. This shall be done in compliance with the California Energy Code requirements. Any lighting on the building shall be oriented to shine downward and not spill-over onto adjacent parcels.
23. The project shall comply with all the Post Construction Standards required to comply with State requirements for the City’s Phase II MS-4 Permit (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System).
24. The self-storage facility may operate daily between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Hours of operation may be adjusted at the discretion of the Director of Development Services.
25. Dwelling within the storage units is prohibited
26. Minor modifications to the site plan, floor plan, or elevations may be reviewed and approved by the Director of Development Services as allowed by Merced Municipal Code Section 20.20.020 (O).
27. This resolution for a Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map (VTSM #1332) does not become effective until the General Plan Amendment (GPA #24-02) and Site Utilization Plan Revision (#3 to Planned Development #20) are approved by the City Council.
28. Lots 1-15 as shown on the map at Attachment F of Staff Report #25-835 shall be single story.
29. Additional fire access shall be available via a gate connecting the residential subdivision and the parking lot to the medical offices to the north.
30. There must be a minimum 26-foot-wide unobstructed area around all the hydrants within the subdivision or one side of the road must be a permanent fire lane to comply with Fire Department requirements. Details to be reviewed and approved by the Fire Department prior to building permit approval.
31. The applicant shall dedicate all necessary street right-of-way and easements as needed for irrigation, utilities, drainage, landscaping, and open space during the Final Map stage as required by the City Engineer.
32. The developer shall provide all utility services to each lot, including sanitary sewer, water, electric power, gas, telephone, and cable television, or as otherwise required by the City engineer. All new utilities are to be undergrounded.

33. All streets within the subdivision shall be private streets and shall be privately maintained. An easement for utilities and access shall be granted to the City of Merced with the Final Map.
34. Any work done by the City of Merced to maintain utilities shall be restored to City Standards. Any decorative treatments shall be the responsibility of the Homeowner's Association (HOA) to repair/replace.
35. The gates at the entrances shall be setback a minimum of 20 feet from the roadway to allow stacking room for at least two vehicles. Gate width on each side of the entrance/exit shall be at least 14 feet wide.
36. Fire hydrants shall be installed along street frontages and throughout the gated subdivision to provide fire protection to the area. The hydrants shall meet all City of Merced standards and shall comply with all requirements of the City of Merced Fire Department. Final location of the fire hydrants shall be determined by the Fire Department.
37. All dwellings shall be designed to include fire sprinklers as required by the California Fire Code.
38. The developer shall provide construction plans and calculations for all landscaping and public maintenance improvements. All such plans shall conform to City standards and meet approval of the City Engineer.
39. Plans shall meet current codes at the time of building permit application submittal. Building permit applications shall comply with the newest enacted California Building Codes. Plans shall be drawn by a licensed California design professional.
40. At the building permit stage, the site plans for each lot shall include a minimum 3-foot by 6-foot concrete pad located in the side yard or backyard for the storage of 3 refuse containers.
41. All undeveloped areas shall be maintained free of weeds and debris.
42. Sewer manholes shall be installed as required by the Engineering Department (if needed).
43. The developer shall establish a Homeowner's Association (HOA) (or approved alternative) governing this project. The HOA shall be responsible for the maintenance of all streets and landscaping within the development as well as sweeping/cleaning of all interior streets. Prior to the Final Map approval, the HOA and any Conditions, Covenants and Restrictions (CC&R's) shall be reviewed and approved by the City Attorney.

**Findings and Considerations
Planning Commission Resolution # 4153
Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1332**

FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS:

General Plan Compliance and Policies Related to This Application

- A) If the General Plan Amendment is approved, the norther 3.02 acres of the proposed project would comply with the General Plan land use designation of Business Park (BP), which allows self-storage facilities with a Site Plan Review permit. The southern 4.85 acres of the proposed would comply with the General Plan Designation of Low Medium Density (LMD) residential which allows for residential subdivisions. The project would also comply with the Zoning classification of Planned Development (P-D) #20 with the change in land use designation from Commercial Office to low Medium Density Residential and Self-Storage.

The proposed project, with conditions of approval, will help achieve the following General Plan land use policies:

Policy L-3.2: Encourage Infill Development and a Compact Urban Form

The proposed project would develop an approximate 8.05-acre site that has been vacant for decades. Developing this site addresses some maintenance issues associated with undeveloped parcels, such as overgrown weeds (fire hazard), vandalism, and loitering which could impact neighboring parcels. In addition, infill development is an efficient use of development that utilizes existing infrastructure within City limits as opposed to annexing land that requires expanding City infrastructure and services.

Traffic/Circulation

- B) The proposed development includes a self-storage facility with approximately 500 storage units, and a residential subdivision located on an approximately 8.05-acre vacant parcel located at 1380 E Yosemite Avenue and 3595 Parsons Avenue. The project site fronts an arterial road to the north (E. Yosemite Avenue) and a collector road to the east (Parsons Avenue). Vehicle access would be available from a driveway along E. Yosemite Avenue and Parsons Avenue. The nearest major north-south road being G Street (arterial road) which is designed to carry large volumes of traffic traveling throughout the

community. G Street provides access to Highway 99 that connects Merced with other regional communities throughout the State.

Vehicle Miles Traveled

The self-storage facility project is comprised of land uses estimated to generate 109 vehicle trips per day, and the residential portion is estimated to generate 264 vehicle trips per day totaling 373 vehicle trips per day. Based on the MCAG guidelines, projects that are low trip generators can be screened out of a quantitative VMT Analysis. Projects that are consistent with the Merced Vision 2030 General Plan have a low trip generator threshold of 1,000 average daily trips, and projects that are not consistent with the Merced Vision 2030 General Plan have a low trip generator threshold of 500 average daily trips. This Project is not consistent with the Merced Vision 2030 General Plan, but generates less than 500 daily trips. As a result, this Project is screened out from a quantitative VMT analysis and this Report serves as the required VMT Analysis, for this Project.

Improvements

The development requires the construction of a street network connecting the residential subdivision to Parsons Ave. This street network shall be built to Merced City Standards (Condition #17 Planning Commission Resolution #4133 – Attachment B of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-835). This may require making minor modifications to the site plan that would need to be reviewed and approved by the Director of Development Services.

Public Improvements/City Services

- C) Any damaged or missing public improvements shall be repaired if the permit value of the project exceeds \$100,000.00. The need for repairs or replacement of any missing improvements would be evaluated at the building permit stage by the City's Engineering Department (Condition #11).

Parking

- D) Per Merced Municipal Code Table 20.38 -1- Off Street Parking Requirements, the parking requirements for Public/Mini Storage is 1 parking stall per 50 storage units or 5 spaces, whichever is greater. Based on the proposed 500 storage units, the site is required to have at least 10 parking stalls. With the office unit, the site should have a minimum of 11 parking spaces. The proposed project meets these requirements by providing 16 parking spaces for the self-storage facility.

The parking requirements for Single Family Dwellings is 1 parking stall per unit. The proposed residential development proposes a two-car garage per unit which would meet and exceed the parking requirements.

Site Design

- E) The proposed development includes a residential subdivision of 28 lots and a self-storage facility. Of the 28 residential lots, lots 1-15 would be single story homes and lots 16-28 would be a mix of single- and two-story homes. The proposed residential lots would range in size between 4,365 square feet and 8,930 square feet. These lots would be located within the southern portion of the subject site on approximately 4.85 acres. The remaining 3.02 acres would be used to establish a self-storage facility.

Development Standards for the 28 residential lots shall meet standards set on Attachment G - Planned Development Standards of Staff Report #25-835. Because this site has a zoning classification of Planned Development, the building design/elevations shall be reviewed and approved by Planning Staff prior to issuance of a building permit for this subdivision. The minimum parking requirement for single-family homes is one parking space per unit. However, each one of these units would have two parking spaces located within a garage.

The northern portion of the parcel along E. Yosemite Avenue, would be reserved for the self-storage facility with approximately 500 storage units. The applicant has provided a site plan, floor plans, and elevations for this proposal. Attachment E illustrates the proposed structures (Site Plan, Floor Plan, and Elevations). The storage facility would be composed of five storage buildings; the office would be attached into one of those storage buildings. The office would be the most visible structure to the public located along E Yosemite Avenue. The exterior of the office would consist of terra cotta tile roofing, walls with stucco finish, stone veneer accents, and storefront windows. The storage spaces would range in dimensions between 5 feet by 5 feet, and 10 feet by 25 feet. The storage buildings would have a metal finish. The back of the storage units along the eastern, southern and western property lines would consist of a 12 to 14-foot-tall block wall. The northern property line would be secured with a wrought iron perimeter fence.

Elevations

- F) The elevations shown at Attachment E illustrate the proposed structures for this project. The ground floor leasing office would be front facing E. Yosemite Avenue. This structure would be approximately 27 feet tall with the exterior consisting of concrete walls, columns and beam finish carborundum-rubbed and painted, and storefront windows.

The storage units along the southern property line would range in dimension between 5 feet by 10 feet, and 10 feet by 12 feet. The storage units would be approximately 16 feet in height. The back of the storage units along the eastern, southern, and western property lines would consist of a 12 to 14-foot-tall block wall. The northern property line would be secured with a wrought iron perimeter fence. As required by Condition #10 of Planning Commission Resolution #4153, landscaping or trees would be installed along the northern property line (along E. Yosemite Avenue) to soften the visibility of the site.

Landscaping

- G) The proposal does not include a landscape plan, but all future landscaping for mulch, shrubs, turf, or trees should be drought tolerant and all irrigation systems must comply with the latest requirements for water conservation (Condition #8). In addition, parking lot trees shall be installed as required by the City's Parking Lot Landscape Standards at a minimum ratio of one tree for every six parking spaces. Parking lot trees shall be selected from the City's approved tree list, providing a 30-foot minimum canopy at maturity (Condition #15). If needed, street trees would be installed along E. Yosemite Avenue as required by City standards. All trees shall be planted away from the City's 10-foot visual corner triangle area.

Neighborhood Impact

- H) The subject site is surrounded by a variety of uses which include residential to the east south and west, the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection to the north across E. Yosemite Avenue and University Surgery Center immediately to the northeast. The subject site is designated Commercial Office (CO) as a land use designation that is compatible with the surrounding uses. Even though the applicant is proposing a General Plan designation of Business Park and Low Medium Density Residential, the proposed use of self-storage and residential subdivision is expected to produce less traffic than expected for a Commercial Office development and would not significantly alter the traffic patterns throughout the neighborhood.

The site is surrounded with residential uses to the west and south of the proposed project. The proposed residential subdivision would serve as a buffer/transition from the proposed self-storage facility and the existing single-family residences to the south. Additionally, the south elevation of Building F (self-storage facility) includes a concrete-masonry unit façade that ranges from 12 to 14-feet in height. This block wall façade serves to screen the self-storage facility (from the adjacent residential uses) and reduce noise and privacy concerns. To create additional compatibility with the surrounding sites to help reduce concerns regarding noise, lighting, and privacy, there are conditions requiring the parking lot lights and building lights be shielded so that lighting does not “spill-over” to adjacent parcels (Conditions #22); controlled hours of operation only allowing operation between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Condition #24).

Public hearing notices were sent to all property owners within 300 feet of the project site. At the time that this report was prepared, the City had not received any comments regarding this project.

Housing Opportunity

- I) The proposed would change the General Plan designation from Commercial Office (CO) to Business Park (BP) for approximately 3.02 acres and Low Medium Density (LMD) residential for approximately 4.85 acres. As such, zoning at this location currently does not allow for any residential uses. Thus, by changing the land use designation to Business Park and Low Medium Density Residential, the site goes from no potential of having any residential units constructed at its current designation, to 6 to 12 units per acre in the proposed Low Medium Density residential portion of the project.

This site would be good for Low Medium Density residential uses given that the site fronts a major collector road (Parsons Avenue) and is in close proximity to multiple shopping centers (within 750 feet of the site), a park and a school.

Environmental Clearance

- J) Infill projects over 5 acres or projects that don't comply with Zoning/General Plan designations require an Initial Study, per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In this case, the project is over 5 acres (at 8.05 acres),

and the site is not consistent with Zoning or the General Plan requiring an Initial Study. An Initial Study includes a wide range of analysis required by the State covering an array of subjects including, but not limited to, impacts on vehicle miles traveled, air quality, biological resource, public services, cultural resources, and City utilities. Planning staff has conducted an environmental review of the project in accordance with the requirements of CEQA and concluded that Environmental Review #24-25 results in a Negative Declaration as the proposal would not have a significant effect on the environment (Attachment H of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-835) and does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report. A copy of the Initial Study with a Negative Declaration can be found at Attachment H of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-835.