

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-_____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA,
ADOPTING GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT #24-
06, AMENDING THE HOUSING ELEMENT OF
THE GENERAL PLAN. AND ENVIRONMENTAL
REVIEW #26-0068 (STATUTORY EXEMPTION).**

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Government Code Section 65580 et seq., the City of Merced (City) is required to update its September 2016 Housing Element for the Sixth Cycle planning period of January 31, 2024 through January 31, 2032, and submit the updated Housing Element to HCD for review and certification; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-63 authorizing participation in the Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Element with the County of Merced and the Cities of Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine, Livingston, and Los Banos; and

WHEREAS, throughout the Housing Element update process, the City conducted extensive public outreach and community engagement activities, including public workshops, study sessions, Planning Commission hearings, City Council meetings, public review periods, and opportunities for public comment regarding housing needs, housing programs, site inventories, and proposed rezoning actions necessary to accommodate the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Housing Element update process, the City evaluated residential development opportunities throughout the community and completed rezoning actions, including adoption of Ordinance No. 2577 in April 2025, to ensure adequate sites were available to accommodate the City's assigned housing needs at all income levels; and

WHEREAS, following multiple rounds of review and revision beginning in May 2024, HCD issued a letter dated March 17, 2026, finding the City's Housing Element substantially complies with the requirements of State Housing Element Law with minor modifications and rezone amendments to be undertaken by amending Ordinance 2557 pursuant to Zoning Ordinance Amendment #26-0001,

which is agendized for introduction and first reading by the City Council at its July 20, 2026 meeting as Ordinance No. 26-____; and

WHEREAS, after a duly noticed public hearing on June 17, 2026, the Planning Commission adopted Resolution #4181 recommending the City Council of the City of Merced adopt General Plan Amendment #24-06 amending the Housing Element of the General Plan to conform with the Housing Element for the Sixth Cycle planning period, Environmental Review #26-0068 and Zoning Ordinance Amendment #26-0001; and

WHEREAS, the City Council conducted a duly noticed public hearing on July 20, 2026, to consider adopting General Plan Amendment #24-06 and the associated Environmental Review # 26-0068 (Statutory Exemption); and

WHEREAS, adoption of the amended Housing Element will foster the City's compliance with State housing law, support implementation of programs and policies to address existing and future housing needs, facilitate housing production for all income levels, and further the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City of Merced.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERCED DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, FIND, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council hereby adopts General Plan Amendment #24-06 and Environmental Review #26-0068 and amends the Housing Element of the General Plan of the City of Merced to read as set forth in Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference finding it is in the public interest and consistent with applicable state law.

SECTION 2. That in adopting General Plan Amendment #24-06, the City Council expresses its intent to concurrently introduce Ordinance No. 26-____, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Merced Amending Ordinance No. 2577 to include additional statutory language required by the State of California. This action is consistent with this Resolution but must be undertaken via Ordinance in accordance with Merced Municipal Code Section 20.80.050.

SECTION 3. That this General Plan Amendment shall become effective concurrent with Ordinance No. 26-____.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Merced at a regular meeting held on the 20th day of July 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members:

NOES: Council Members:

ABSENT: Council Members:

ABSTAIN: Council Members:

APPROVED:
MATTHEW SERRATTO, MAYOR

Mayor

ATTEST:
D. SCOTT MCBRIDE, CITY CLERK

BY: _____
Assistant/Deputy City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CRAIG J. CORNWELL, CITY ATTORNEY

Craig Cornwell 7-9-2026
City Attorney Date