

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: _____ Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: City of Merced
678 West 18th St.
Merced, CA 95340

 X County Clerk
County of Merced
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340

Project Title: General Plan Amendment #23-01/Environmental Review #23-02

Project Applicant: City of Merced

Project Location (Specific): City of Merced (City wide)

Project Location - City: Merced

Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The application would involve amendments to the *Merced Vision 2030 General Plan* Transportation Policy T-1.8 to require the use of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Thresholds and Guidelines when evaluating the environmental impacts of development projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to adopt by reference the VMT Thresholds and Guidelines as recommended by the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) in November 2022.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Merced

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Merced

Exempt Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☐ Categorical Exemption. State Type and Section Number: _____
☒ Statutory Exemptions. State Code Number: 15308.
☐ General Rule (Sec. 15061 (b)(3))

Reasons why Project is Exempt: Categorical Exemption, Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 "consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment." The proposed General Plan Amendment is in direct response to Senate Bill 743, enacted in 2013, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15604.3, effective 7/1/20, and pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21099(b)(2), which replaced Level-of-Service (LOS) as a metric for evaluating transportation impacts of development projects with Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

Lead Agency: City of Merced

Contact Person: Kim Espinosa

Area Code/Telephone: (209) 385-6858

Signature:  - **Date:** February 10, 2023 **Title:** Planning Manager

 X Signed by Lead Agency Date Received for Filing at OPR (If applicable): n/a
Authority Cited: Sections 21083 and 21110. Public Resources Code; Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1. Public Resources Code