

**Planning Commission Minutes Excerpt**  
**FEBRUARY 22, 2017**

[Secretary's Note: Planning Manager ESPINOSA outlined to the Commission, and the Applicants of Items 4.3 and 4.4, the process of both items being presented at the same time. Each item was presented, one after the other, and the Public Testimony encompassed both items.]

- 4.3 Conditional Use Permit #1216, initiated by Tongtoua Yang on behalf of Kajla Mahinder Singh, property owner. This application involves a request to increase the number of card tables for the Merced Poker Room (from 4 to 12) and to allow their employees to participate in gaming activities. The subject site is generally located on the south side of 15th Street, approximately 225 feet west of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way (at 1459 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Suites, 4, 5, and 6), within a Thoroughfare Commercial (C-T) zone. (continued from January 18, 2017)

Associate Planner NELSON reviewed the report on this item. For further information, refer to Staff Report #17-01-Addendum.

- 4.4 Conditional Use Permit #1218, initiated by Terry Vargas on behalf of Citrus Beginnings, LP, property owner. This application involves a request to increase the number of card tables for Poker Flats Casino (from 4 to 12), to operate 24 hours per day, and to allow games with unlimited bets and wagers. The subject site is generally located on the east side of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, approximately 100 feet north of Main Street (at 1714 and 1720 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way), within a Central Commercial (C-C) Zone.

Planner MENDOZA-GONZALEZ reviewed the report on this item. For further information, refer to Staff Report #17-06.

Public testimony was opened at 8:14 p.m.

[Secretary's Note: Both Applicants spoke, one after another, before members of the public came up.]

JARHETT BLONIN, Sacramento, on behalf of Merced Poker Room  
SAI SAECHAO, Merced, on behalf of Poker Flats Casino

Speakers from the Audience in Favor of Item 4.3:

DANIEL VALDOVINO, Merced  
ART CURIEL, Merced  
STEPHEN HERRERA, Merced

No one spoke in opposition to this item.

Speakers from the Audience in Favor of Item 4.4:

TAWNI VARGAS, Merced, Poker Flats Casino

No one spoke in opposition to this item.

Public testimony was closed at 8:48 p.m.

M/S PADILLA-BAKER, and carried by the following vote, to adopt a Categorical Exemption regarding Environmental Review #16-35, and approve Conditional Use Permit #1216, subject to the Findings and thirty-six (36) Conditions set forth in Staff Report #17-01 (RESOLUTION #3077), for four additional card tables:

AYES: Commissioners Baker, Colby, Padilla, and Vice Chairperson Dylina  
NOES: Commissioner Smith  
ABSENT: Commissioner Smoot (one vacancy)  
ABSTAIN: None

M/S PADILLA-BAKER, and carried by the following vote, to adopt a Categorical Exemption regarding Environmental Review #17-02, and approve Conditional Use Permit #1218, subject to the Findings and thirty-four (34) Conditions set forth in Staff Report #17-06 (RESOLUTION #3079), for four additional card tables:

AYES: Commissioners Baker, Colby, Padilla, and Vice Chairperson Dylina  
NOES: Commissioner Smith

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ABSENT: Commissioner Smoot (one vacancy)

ABSTAIN: None