

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

From: (Public Agency)
City of Merced
678 West 18th St.
Merced, CA 95340

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

Project Title: ZOA #18-01 (Environmental Review #18-01)

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: This application involves changes to the Merced Zoning Ordinance (Title 20 of the Merced Municipal Code) which would modify the Commercial Shopping Center (C-SC) Zone to allow the following uses with a Site Plan Review Permit: Community Gardens, Colleges & Trade Schools, Commercial Recreation Indoor, Commercial Recreation Outdoor, and Drive-Through/Drive-Up Sales. In addition, the following uses would be changed from requiring a Conditional Use Permit to requiring a Site Plan Review Permit: Gas and Service Stations/Car Washes, Offices/Professional Uses, and Restaurants. All of these uses, except for a Community Garden, would be allowed only as a part of a development that requires a grocery store of over 20,000 square feet as the main anchor to a shopping center. A Community Garden would be allowed as a temporary use until a shopping center is developed.

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: 15301 (a)
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State Code Number: _____
☒ X General Rule (Sec. 15061 (b)(3))

Reasons why Project is Exempt: As defined under the above referenced Section, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA by the general rule that if it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question can have a significant effect on the environment. This project involves a change to the City's zoning regulations as described above. Such regulations by themselves do not have a direct effect on the environment as there is no physical change to the environment proposed at this time.

Lead Agency: City of Merced

Contact Person: Francisco Mendoza-Gonzalez

Area Code/Telephone: (209) 385-6858

Signature:  **Date:** 1-17-2018 **Title:** Planner

 X Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____
(If applicable)

Authority Cited: Sections 21083 and 21110. Public Resources Code
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1. Public Resources Code