

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: Ordinance of the City of Merced amending various sections in Chapter 15.36 "Rates and Charges," of the Merced Municipal Code dealing with Water Service, Environmental Review #18-59

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 proposed Ordinance would set new water rates for residential, industrial, and commercial metered services. It also amends flat rate customer rates, updates connection charges, and adds annual consumer index based increases. The rate updates are necessary to adequately provide funding for operations and capital for facilities to provide domestic water services.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Merced

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

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: 15273 – Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges.
☐ General Rule (Sec. 15061 (b)(3))

Reasons why Project is Exempt:

The proposed Ordinance has been reviewed by City Staff in accordance with the Environmental Checklist form (Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines) to determine if there would be any possibility that the proposed ordinance would create any significant environmental impacts. City Staff has determined that the establishment of the utility rates and connection charges are needed to maintain services and therefore do not meet any of the thresholds contained in the Checklist that would trigger a significant environmental impact. They are also exempt as a Statutory Exemption as provided under section 15273 Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges, 15273(a) and 15273 (b).

Lead Agency: City of Merced

Contact Person: _____ **Area Code/Telephone:** (209) 385-6858

Signature:  **Date:** 10/10/18 **Title:** Dir. of Dev. Services.

X Signed by Lead Agency

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

Authority Cited: Sections 21083

Reference: Sections 21108(b)(8), Public Resources Code