



**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Steve Maxey
Director

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DATE: October 30, 2023
TO: State Clearinghouse
FROM: Valeria Renteria, Planner I
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Equal Opportunity Employer

**SUBJECT: Notice of Intent for Conditional Use Permit No. CUP22-005
"Garden of Peace Cemetery"
Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Merced intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and supporting Initial Study (IS) for Conditional Use Permit No. CUP22-005 ("Garden of Peace Cemetery"), described below, prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

LEAD AGENCY: County of Merced, Community & Economic Development Department
2222 "M" Street, 2nd Floor, Merced CA 95340

CONTACT PERSON: Valeria Renteria, Planner I (209) 385-7654 ext. 4422
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION & LOCATION: The proposed project is located at 17205 South Jasper Sears Road in unincorporated Merced County and is a cemetery, with a 1,500 square foot prayer room with permanent restrooms and a proposed septic system, and a proposed overhang/canopy prayer room. The project would include an unpaved parking lot for 20 vehicles and a 24-foot-wide gravel road within the project site. The project also includes a proposed 24-foot road easement connecting the entrance of the cemetery to Jasper Sears Road and a 15-foot gravel road running south of the proposed area of rest. The proposed area of rest covers the only usable, gently rolling area of the property, which is approximately 50 acres. According to the applicant, one acre of land can contain 1,000 graves; therefore, the project site is anticipating a total of approximately 50,000 to 60,000 graves, which can take up to 200 years to fill up completely.

The cemetery would be open from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., seven days a week. However, staff and visitors would only come to the site when there is a burial. It is expected that no more than 20 people would visit the cemetery at one time. The cemetery would include one full-time employee and up to two part-time, temporary employees who would be on-call and be on-site only when there is a burial. The burial services involve the digging of a grave (four feet by eight feet) and would only occur once per day, at most.

PUBLIC REVIEW & COMMENTS: November 2, 2023 to December 1, 2023

The IS/MND is being circulated for a 30-day public review and comment period. Any written comments on the IS/MND must be received at the above address or above email no later than 5:00 PM on the end date of the public review period.

Copies of the IS/MND are available to review at the above address Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM and on the County's website at www.countyofmerced.com/414/Environmental-Documents.

The Merced County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of the MND at a future date to be determined. This meeting will be separately noticed when the date and time are determined.

Buildings and Safety Division
Robert Lindsey, Deputy

**Economic and Castle Airport
Development Division**
Mark Mimms, Deputy

**Environmental Health
Division**
Larry Fay, Interim Deputy

Planning Division
Tiffany Ho, Deputy