

# Notice of Exemption

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**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

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

**From:** Merced County  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340

**Contact:** Tiffany Ho, Deputy Director of Planning  
(209) 385-7654 ext. 4407  
[Tiffany.Ho@countyofmerced.com](mailto:Tiffany.Ho@countyofmerced.com)

**Project Title:** Zoning Code Text Amendment No. ZCTA24-001

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**Project Applicant:** County of Merced

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**Project Location:** Countywide

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**Project City:** Countywide **Project County:** Merced County

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**Project Description:**

Zoning Code Text Amendment No. ZCTA24-001 is a request to amend portions of Title 18 (Zoning) of the Merced County Code to include amendments to Section 18.10.030 ("Agricultural Zone Development Standards") modifying specified requirements for homesite subdivision approval; Section 18.32.030 ("Development Standards") for the provision of setbacks specific to accessory structures separate from primary land uses in residential zones; Section 18.44.070 ("Exempt Signs") to consolidate standards for non-commercial temporary signs and political signs and increase the number of days signage may remain following an event; Chapter 18.26 ("Special Flood Hazard Areas"), specifically Sections 18.26.020 ("Definitions") through 18.26.050 ("Provisions for Flood Hazard Reduction"), and Chapter 18.62 ("Accessory Dwelling Units"), specifically Sections 18.62.020 ("Applicability") through 18.62.080 ("Standards for All Accessory Dwelling Units") to bring code up-to-date with current State legislation; and, to make minor technical changes throughout the code to provide clarification and correct for inconsistencies. Edits to the text are primarily technical in nature and no development is authorized.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Merced, Community & Economic Development Department

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**Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project:** Tiffany Ho, Deputy Director of Planning

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**Exempt Status:**

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 145269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sections 15061(b)(3) ("Common Sense Exemption") and 15378(b) ("Not a Project"), 15304 ("Minor Land Alternations")

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Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Section 15162 ("Subsequent EIRs and Negative Declarations") of the CEQA Guidelines based on the 2019 Addendum to the 2030 Merced County Final Program Environmental Impact Report

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**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The proposed amendments do not propose any new uses or allow for new use types in any county zones. Amendments generally relate to modifying requirements for homesite subdivision approval, development standards, and minor clarifying changes throughout the code. Amendments related to floodplain management maintain consistency with state and federal regulations.

Furthermore, the proposed amendments are substantially in conformance with amendments analyzed and certified in the 2019 Addendum to the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (FPEIR) prepared for the 2030 Merced County General Plan. The 2019 Addendum analyzed the impacts of Ordinance No. 1976 which provided for the comprehensive update to Title 18 (Zoning) of the Merced County Code. Therefore, no further environmental review pursuant to Section 15162 ("Subsequent EIRs and Negative Declarations") of the CEQA Guidelines based on the 2019 Addendum.

**Signature & Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Received for Filing at OPR:** \_\_\_\_\_