

**FRESNO CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 13611**

The Fresno City Planning Commission at its regular meeting on October 2, 2019, adopted the following resolution relating to the Elm Avenue Revitalization Strategy (Strategy).

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno (City) applied for and received Federal funding for brownfield area-wide planning through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Area-wide Planning Grant Program for the purposes of completing the Strategy; and

WHEREAS, the City received the grant to build upon the Redevelopment Agency's previous EPA Brownfields Grant that described the need to identify, prioritize and create a vision for brownfield sites in West Fresno that would lead to site clean-ups and provide a community driven reuse plan for these sites; and

WHEREAS, the City entered into a Grant Agreement with the EPA on July 30, 2015 for the purposes of initiating and completing a Brownfields Area-Wide Plan along the Elm Avenue Corridor called the Elm Avenue Revitalization Strategy (Strategy); and

WHEREAS, the City entered into a consultant services agreement with Wallace, Roberts and Todd to assist in the preparation of the Strategy, and also entered into a sub-agreement with Habitat for Humanity to assist with outreach; and

WHEREAS, the EPA defines brownfield as "a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant." The EPA's Brownfields Program is designed to empower communities and stakeholders to partner through economic redevelopment to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields; and

WHEREAS, the Strategy's study area is located along the Elm Avenue corridor in the area bounded by Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to the west, Highway 41 to the east, California Avenue and Ventura Street to the north, and North Avenue to the south; and

WHEREAS, the Strategy provides the City of Fresno and stakeholders with a roadmap to development and clean-up of key brownfield sites on the Elm Avenue Corridor, provides implementation action resources, and identifies the steps that would need to be taken for possible future actions by the City, but does not commit the City to those future actions; and

WHEREAS, the Strategy is organized like a playbook so that all stakeholders can easily find implementation tasks that they can work on; and

WHEREAS, the community's input was an essential element to the development of the strategy, and the outreach process relied on integrating outreach efforts into existing community meetings and events as well as conducting new outreach approaches with the help of technical assistance providers from the EPA; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2019, the Council District 3 Project Review Committee reviewed the Strategy and recommended approval; and,

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2019 the Fresno City Planning Commission held a noticed public hearing to consider the Strategy, receive public testimony, and consider the Planning and Development Department's report recommending adoption of the proposed Strategy; and,

WHEREAS, at the public hearing, two persons spoke in support of the applications and no persons spoke in opposition; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission took action to recommend adoption of the subject application; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Fresno City Planning Commission, based upon the testimony and information presented at the hearing and upon review and consideration of the environmental documentation provided, as follows:

1. The Commission finds in accordance with its own judgement that the Environmental Assessment is appropriate, a determination that the proposed project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 as a feasibility and planning study for possibly future actions with the City has not yet approved, adopted or funded. The Council has determined that the Strategy is statutorily exempt from CEQA because it provides information on how to implement rehabilitation and redevelopment of brownfields sites, but does not commit the City to specific actions.
2. The Commission finds in accordance with its own judgment that the finds the adoption of the proposed Elm Avenue Revitalization Strategy is in the best interest of the City

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fresno City Planning Commission hereby recommends to the City Council that the Elm Avenue Revitalization Strategy, pertaining to approximately 1,092 acres located in the DA-1 South Development Area, be adopted.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Fresno City Planning Commission upon a motion by Commissioner Hardi, seconded by Commissioner Sodhi-Layne.

VOTING: Ayes - Hardi, Sodhi-Layne, Bray, Vang, Torossian
 Noes - None
 Not Voting - None
 Absent - McKenzie

DATED: October 2, 2019



JENNIFER K. CLARK, Secretary
Fresno City Planning Commission

Resolution No. 13611
Elm Avenue Revitalization Strategy
Action: Recommend Adoption

