

# West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan Planning Commission Workshop

September 17, 2025





#### Presentation Outline

- 1. Why Plan?
- 2. West Area Story
- 3. About the Plan
- 4. Outreach & Engagement
- 5. Environmental Impact Report
- 6. Early Wins
- 7. Next Steps
- 8. Q & A



## 1. Why Plan?





#### Benefits of Specific Plans



Improves the General Plan with a more fine-grain approach.



Helps streamline land use and CEQA to incentivize desired projects.



Policies can help acquire funding.



Provides a foundation for community-led investment and organizing.







### 2. West Area Story





















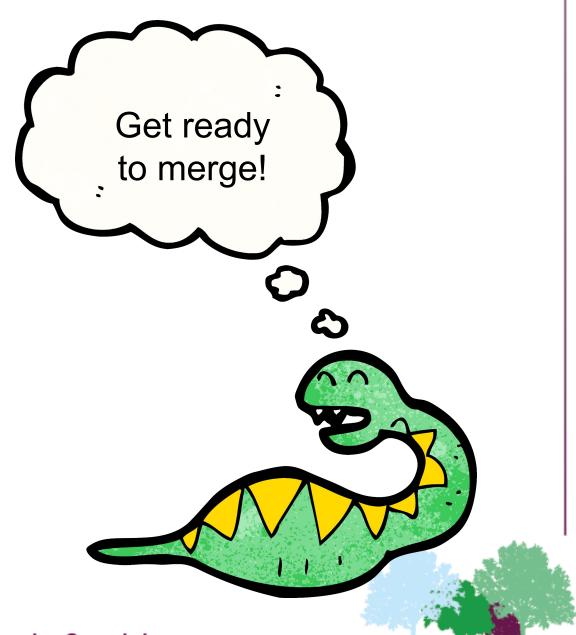






www.fresno.gov/westareaplan ¬

"Streets that look like boa constrictors after lunch"

















– www.fresno.gov/westareaplan ¬

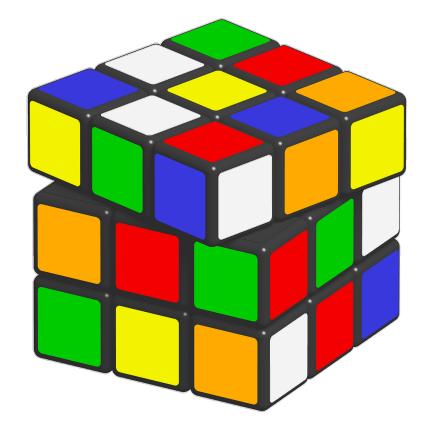


































Image credit: Teague Community Resource Center





## CORE VISION FOR THE WEST AREA





enhanced infrastructure



new development that respects agriculture and long existing rural residential development



diverse housing stock



parkland



sense of community

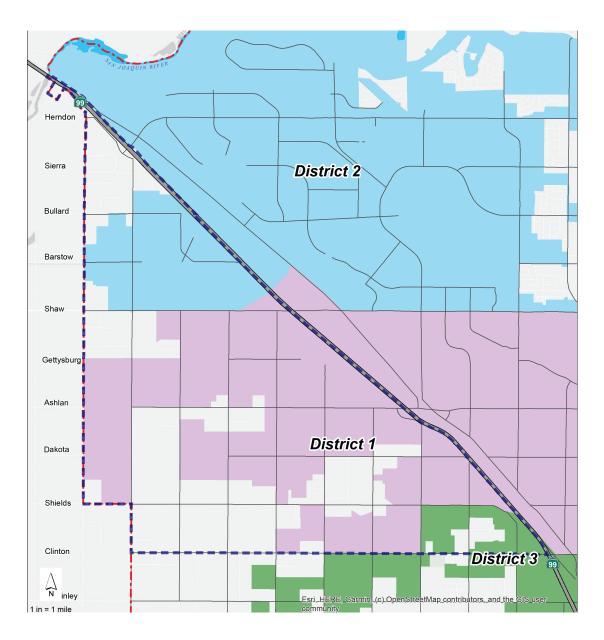


core commercial centers



## 3. About the Plan





#### **West Area Plan Boundary with Council Districts**

District 1

District 2

District 3

Specific Plan Boundary

Fresno Sphere of Influence

San Joaquin River



## Purpose

 Refine the General Plan for the West Area

Regulate Land Use

 Create focused policies to address unique needs and community vision



### Milestones

1998: Highway City Plan adopted

2002: West Area Community Plan adopted

2014: General Plan adopted

2018: WANSP kick-off

2019: Plan initiated

2020: Plan and EIR drafted

2021: Draft Plan & EIR released

2022: Plan & EIR approved by Planning

Commission

2022-2025: Plan & EIR Revised

2025: Recirculated EIR

Recirculated Draft Plan

**Planning Commission** 

City Council



## Guiding Principles



Transportation



Parks & Trails



Agriculture



Retail



Housing



Catalytic Corridors



Education

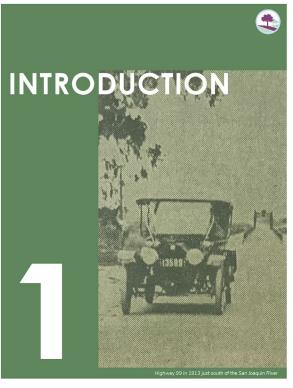


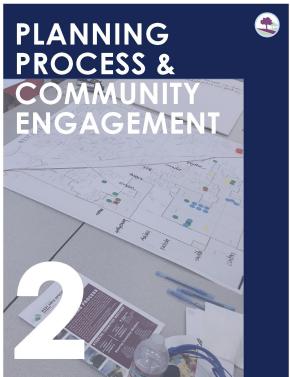
**Public Safety** 

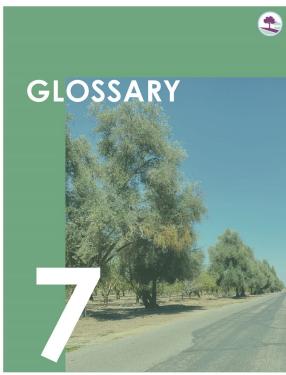


#### Information



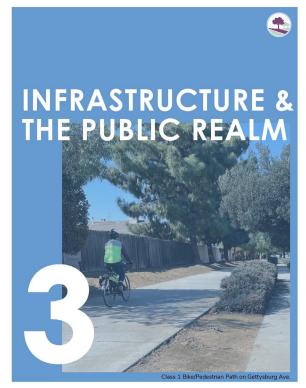


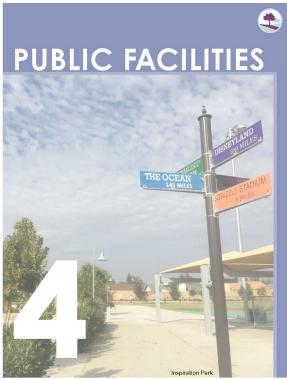


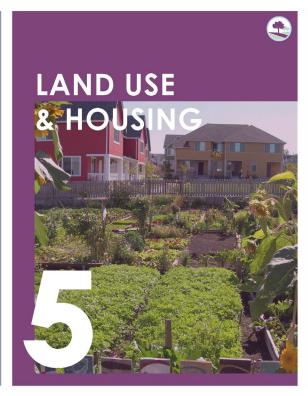




#### Goals & Policies











#### Goals & Policies



#### IPR | Infrastructure & the Public Realm IPR Goal 1

Improve access, movement, and safety for all transportation modes in the West Area.

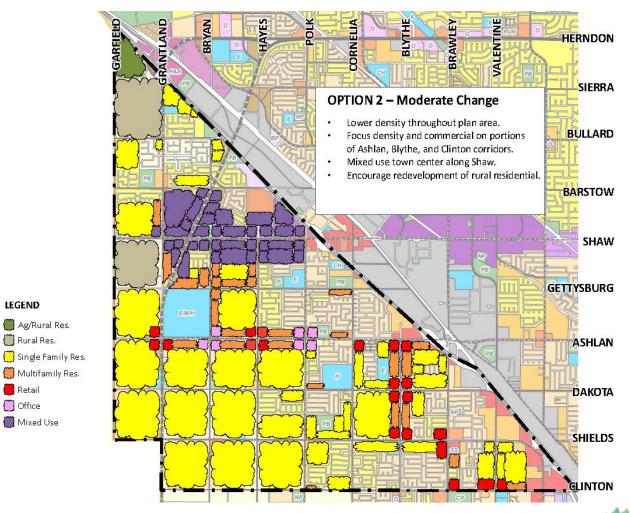
Policy #	Policy	Responsible/	Suggested
		Support Parties	Measurements
IPR 1.1	Implement the Active Transportation Plan, ADA Transition Plan for ROW, and the General Plan to provide for complete, safe, and well-maintained sidewalk, bicycle, and trail networks that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and which connect established and planned residential neighborhoods to destinations such as commercial and employment centers, schools, parks, and community centers.	Public Works	# of projects funded, in process, and completed # of projects addressing fragmentation
IPR 1.2	Identify and address existing infrastructure gaps in the West Area; target remedies through the creation of a priority areas list.	Public Works/ Planning	# gaps identified  # gaps/priority gaps closed
IPR 1.3	Collaborate with Central Unified School District and Fresno County to support complete routes to schools by collecting family travel data, prioritizing infrastructure improvements near schools and promoting annual Walk & Bike to School Days to encourage active transportation.  a. Priority routes to update include (but are not limited to) a. Ashlan from Cornelia to Hayes, b. Valentine from Shields to Clinton, c. Dakota from Brawley to Cornelia, and d. Polk from Clinton to Dayton.	Public Works, Police, PARCS/ Active Transportation Advisory Committee, CUSD, community groups	# of projects/ priority projects initiated/ completed # of schools/ students participating

## Transect



#### Land Use Vision

- Moderate Level of Change
- Urban to rural transition
- Catalytic Corridors
- Flagship Regional Park





LEGEND Ag/Rural Res.

Retail

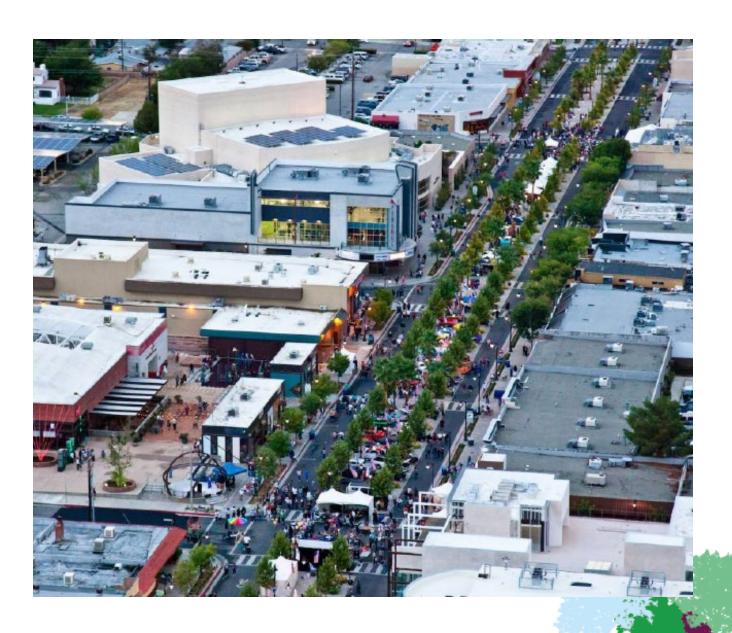
( Office Mixed Use

Rural Res.

# Catalytic Corridors

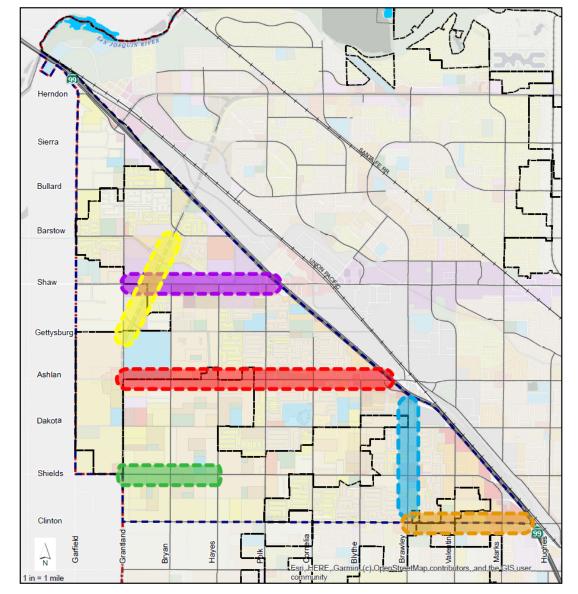
Centers or linear nodes, designed to create complementary investment to nearby and surrounding areas

> Lancaster Boulevard Lancaster, CA



# Catalytic Corridors

- Ashlan Avenue
- Brawley Avenue
- Clinton Avenue
- Shaw Avenue
- Shields Avenue
- Veterans Boulevard





## 2019 Specific Plan Proposed Land Use

#### RESIDENTIAL

Low Density (1-3.5 D.U./acre)

Medium Low Density (3.5-6 D.U./acre)

Medium Density (5.0-12 D.U./acre)

Medium High Density (12-16 D.U./acre)

Urban Neighborhood (16-30 D.U./acre)

High Density (30-45 D.U./acre)

#### COMMERCIAL

Community

Recreation

General

Regional

#### PUBLIC FACILITIES

Public/Quasi-public Facility

Special School

Elementary School

Elementary, Middle & High School

High School

Church Fire Station

#### EMPLOYMENT

Office

**Business Park** 

Light Industrial

#### MIXED USE

Neighborhood Mixed Use

Corridor/Center Mixed Use

#### OPEN SPACE

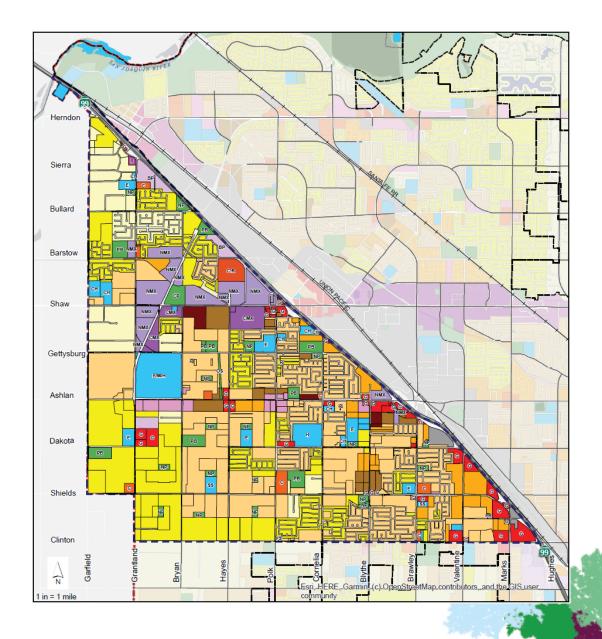
Community Park

Neighborhood Park

Open Space

Park

Ponding Basin



## 2025 Specific Plan Proposed Land Use

#### RESIDENTIAL

- Low Density (1-3.5 D.U./acre)
- Medium Low Density (3.5-6 D.U./acre)
- Medium Density (5.0-12 D.U./acre)
- Medium High Density (12-16 D.U./acre)
- Urban Neighborhood (16-30 D.U./acre)
- High Density (30-45 D.U./acre)

#### COMMERCIAL

- Community
- Recreation
- General
- Regional

#### EMPLOYMENT

- Office
- Business Park
- Light Industrial

#### MIXED USE

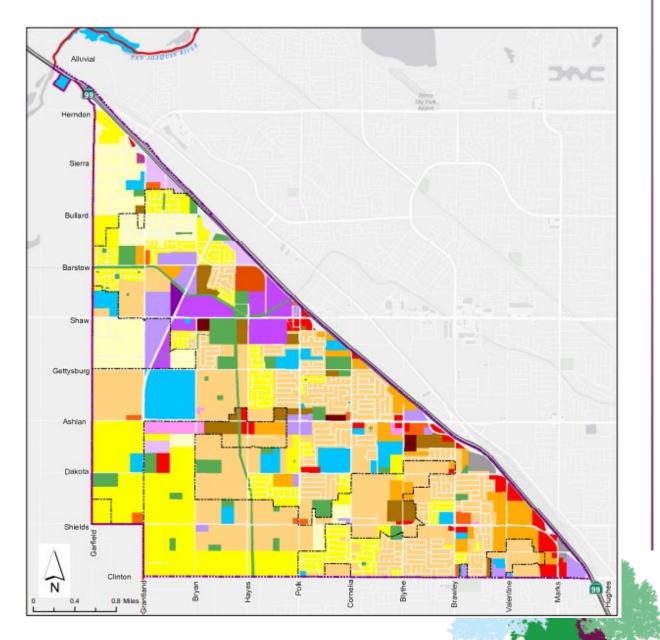
- Neighborhood Mixed Use
- Corridor/Center Mixed Use
- Regional Mixed Use

#### OPEN SPACE

- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Open Space
- Park
- Ponding Basin

#### PUBLIC FACILITIES

- Public/Quasi-public Facility
- Special School
- Elementary School
- Elementary, Middle & High School
- High School
- Church
- Fire Station





Oxbow Public Market in Napa features vendors with fresh fruits and vegetables, specialty products such as artisan cheeses and meats, and several restuarants. It is a destination for locals and visitors alike.





The Rillito Park Farmers Market Pavillions is the largest year-round farmer's market in Tuscon, AZ. Four pavillions provide shade to a 5,000 sq. ft. vendor area. (Image Source: Arizona Daily Star)

A future West Area Regional Park provides an opportunity to promote "agritourism" - tying our ag roots to sense of place in a way that builds the local economy.



part of the urban agriculture program run by the Chicago Botanic Garden. The program improves access to healthy food, cooking and nutrition classes, urban gardening classes, paid job training, youth apprenticeships, and urban farm incubation.

Ilmage Sources: Chicago Botanic Garden and Booth Hansen)



The Lodi Wine & Visitor Center promotes the region by providing information on local history and present-day attractions, including eateries and wineries. There is also a wine tasting room and café on-site. (Image Sources: California Grown and California Corks)



83 West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan

## 4. Outreach & Engagement



#### Outreach

- Email
- Direct mail
- Flyers
- Specific Plans To-Go
- Tabling events
- Social media
- Radio announcement
- Webpage
- Legal notices
- Committee presentations







## Engagement

- Steering Committee Meetings
- Community Meetings
- Tabling Events
- Committee Presentations
- Surveys
- Mailers















## 5. Environmental Impact Report



## Environmental Impact Report

#### Program-Level EIR

Notice of Preparation:	June 28, 2019
Public Scoping Meeting:	July 24, 2019
Circulation of Draft EIR:	February 10 – March 28, 2022
• 9 comments received	

Recirculated Draft EIR

Final EIR released:

March 12, 2025

July 8, 2022

• 8 comments received



## Impact Areas Analyzed

- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Tribal Resources
- Geology, Soils and Seismicity
- Greenhouse Gases, Climate Change, and Energy

- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services and Recreation
- Transportation and Circulation
- Utilities

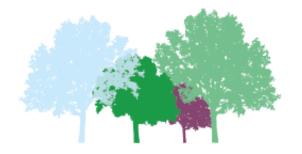


## 6. Early Wins





# the project



## Save the Date!

## PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 6:00 pm or thereafter

#### CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, October 16, 2025 10:00 am or thereafter

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Q&A

