

West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan Planning Commission

October 1, 2025





Presentation Outline

- 1. Background
- 2. Outreach & Engagement
- 3. Plan Overview
- 4. Environmental Impact Report
- 5. Public Comment
- 6. Findings & Staff Recommendations



1. Background

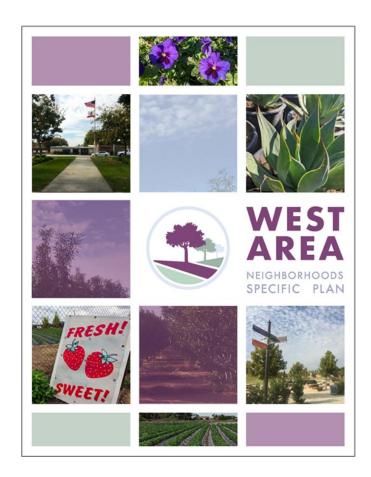








CORE VISION FOR THE WEST AREA





enhanced infrastructure



new development that respects agriculture and long existing rural residential development



diverse housing stock



parkland



sense of community



core commercial centers



2. 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









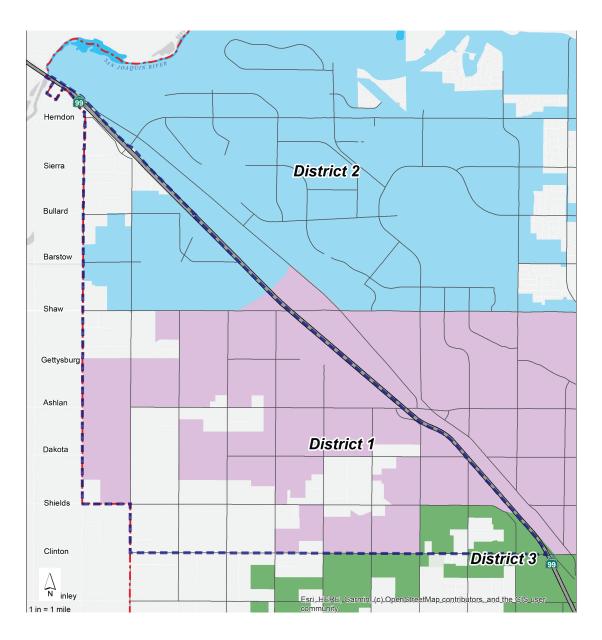






3. Plan Overview





West Area Plan Boundary with Council Districts

District 1

District 2

District 3

Specific Plan Boundary

Fresno Sphere of Influence

San Joaquin River



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: Planning Commission recommended

approval

2022-2025: Plan & EIR Revised

2025: Recirculated EIR

Recirculated Draft Plan

Planning Commission

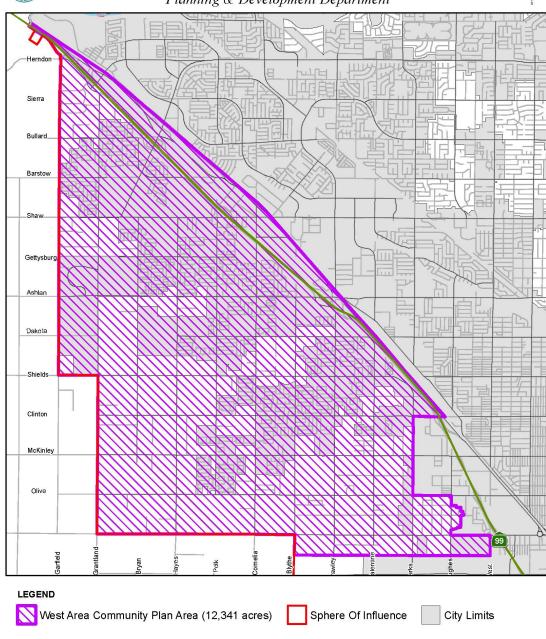
City Council





West Area Community Plan Area Planning & Development Department



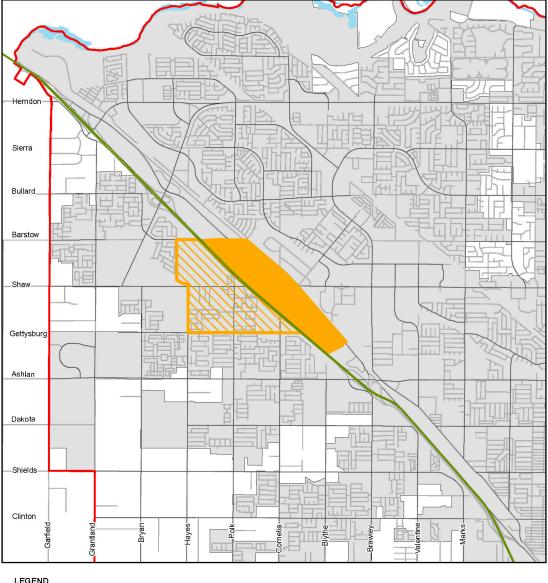


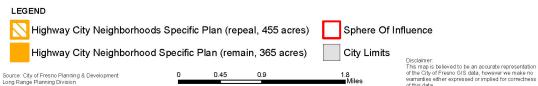
Disclaimer.
This map is believed to be an accurate representation of the City of Fresno GIS data, however we make no warranties either expressed or implied for correctness of this data.



Highway City Neighborhood Specific Plan Area Planning & Development Department







Guiding Principles



Transportation



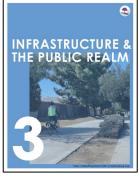
Parks & Trails



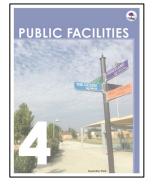
Agriculture



Retail













Housing



Catalytic Corridors

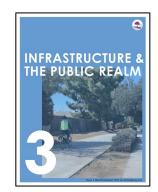


Education

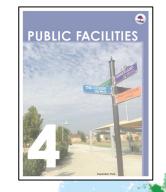


Public Safety









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/ Support Parties	Suggested 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

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

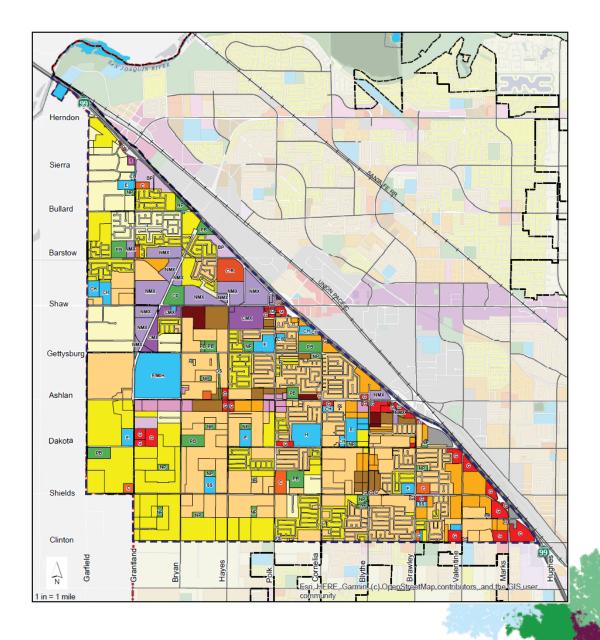
Community Park

Neighborhood Park

Open Space

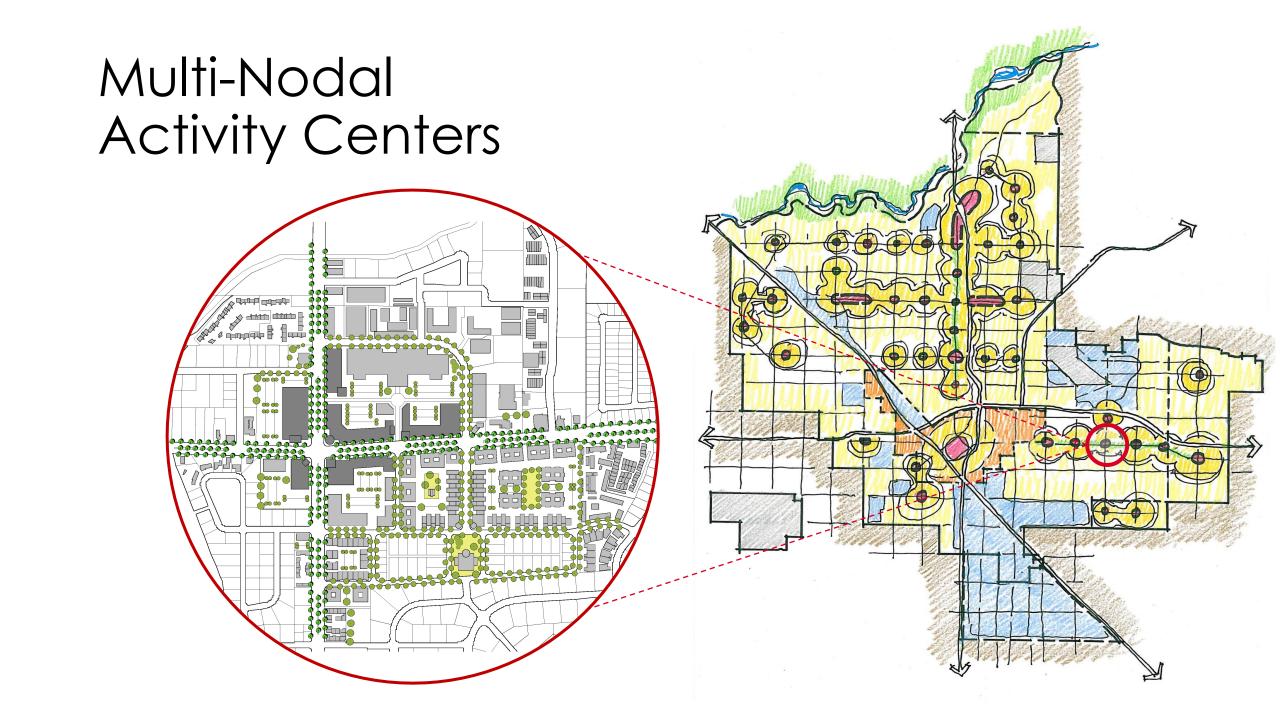
Park

Ponding Basin



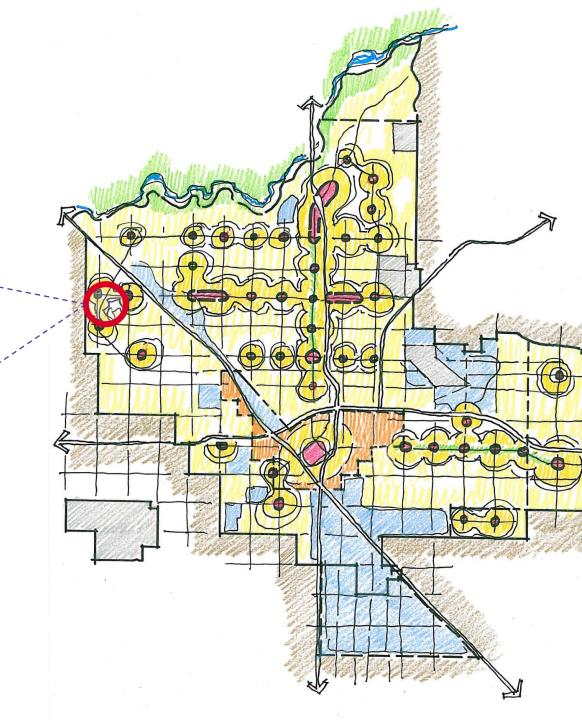
Transect





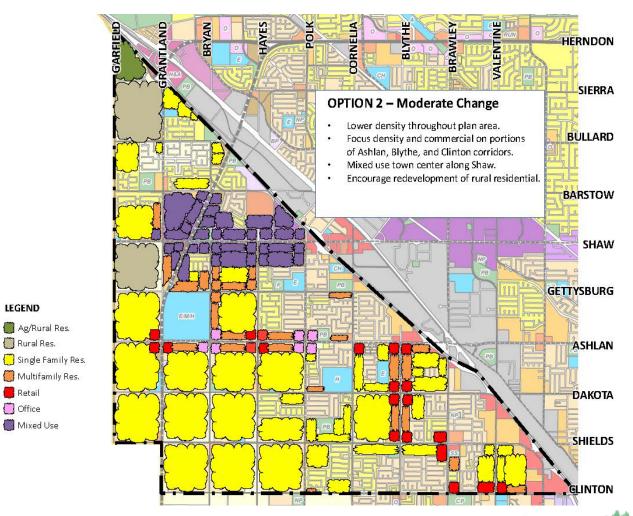
Multi-Nodal Activity Centers





Land Use Vision

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





LEGEND

Retail

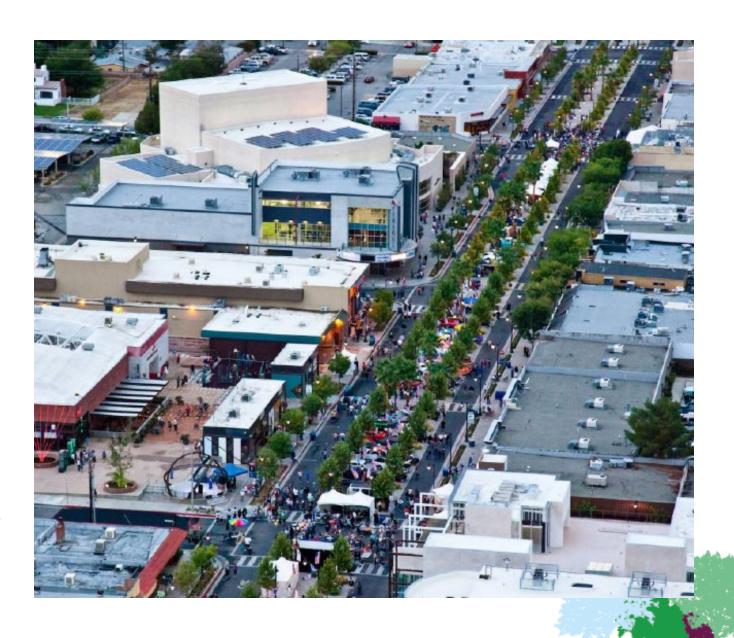
(Office Mixed Use

Rural Res.

Catalytic Corridors

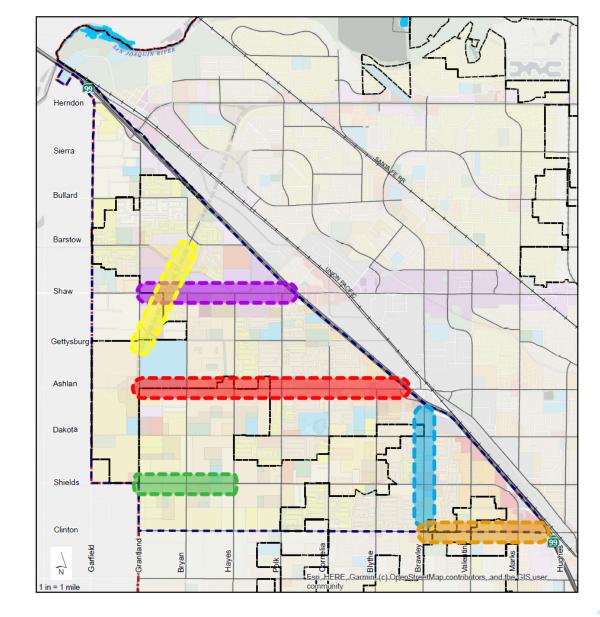
Centers or linear nodes, designed to create complementary investment to nearby and surrounding areas

> Lancaster Boulevard Lancaster, CA



Catalytic Corridors

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





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

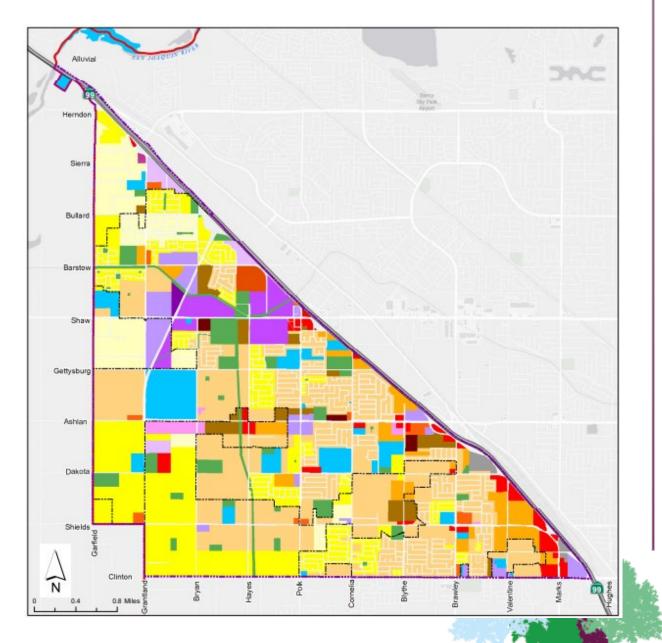
- Neighborhood Mixed Use
- Corridor/Center Mixed Use
- Regional Mixed Use

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



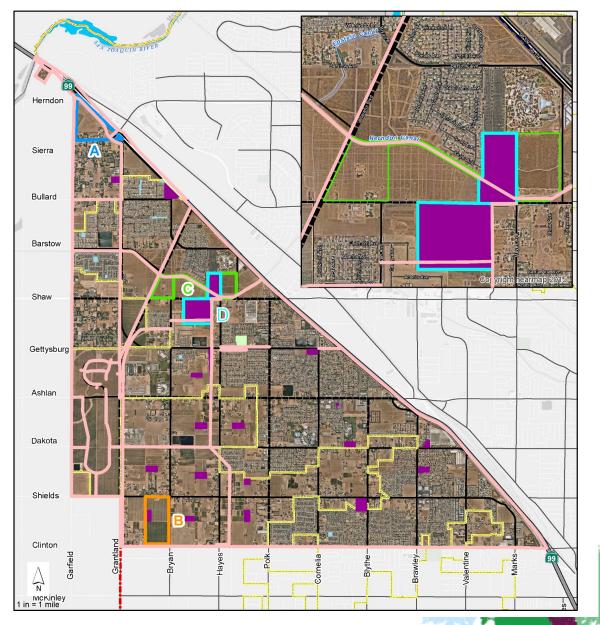
Regional Park

From the Guiding Principles:

Provide for the location of a flagship regional park in the Plan Area that has components of the Plan Area's agricultural history through the planting of drought resistant vegetation or trees, and the creation of public art that exhibits the Plan Area's contribution to the agricultural industry.

- Existing Parks
- CFD Parks and Open Space
- Planned Trails
- Planned Parks and Open Space

- Option A
- Option B
- Option C
- Option D (Proposed)



4. 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 March 12, 2025

8 comments received

Final EIR released: September 19, 2025



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



5. Public Comment



7. Findings & Staff Recommendations



Findings



Fresno Municipal Code

Consistency with the General Plan

- A concurrent Plan Amendment to the General Plan Figure LU-1 and LU-2 ensures land use consistency between the General Plan and Specific Plan
- The Plan helps implement Objectives in the following Elements: Economic
 Development; Urban Form, Land Use, and Design; Mobility and Transportation; Parks,
 Open Space, and Schools; Public Utilities and Services; Resource Conservation and
 Resilience; Historic and Cultural Resources; and Healthy Communities

Consistency with the Development Code

- The Plan relies on the Development Code for implementation.
- The Plan does not modify the Development Code.



Housing Element – Gov. Code 65863

	Lower - Income	Moderate - Income	Above Moderate - Income
a. Remaining Capacity (Table B)	18,023	6,555	16,162
Project Impact	-787	-614	-597
c. Remaining Capacity with project	17,236	5,941	15,565



Housing Element – Gov. Code 65863

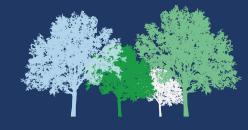
- 1. Adoption of the Plan would reduce dwelling unit capacities on Housing Element sites as shown;
- 2. Surplus capacity exists to accommodate the reduction;
- 3. The reduction is consistent with the adopted General Plan; and
- 4. The remaining sites identified in the Housing Element are adequate to accommodate the City's share of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).



Housing Crisis Act of 2019 (SB 330)

Adoption of the Plan would result in a gain of housing capacity.





- 1. RECOMMEND APPROVAL (to the City Council), of the findings set forth in the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR SCH No. 2019069117).
 - a. RECOMMEND ADOPTION (to the City Council) of an appropriate Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) as required by Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15097; and,
 - b. RECOMMEND ADOPTION (to the City Council) of findings based upon testimony presented by staff that there are significant, unavoidable, environmental impacts which have not been mitigated to a level below significant. Therefore, the City Council should adopt the findings of fact and consider an appropriate statement of overriding considerations.

Technical Corrections

APN 511-011-21 (CUSD Property)				
	General Plan	Specific Plan		
Planned Land Use	Residential Medium	Public Facility — Elementary School		
Zoning	RS-5	RS-5		

APN 442-060-33				
	General Plan	Specific Plan		
Planned Land Use	Residential Medium High	Residential Urban Neighborhood		
Zoning	RM-2	RM-2		



2. RECOMMEND APPROVAL (to the City Council) of Plan Amendment Application P22-01351 which proposes to repeal the West Area Community Plan, pertaining to approximately 12,341 acres located in the Development Area-1 West Development Area, and the portion of the Highway City Neighborhood Specific Plan that overlaps the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan Boundary, approximately 455 acres.

3. RECOMMEND APPROVAL (to the City Council) of Plan Amendment Application P22-01352 which proposes to adopt the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan and accompanying Planned Land Use Map.



4. RECOMMEND APPROVAL (to the City Council) of Plan Amendment Application P22-01353 which proposes to update the Planned Land Use Map (Figure LU-1) and Dual Designation Diagram (Figure LU-2) of the Fresno General Plan to incorporate the land use changes proposed in the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan.



5. RECOMMEND APPROVAL (to the City Council) of Rezone Application P22-01353 which proposes to rezone approximately 958 acres of property within the West Area Neighborhoods Specific Plan area to be consistent with the planned land uses proposed in the Plan.



– www.fresno.gov/westareaplan ¬

End of Presentation

