City of Merced 678 18<sup>th</sup> Street Merced CA 95340

November 7, 2022 Via Email: <u>planningweb@cityofmerced.org</u> Via: <u>espinosak@cityofmerced.org</u>

Re: Opposing CCBP #22-02R

Attention: Dear Ms. Kim Espinosa, planning Manager

We have been informed of the notice given to our neighborhood regarding a Commercial Cannabis Business Permit #22-02R for a location at 1111 Motel Drive built by KWP Consulting.

We strongly oppose the CCBP #22-O2R in our neighborhood and we request a hearing with us for the following comments:

- 1111 Motel Drive located in Merced, CA is a tourism corridor including 6 hotels and potential to add 2 new hotels.
- This corridor should be preserved for tourism and protect the passing of visitors through Merced
- Issuing the Cannabis Permit would likely increase unwanted traffic on a small street
- Issuing the Cannabis Permit can increase potential crime which would not be safe for tourists
- It would likely expose tourists to local law enforcement attention that the Cannabis business could create. It will make visitors less likely to return in the future and feel they are in an unsafe location.
- Issuing such a permit would make it a less desirable location for current business owners, the tourism board, and future travelers. It would harm current business owners and decreases the likelihood of future hospitality investments to this location.

Overall, we urge your team to carefully evaluate such permits, help us protect the neighborhood from potential harm, and protect the current businesses from negative impact. We wish KWP Consulting the best and hope they can find an alternative location for this business.

Sincerely,

Tushar Patel CEO

mita, Ponchal

Mita Panchal COO

Best Western Merced 1033 Motel Dr. Merced CA 95341 Email: bestwesternmerced@gmail.com