

April 8, 2025

Subject: General Plan Amendment #24-02 / Site Utilization Plan Revision #3 to Planned Development #20 / Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1332 / Site Plan #551/ Minor Use Permit #24-13 – Yosemite Avenue Self Storage and Residential Project

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed General Plan Amendment 24-02, which I understand seeks to rezone land along a primary corridor in Merced for the development of dense housing and a mini storage facility. As a resident/stakeholder in Merced, I have significant concerns about the potential negative impacts this amendment would have on our community's character, infrastructure, and overall quality of life. I urge you to carefully consider these concerns and reject this proposed amendment.

The proposed development of dense housing along a primary corridor raises several critical issues. Firstly, it is likely to exacerbate existing traffic congestion on what is already a heavily utilized roadway. Increased residential density will inevitably lead to a higher volume of vehicles, causing further delays, bottlenecks, and potentially impacting emergency response times. Secondly, the introduction of high-density housing in this location may strain existing infrastructure, including water and sewer systems, potentially leading to service disruptions and the need for costly upgrades that could burden existing residents. Furthermore, the character of this primary corridor, often serving as a key visual gateway to our city, risks being negatively altered by the introduction of dense residential blocks, potentially diminishing the aesthetic appeal and overall sense of place.

The inclusion of a mini storage facility in this proposal adds another layer of concern. While such facilities may serve a purpose, locating one along a primary corridor detracts from the visual appeal and potentially limits opportunities for more economically vibrant or community-serving developments. Primary corridors should ideally be reserved for uses that enhance the city's image, attract visitors, and contribute to a dynamic and engaging environment. A mini storage facility, by its nature, is a low-intensity use that does not typically generate significant economic activity or contribute positively to the streetscape. Combining it with dense housing in this location appears to be a less than optimal use of valuable land along a key thoroughfare.

In conclusion, I believe that General Plan Amendment 24-02, with its proposal for dense housing and a mini storage facility along a primary corridor, is not in the best long-term interests of Merced. The potential for increased traffic congestion, strain on infrastructure, and negative impacts on the city's character outweigh any perceived benefits.

I respectfully request that the Planning Commission carefully consider these concerns and vote against the approval of General Plan Amendment 24-02. I encourage you to prioritize land use decisions that promote sustainable growth, preserve the unique character of our city, and enhance the quality of life for all Merced residents.

Thank you for your commitment and service to Merced as members of the Planning Commission at this exciting time of growth and development.

Sincerely,

Tracy Proietti
Merced resident/Business owner