

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

☒ Office of Planning and Research

U.S. Mail:

Street Address:

P.O. Box 3044

1400 Tenth St., Rm 113

Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ County Clerk

County of: Merced

Address: 2222 M Street

Merced, CA 95340

From:

Public Agency: Merced County Ass

Address: 369 W. 18th Street

Merced, CA 95340

Contact: Nav Bagri

Phone: (209) 769-0055

Lead Agency (if different from:

Address:

Contact:

Phone:

2026-EIR-130

FILED

October 21, 2026

MATT H. MAY

COUNTY CLERK

By

Deputy Clerk

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2025030169

Project Title: MCAG 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

Project Applicant: Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)

Project Location (Include county): Merced County - Countywide

Project Description: See attached Project Description

This is to advise that the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) has approved the above
(☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency)described project on October 15, 2026 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
(date)
described project.

1. The project ☒ will ☐ will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☒ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
☐ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures ☒ were ☐ were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan ☒ was ☐ was not adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations ☒ was ☐ was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings ☒ were ☐ were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

MCAG offices at 369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340 or via web at <https://www.mcagov.org/301/Regional-Transportation-Plan>

Signature (Public Agency):

Title: Deputy Executive Director

Date: October 21, 2026

Date Received for filing at OPR:

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

Revised 2011

Project Description

MCAG 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

State Clearinghouse No. 2025030169

The project is the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), a countywide, long-range transportation and land use planning document with a horizon year of 2049. The 2026 RTP/SCS updates the 2022 RTP/SCS and identifies transportation needs, goals, policies, implementing actions, projects, programs, and anticipated financial resources for Merced County.

The RTP/SCS addresses a balanced multimodal transportation system, including highways and local roads; local and commuter transit; passenger and freight rail; trucking and goods movement; bicycle and pedestrian facilities; aviation; and transportation systems management. It includes a financially constrained program of transportation investments, updated project lists and performance measures, a financial element, and an environmental justice analysis.

The Sustainable Communities Strategy integrates transportation planning with forecast land use and housing patterns to address regional greenhouse gas reduction targets under Senate Bill 375. The preferred alternative identified in the Final PEIR is Scenario C, Affordable Housing-Centered Growth. The plan considers population, employment, housing, and transportation needs through 2049 and supports investment in alternative transportation modes while accommodating identified highway capacity needs.

The RTP/SCS provides the regional planning framework for the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). The PEIR evaluates implementation of the RTP/SCS at a program level, including cumulative and growth-inducing effects. Individual transportation projects remain subject to subsequent environmental review and applicable approvals as their scope, location, design, and funding are established.

The Draft PEIR public review period began June 16, 2026, and ended July 31, 2026. The Final PEIR incorporates responses to comments and changes to the Draft PEIR and includes CEQA Findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations (Exhibit A) and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (Exhibit B). The Final PEIR identifies significant and unavoidable environmental impacts to be considered by the MCAG Governing Board in acting on the RTP/SCS.

Project Location

The project covers all of Merced County, including the six incorporated cities of Atwater, Dos Palos, Gustine, Los Banos, Livingston, and Merced and the County's unincorporated communities and rural areas.

Lead Agency Contact

Elizabeth Forte, Director of Planning and Programming
Merced County Association of Governments
369 W. 18th Street, Merced, CA 95340
(209) 769-0055 | planning@mcagov.org

com



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print

Start Over

Save

RECEIPT NUMBER:

24-10/21/2026-0129

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (MCAG)		10/21/2026
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER	
MERCED COUNTY	2026-EIR-130	
PROJECT TITLE		

MCAG 2026 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
MERCED COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS		(209) 769-0055
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY	STATE
369 W. 18TH STREET	MERCED	CA
		ZIP CODE
		95340

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)
☒ Local Public Agency
 ☐ School District
 ☐ Other Special District
 ☐ State Agency
 ☐ Private Entity
CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☒ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$ 4,227.50	\$ 4,227.50
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$ 3,043.75	
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$ 1,437.25	

☐ Exempt from fee☐ Notice of Exemption (attach)☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$ 850.00	\$
☒ County documentary handling fee	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
☐ Other		\$

PAYMENT METHOD:
☐ Cash
 ☒ Credit
 ☐ Check
 ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 4,277.50

SIGNATURE

X

Ralph Williams

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

Ralph Williams Deputy Clerk