

01/15/19
City Council Meeting

**Handouts received after
agenda posted**

Communities of Excellence 2026

Kings County California
(Hanford/Lemoore)



What is Community of Excellence?

- A systematic approach to community performance using Criteria for Performance Excellence based on the Baldrige Excellence Framework.

Why are we choosing to pursue Communities of Excellence?

- ▶ To align our community around recognizing the social determinants of educational achievement, economic vitality, and health status, and together creating a commitment towards improving these elements.
- ▶ This proven, comprehensive and systematic approach can help a community as a unified whole in their desire to improve the quality of life for residents and achieve ongoing success.

Malcom who?

What is the Malcom Baldrige National Quality Award?



- Malcolm Baldrige Jr. was the former United States Secretary of Commerce under Ronald Reagan. He designed and created this award.
- An award established by the U.S. Congress in 1987 to raise awareness of quality management and recognize U.S. companies that have implemented successful quality management systems.
- The award recognizes U.S. organizations in business, health care, education and non-profit sectors for performance excellence.

Who is working on this?



- **Advisory Board:** Advisory Board: Meet quarterly to review Communities of Excellence progress and provide feedback. Goal is to create a space to solicit expertise advice, and wisdom.
- **Community Partners and Friends:** Staying informed and signing on to the concept. We will keep you informed about updates throughout the year.

- ▶ **Steering Committee:**
- ▶ Ed Hill, Director Public Health, Hanford
- ▶ Lisa Lewis, PhD-Behavioral Health Director, Hanford
- ▶ Ana Nicks, HR Director, Leprino Foods, Hanford
- ▶ Julie LeFils, Executive Director Kings Partnerships for Prevention, Hanford
- ▶ Crystal Hernandez, Psy.D. - Executive Director Champions Recovery, Hanford
- ▶ Ed Ammon, VP of Mission Integration, Adventist Health Central California Region
- ▶ Ray Madrigal, City Mayor Lemoore
- ▶ Richard Huse, Regional VP Strategy Activation, Adventist Health Central California Region
- ▶ Nina Plata, VP Population Health, Adventist Health Hanford
- ▶ Andrew Cromwell, Executive Pastor, Koinonia Church Hanford
- ▶ Bucky Weeks, Director Chaplain Services, Adventist Health Hanford
- ▶ Armando Villareal, Director of Operations, Champions Recovery, Hanford



Our journey so far

For the past year, our steering committee has been participating in a cohort with other cities across the United States learning the process for Communities of Excellence.

- Topics: Strategic Planning
- Topics: Leadership and key award winning leaders sharing their experiences
- Topics: Bringing communities together

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect. The central area is a clean white space where the text is placed.

Metrics

Family, business, health, & education

What are we doing?

► Mission

- To enhance the quality of life in Kings County by creating a collaborative community that focuses on health, family, education, and financial stability.

► Vision

- Building a vibrant Kings County: where future generations flourish!





Goal

- Develop a Baldrige-based Community Profile, and use it to identify the next steps toward our community of excellence journey.
- Identify desired community outcomes and develop a Community Strategic Plan focused on these outcomes.
- Establish a diverse, values-driven leadership team comprised of residents and stakeholders from the community's key sectors, generations, social and economic groups.



What's in it for you?

We can't do this without you.



Flourish
Kings County

COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE 2026

Mission

To Enhance the quality of life in Kings County by creating a collaborative community that focuses on:

- Health
- Family
- Education
- Financial Stability



Vision

Building a vibrant Kings County: Where future generations flourish!



Values

- Tradition
- Respect
- Community
- Wellness
- Safety
- Teamwork
- Growth
- Environment
- Excellence





Goals

Flourish Kings County

Goals

Draft Goals from the Steering Committee:

1. Create a collaborative community that drives the enhancement of **quality of life** in Kings County
2. Enhance awareness and support of **social determinants of health** to create a healthier Kings County
3. Create an **education focused** culture.
4. Create an environment that **sustains economic growth and innovation** for new business within the community in order to (provide services) enhance the quality of life for all residents

Action Plans

- ❖ Establish common goals with Kings County community members (short-term)
- ❖ Coordinate efforts with healthcare, county health services, and the community to support the underserved (long-term)
- ❖ To bring schools together to discuss how to discuss and address 3rd grade reading, high school graduation and college degree attainment. (short-term)
- ❖ Align business and community goals with secondary and post-secondary job education and training (long-term)



Flourish **Kings County**

Kings County
Communities of
Excellence
Teams



- Steering Committee
- Advisory Board
- Our Community (Partners & Friends)



Community Feedback



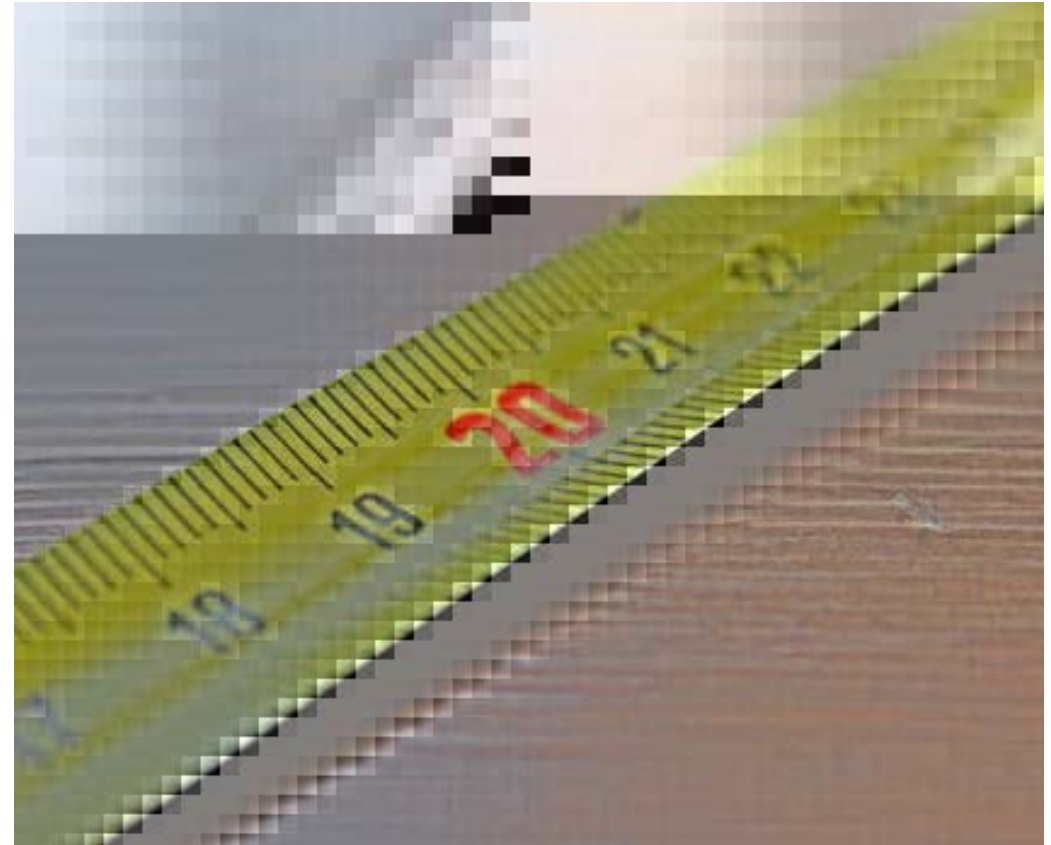
- The Steering Committee, The Advisory Board will present and discuss Action Plan metrics with the power to suggest change based on community need
- The goal is to establish what the financial need is. Once this is established the Advisory Board will discuss and decide funding (including sources)
- In 2019, the community (friends) will be asked to review, give input and recommend change to the established Action Plans. The community meetings will occur twice a year in English and Spanish.

Challenges

- Large Spanish speaking only community
 - Ag Migrant workers that work 6 days a week/12 hours a day
 - Seasonal work
- Low education
- High unemployment rate
- High Poverty rate

Metrics

- Establish a method to capture change in community need with use of census data and supported by:
 - CHNA
 - Emergency room use
 - Community health
 - School testing
 - Poverty level
 - Crime rate
 - Suicide rate
 - Traditional government public revenue streams (e.g. property taxes, sales tax, and use fees)





'Flourish Kings County'

LOGO GUIDE

Flourish (verb)

Grow or develop in a **healthy** or **vigorous** way, especially as the result of a particularly **favorable** environment.





Thank you Community of Excellence
Team/Cohorts
Our year has been fuller due to your partnerships

Thomas Reed

1060 Par Avenue, Lemoore

817-7234

Mayor, Council Members:

Are you offended?

The only real conflict you will have in your life won't be with others, but with yourself.

People get addicted to feeling offended all the time because it gives them a high, and being self-righteous and morally superior makes them feel good.

Right now we live in an age of extreme Political Correctness. It has gone way too far. I hope it's just a phase. Political Correctness is now just a fancy word for censorship. It's no longer about protecting the weak. It has become an excuse to persecute others, because persecuting people is fun. Don't you dare say or think the wrong thing, or a Twitter mob of angry villagers will come after you with digital torches and metaphorical pitchforks.

Some people love to feel offended because it makes them feel important. When your only tool is a hammer, suddenly every problem starts to look like a nail. And when the only time you feel relevant is when you claim to be offended, suddenly everything looks offensive.

Don't worry about offending people. Any time you say something thought provoking, someone will complain, because they hate it when you make them think.

Those who are determined to be "offended" will discover a provocation somewhere. We cannot possibly adjust enough to please the fanatics, and it is degrading to make the attempt.

Whenever you speak the truth, someone will be offended.



Thomas R Reed

01/15/2018

The 61st Annual Installation Banquet is this Friday. Every year around October a group of previous Citizens of the Year meet at the Chamber office and begin the job of selecting Business, Organization and Citizen of the Year. To be honest, it is my favorite meeting of the year. During the meeting I get to hear about all of the amazing businesses, organizations and citizens that we have here in Lemoore. It is basically one big brag on Lemoore meeting and for the 2nd year, I have left the meeting in complete awe of how lucky our community is.

This year we get to honor Sushi Table as business of the year. If you do not know Sunny and Fanny Law you are missing out. Those two have some of the biggest hearts for our community and they give back nearly daily it seems. We also get to honor The LHS FFA Guide Dog Puppy Raising Project. Local high school students spending their free time raising puppies who will become guide dogs for the blind. Simply incredible! Our citizen of the year is Dr. Ewing who has been an active volunteer and physician in our community for more years than I can count.

When I took over as CEO in 2017 my goal was to consistently celebrate the things that make Lemoore such an amazing community. When I sat at my desk early on I knew that there was so much more that we could celebrate at our banquets. We have some of the BEST public safety individuals here in Lemoore. From an all-volunteer fire department to our world class LPD, Lemoore is lucky. So I brought in a 4th award because I am a firm believer that if we do not celebrate how lucky we are, nobody else will. Last year we honored Officer Jason Stephens as our first ever Public Safety Individual of the Year and this year we will honor Abi Shiyomura who is a volunteer firefighter with the Lemoore Volunteer Fire Department.

There will always be things that we can improve on as a City but I for one stand here proud of this community. Proud of all the businesses and people who work so hard to make Lemoore what it is. This Friday I get to celebrate those in the community who make significant impacts daily. The ones who lead by example, not by words. Our businesses and our citizens deserve to be celebrated. Growth is of course important but I hope that in our quest for growth we never stop celebrating those who have invested their time, talents and money in Lemoore. Those who understand that Lemoore is not like any other community, nor should we ever strive to be.

Thank you to everyone who has already purchased their tickets and will join us in our celebration of our city. Thank you to Nathan and his staff for being a partner in this event. This event is sold out and we look forward to another great event!!!

Amy Ward

CEO

Lemoore Chamber of Commerce

RESOLUTION NO. 2019 -02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEMOORE
FINDING THE 2018-2019 STREET PROJECTS EXEMPT FROM THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department’s street projects for the 2018-2019 fiscal year (“2018-2019 Street Projects”) are located in six separate locations; and

WHEREAS, on Fox Street between the San Joaquin Valley Railroad to G Street, there will be a street overlay, a bicycle lane addition, and a storm drain pipeline addition; and

WHEREAS, on Carmel Drive between Stinson Drive and San Simeon Drive, there will be street overlay and a bicycle lane addition; and

WHEREAS, on Bush Street between Lemoore Avenue and Powell Avenue, there will be street overlay and a bicycle lane addition; and

WHEREAS, on Vine Street between the southern City limit boundary and Iona Avenue, there will be a street overlay, a bicycle lane addition, and a pedestrian pathway installation; and

WHEREAS, on Lemoore Avenue from the State Route 198 westbound on-ramp to the State Route 198 eastbound on-ramp (excluding the concrete deck of the highway overcrossing), there will be street overlay; and

WHEREAS, at the intersection of Eton Drive and Somerset Drive, the above-ground cross gutter, pavement, and pedestrian intersection ramps will be replaced; and

WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 Street Projects have been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), and no exception to any applicable exemption is applicable; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lemoore makes the following findings with respect to the 2018-2019 Street Projects:

1. On Fox Street between the San Joaquin Valley Railroad to G Street, the street overlay is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 as a minor alteration to an existing street. The bicycle lane addition is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(h). The storm drainage addition is exempt by statute from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.21 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15282(k), in that it is a pipeline that does not exceed one mile in length.

2. On Carmel Drive between Stinson Drive and San Simeon Drive, the street overlay is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 as a minor alteration to an existing street. The bicycle lane addition is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(h).

3. On Bush Street between Lemoore Avenue and Powell Avenue, the street overlay is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 as a minor alteration to an existing street. The bicycle lane addition is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(h).

4. On Vine Street between the southern City limit boundary and Iona Avenue, the street overlay is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 as a minor alteration to an existing street. The bicycle lane addition is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(h). The pedestrian pathway installation is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 as a negligible expansion of an existing street area.

5. On Lemoore Avenue from the State Route 198 westbound on-ramp to the State Route 198 eastbound on-ramp (excluding the concrete deck of the highway overcrossing), the street overlay is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 as a minor alteration to an existing street.

6. At the intersection of Eton Drive and Somerset Drive, the replacement of above-ground cross gutter, pavement, and pedestrian intersection ramps is categorically exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 as a minor alteration to an existing street.

7. As to the categorical CEQA exemptions cited above, none of the exceptions listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 are applicable to the 2018-2019 Street Projects:

- a. There will be no impacts on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern.
- b. There will be no significant cumulative impacts resulting from successive projects of the same type in the same place over time.
- c. There will be no significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- d. There will be no impact to an officially-designated state scenic highway.
- e. None of the projects are located on a hazardous waste site.

8. The City Council authorizes the Public Works Director to record a Notice of Exemption for each one of the 2018-2019 Street Projects.

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RESOLUTION 2019-02

Passed and adopted at a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Lemoore held on January 15, 2019, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINING:

ABSENT:

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary J. Venegas, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEMOORE
WITH INTENTION TO (i) ANNEX AND INCLUDE ADDITIONAL
TERRITORIES IN PUBLIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE DISTRICT
NO. 1 IN THE CITY OF LEMOORE, AND (ii) LEVY AND COLLECT
ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS IN SUCH ANNEXED TERRITORIES
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 AND THEREAFTER**

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the City Council of the City of Lemoore to order annexation of Territories to City of Lemoore Public Facilities District No. 1 (“PFMD”), as Zone 9 thereof, and to order levy and collection of annual assessments in such annexed Territories for fiscal year 2019-20 and thereafter, under Chapter 10 of Title 7 of the Lemoore Municipal Code, as enacted by Ordinance No. 2006-01 (the “Ordinance”), and according the procedures set forth in the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act (Government Code Sections 53750-53753.5, inclusive) (the “Implementation Act”), Article XIID of the California Constitution (“Proposition 218”) and, to the extent not inconsistent with the Ordinance, the procedures specified in the State Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 (Chapter 2 of Part 2 of Division 15 of the California Streets & Highways Code) (the “LLMD Act”); and

WHEREAS, the Territories to be annexed to the PFMD (the “Added Territories”) is comprised of the real property to be benefited and to be assessed for the maintenance, operation, repair and periodic replacement of landscaping, street lights, local street paving, parks and appurtenant facilities described as follows:

Plants, shrubbery, trees, turf, irrigation systems, entry monuments, local street maintenance, parks, hardscapes, walls, fencing, street lights and appurtenant facilities in public rights-of-way and easements within or appurtenant to the boundaries of the applicable benefit Zone of said District;

The Added Territories is generally described in the map(s) attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer has prepared and filed with the City Clerk a report entitled “City of Lemoore Public Facilities Maintenance District No. 1, Engineer’s Report Annexation of Territory Tract No. 920 as Zone 09” dated January 2019 (the “Engineer’s Report”), to which reference is hereby made, Engineer’s Report contains a description of the existing facilities and improvements, the boundaries of the PFMD and any zones therein, the boundaries of the Territories proposed to be annexed to the PFMD in these proceedings, the facilities and improvements proposed for the Added Territories, and the general location and proposed assessments on the assessable lots and parcels of land within the PFMD, including the Added Territories; and

WHEREAS, the Engineer’s Report is on file in the office of the City Clerk and is available for inspection during regular business hours;

WHEREAS, the City Engineer also has prepared and filed with the City Clerk an amended map of the boundaries of the PFMD, incorporating the Added Territories within such boundaries as Zone 9, as proposed in these proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the proceeds of the annual assessments to be levied on the parcels within the PFMD, including the Added Territories, for fiscal year 2019-20 and for each fiscal year thereafter will be used exclusively to finance the expenses for maintenance, operation, repair and periodic replacement of the improvements and facilities described in the Engineer's Report for that fiscal year, which maintenance, operation, repair and periodic replacement will provide direct, particular and distinct special benefits to the various parcels assessed, over and above the benefits conferred on the public at large; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the assessment to be levied on each parcel in the PFMD, including the Added Territories, for the 2019-20 fiscal year, as proposed in the Engineer's Report, is proportional to and no greater than the special benefits conferred on such parcel from maintenance, operation, repair and periodic replacement of the improvements and facilities described in the Engineer's Report;

THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Lemoore resolves, finds and determines as follows:

1. The above recitals are true.
2. The Engineer's Report of the City Engineer as filed with the City Clerk is preliminarily approved. Reference is hereby made to the Engineer's Report for a full and detailed description of the improvements and facilities, and the proposed assessment upon assessable lots and parcels of land within the Added Territories.
3. The City Council declares its intention to annex and make part of the PFMD, as Zone 9 thereof, all Territories with the Added Territories, whose boundaries are set forth in the Engineer's Report and the amended map of the boundaries of the PFMD on file with the City Clerk. The amended map of the boundaries of the PFMD, showing the proposed annexation of the Added Territories, is preliminary approved.
4. The City Council further declares its intention to levy and collect annual assessments within the Added Territories for fiscal year 2019-20 and thereafter, as stated in the Engineer's Report, under the authority of and according to the procedures set forth in the Ordinance, including without limitation the procedures in the Implementation Act, Proposition 218 and, the extent not inconsistent with the Ordinance, the procedures specified in the LLMD Act.
5. The City Council incorporates into this Resolution by reference the general description of the facilities and improvements existing in or proposed for the Added Territories, all as detailed in the Engineer's Report.

6. Notice is further hereby given that on the February 5, 2019, at the hour of 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, in the regular meeting place of the City Council, Council Chambers, 429 C Street, Lemoore, California, is hereby fixed as the time and place for public hearing when and where all interested persons may be heard regarding the question of annexation of the Added Territories to the PFMD and the levy and collection of the proposed assessments therein. At the hearing, any interested person shall be permitted to present written or oral testimony. Also, prior to the conclusion of public testimony at the hearing, the record owner(s) of each lot or parcel in the Added Territories identified in the Engineer's Report as having special benefit conferred on it and on which an assessment is proposed to be imposed may submit, change or withdraw an assessment ballot as provided in Section 7 below, the Engineer's Report and the Implementation Act. The hearing shall be conducted, and assessment ballots tabulated, as described in Section 7, the Engineer's Report and the Implementation Act.
7. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to give notice of the public hearing in accord with Section 53753 of the Implementation Act. The City Clerk shall mail notice to the record owner(s), as shown in the last equalized assessment roll of the County of Kings, the State Board of Equalization assessment roll or as known to the City Clerk, of each lot or parcel in the Added Territories and identified in the Engineer's Report as having special benefit conferred on it and on which an assessment is proposed to be imposed. The record owner has waived the 45-day notice requirement under the law, allowing for the public hearing to occur on the above date. A copy of the signed waiver is attached hereto as Exhibit B. Each notice shall include (i) the name and the proposed levy and collection of assessments therein. Each notice shall include (i) the name and address of the City, (ii) the reason for assessment, (iii) the total amount of the assessment chargeable to the entire Territories within the Added Territories boundaries and the maximum assessment, (iv) the amount of initial assessment chargeable to the record owner's lot or parcel and the maximum assessment chargeable to such lot or parcel, (v) the duration of the payments, (vi) the basis on which the amount of the proposed assessment was and will be calculated for each fiscal year, (vii) in a conspicuous place, a summary of the procedures for completion, return and tabulation of assessment ballots, including a statement that the assessment shall not be imposed if the ballots submitted in opposition to the assessment exceed the ballots submitted in favor of the assessment, with ballots weighted according to the proportional financial obligation of the affected lots or parcels, (viii) the date, time and place of the public hearing, and (ix) the name and telephone number of the person designated by the Council to answer inquiries regarding the protest and assessment ballot proceedings.

Each notice also shall contain an assessment ballot that includes the City's address for receipt of the form and a place where the person returning the assessment ballot may indicate his or her name, a reasonable identification of the lot or parcel, and his or her support of or opposition to the proposed assessment. An envelope for the return of the assessment ballot shall be included with each notice. All assessment ballots shall be signed and returned by mail or otherwise delivered at the address indicated in the assessment ballot, or the site of the public hearing, prior to the date and hour set for the

hearing. As assessment ballot may be submitted, changed or withdrawn prior to the conclusion of the public testimony on the proposed assessment at the hearing.

At the time, date and place stated in the notice, the Council shall conduct a public hearing on the proposed assessment and, at the hearing, shall consider all objections and protests, if any, to the proposed assessment and shall consider the adoption of a resolution ordering annexation of the Added Territories to the PFMD as Zone 9 and the maintenance, operation, repair and periodic replacement of the specified improvements and facilities, finally approving the Engineer's Report, and confirming the diagram and assessment, either as originally proposed or as changed by the Council. Any interested person shall be permitted to present written or oral testimony at the hearing. The Council may continue the hearing from time to time.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, an impartial person designated by the Council, who does not have a vested interest in the outcome of the proposed assessment and who may be the City Clerk, will tabulate the assessment ballots submitted and not withdrawn in support of or in opposition to the proposed assessment. If the assessment ballots submitted and not withdrawn in opposition to the proposed assessment exceed the assessment ballots submitted and withdrawn in favor of the proposed assessment (weighting the assessment ballots by the amount of the proposed assessment to be imposed on the lot or parcel for which each assessment ballot was submitted), a majority protest shall exist and the Council shall not impose the assessment. If a majority protest (determined as described above) does not exist, the Council intends to proceed with annexation of the Added Territories to the PFMD and to levy and impose the assessments in the Added Territories in accordance with applicable law.

8. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Lemoore at a regular meeting held on the 15th day of January 2019 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINING:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Mary J. Venegas
City Clerk

Edward Neal
Mayor

**BOARD / COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATIONS
per MAYOR PRO TEM BILLINGSGLEY**

PRIMARY	ALTERNATE
<u>Cross Valley Rail Corridor Joint Powers Authority</u>	
Dave Brown	Chad Billingsley
<u>Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee</u>	
Chad Billingsley	Eddie Neal
<u>Kings Community Action Organization (KCAO)</u>	
Stuart Lyons	Eddie Neal
<u>Kings County Area Public Transit Authority (KCAPTA)</u>	
Stuart Lyons	Chad Billingsley
<u>Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG)</u>	
Eddie Neal	Stuart Lyons
<u>Kings County Commission on Aging</u>	
Stuart Lyons	Dave Brown
<u>Kings County Economic Development Committee</u>	
Chad Billingsley	Dave Brown
<u>Kings County Emergency Shelter and Food Committee</u>	
Chad Billingsley	Eddie Neal
<u>Kings County Gang Awareness Advisory Committee</u>	
Stuart Lyons	Dave Brown
<u>Kings County Vehicle Abatement Committee</u>	
Eddie Neal	Stuart Lyons
<u>Kings Mosquito Abatement District</u>	
Dave Brown	Chad Billingsley
<u>Kings Waste & Recycling Authority Board</u>	
Eddie Neal	Stuart Lyons

**BOARD / COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATIONS
per MAYOR PRO TEM BILLINGSGLEY**

PRIMARY	ALTERNATE
<u>Lemoore Finance Committee</u>	
Dave Brown	Stuart Lyons
<u>LVFD Qualification Review Committee</u>	
Dave Brown	Stuart Lyons
<u>San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Board Special City Selection Committee</u>	
Chad Billingsley	Dave Brown
<u>South Fork Kings Sustainable Groundwater Management Act JPA Board</u>	
Chad Billingsley	Stuart Lyons
<u>League of California Cities</u>	
Eddie Neal	Chad Billingsley

Mayor Neal,

I have grave concerns about what is going on with the city of Lemoore's government and police department.

As you know, in the wake of voting against the hiring of Lemoore City Manager Nathan Olsen around February of 2018, I experienced being pulled over several times over a short period of time by Lemoore Police Officers for what I, and most people, would consider trivial offenses. I was also followed several times but not pulled over, and the police were called on me on more than one occasion while I was dropping my children off at their schools.

I found this sudden negative attention from the police very unsettling and suspicious, and considering I had no negative interactions with police in the nine years prior, I took the issue up privately with Lemoore Police Chief Darrell Smith.

Both the Police Chief and the council's reaction to my concerns was not to investigate, but instead to berate me publicly by holding a meeting to discuss my "conduct" in April of 2018. Leading up to the meeting on my conduct, defamatory lies about my interactions with local police, asserting that I had a "verbal altercation" with the Lemoore Police, were published in a local blog run a friend of Mayor Ray Madrigal. When I asked for dashcam or vestcam videos of these supposed serious incidents, I was told by the city manager that there was no video, and he refused to provide me with any reports which may document the encounters.

At a later meeting, I asked about the nature of the relationship between City Manager Nathan Olson and Police Chief Darrell Smith. I confirmed that there was a close relationship between him and Chief Smith; Olson stated that their children were dating each other. I had heard from others in the community that their children were engaged. In other words, its just a matter of time before they become in-laws.

This close relationship is, in my opinion, a clear conflict of interest, and I publicly asked for an independent investigation into my experience with local law enforcement. Chief Smith responded by claiming at the meeting that if he lived in my district he would recall me. Shortly after that, an effort to recall me was launched.

During the recall lawsuit that was filed against me by the city clerk, I learned in the discovery process that at least one council member had used the city's email system to communicate with recall supporters and/or proponents. This is clearly improper and may very well be a violation of California election laws.

I was also subjected to obviously ridiculous employee complaints from two top members of the Lemoore Police Department. The first, from Chief Darrell Smith charging me with "ageism" for using the term "good ole boys network" (which is a common idiom that has nothing to do with age). The second, from Margarita Ochoa claiming I was threatening her by posting an Amazon Review of a pen (that doubles as a device to break a window in case of an emergency) to my personal Twitter feed.

I am concerned that these two complaints, which are in my opinion completely baseless and submitted only to harass me, will likely land the officers on the Brady list. Intentionally filing false complaints, especially by police officers, is a serious matter.

The aforementioned behavior of City Manager Nathan Olson, Police Chief Darrell Smith, and Commander Margarita Ochoa paint a disturbing picture of abuse of power in Lemoore City. It is clear to any reasonable observer that this entire sad affair was instigated and encouraged

by former council member Madrigal. Happily, the voters took care of Mr. Madrigal. But, the voters have no say in high ranking government employees.

Managers or department heads in the City of Lemoore must meet the highest professional and ethical standards. Unlike Mr. Madrigal, we can't look to the voters to clean house.

Therefore I am requesting a formal, and thorough investigation into the following questions:

- 1). Did any city employee or elected official utilize city resources, to include the email system, to engage in political (to include recall) activity during the past 12 months?
- 2). Are Mr. Olson and Mr. Smith in fact in a conflict of interest because of a family relationship, or expected family relationship?
- 3). Are there any City policies that would prohibit family members such as in-laws from directly supervising each other's work? If there are no such policies in place, should there be?
- 4). Are the citizen complaint processes for the police department meeting the most modern industry standards for timeliness and thoroughness of the investigations/reviews? Should an independent police review board or auditor be created, such as those in effect in Fresno, Palo Alto, San Jose, and the like?
- 5). Has the police department implemented the new public records disclosure laws pertaining to officer misconduct that just went into effect?

I am confident that you will choose to do the right thing, and initiate an investigation into all of the items I've listed above.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Councilmember Holly Andradé Blair