



October 7, 2024

To: Property Owners within Substantially Surrounded Islands

Re: Effect of Annexation on County Islands

This letter serves as notice that the City of Hanford is proposing to initiate the annexation of substantially surrounded county-islands, in accordance with the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH Act) and the State of California's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) guidelines.

There are six substantially surrounded County islands within the bounds of the City of Hanford city limits. The City and County have agreed that it is in both parties' best interest to annex these islands to reduce inefficiencies and deficiencies of services provided.

Prior to initiation of the annexation of the County islands, the City of Hanford wishes to inform property owners within the County islands of the effect of annexation into the City limits. This letter provides answers to some of the most frequently asked questions associated with annexation. Please review the information below.

Should you have any questions not addressed by this letter, or wish to discuss further, please contact the staff-member associated with the topic you wish to discuss.

Any remaining questions will be addressed during an open-forum community meeting, which will be held on **October 23, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Training Room of City Hall, 319 N. Douty Street, Hanford, CA 93230.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: All interested parties are invited to attend the meeting and/or send written comments to Natalie Corral, City Clerk, City of Hanford, 319 N. Douty Street, Hanford CA 93230; NCorral@hanfordca.gov To ensure comments will be considered, all comments are requested to be submitted to the City by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is annexation?

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 governs annexation of unincorporated areas to a City. Annexation is a reorganization that changes the governmental authority from one jurisdiction (the County) to another (the City). The Kings County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) reviews and approves annexation requests. For more information regarding LAFCO, please visit the website at <http://www.kingslafo.com/>

2. What is an island?

An unincorporated "island" is a relatively small pocket of land currently served by the Kings County, but substantially surrounded by the City of Hanford. Generally, in accordance with Section 56375.3 of the Government Code, LAFCO characterizes an "island" as follows:

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT | 317 N. DOUTY ST. HANFORD, CA 93230
559.585.2500 | WWW.HANFORD.CITY**



- a. the land is substantially surrounded by a city, is substantially developed or developing, is not prime agricultural land, is designated for urban growth in the city's general plan, and is not within the Sphere of Influence of another city, and
- b. the land is located within an urban service area designated by the LAFCO, is not prime agricultural land, and is designated for urban growth in the city's general plan, and
- c. the land area does not exceed 150 acres.

Although islands are completely or substantially surrounded by a city, they remain under the land use and service authority of the County. The State Legislature determined that the continued existence of these islands created problems for cities, counties, island residents, adjacent city residents, and various agencies and special districts responsible for providing services and facilities. ***Consequently, the State modified the procedures to encourage cities to undertake island annexations by limiting the due process otherwise afforded other types of annexations.***

3. What is the streamlined process for island annexation?

In 1999, the California Legislature adopted AB 1555 (codified in Government Code Section 56375.3) that encouraged cities to annex small unincorporated islands. The law allows cities to annex islands without protest proceedings or elections, provided the island meets special criteria. By law, LAFCO must approve an annexation request submitted by a city if all the criteria mentioned in Question #2 above are satisfied.

All islands proposed to be annexed by the City of Hanford satisfy the specified criteria; therefore, protest proceedings are not required.

Finance Department

Contact Finance, Utility Billing via phone (559)585-2510 or email, finance@hanfordca.gov, regarding the information below:

1. Will my utility bills increase?

The cost to residents for City utilities will be as follows (based on utility rates effective July 1, 2024):

	Rates as of July 1, 2024 @ 11 Units of Water
Water Service	19.85
Water Consumption	24.64
Sewer Service	27.63
Storm Drain Service	5.04
Trash Service	29.99
Total	107.15



2. Will my property taxes increase?

No change will occur. All properties are taxed at the same rates whether annexed to the City or not (approximately one percent of assessed value). That is, City and County property owners pay the same tax rates. Thus, property tax assessments will not be affected by annexation. However, if the property is resold, or if new improvements to the property are constructed, the assessed value of the property will most likely increase. This increase, however, has nothing to do with a property being in the City or the County.

Public Works Department

Contact the Public Works Department via phone (559)585-2550 or email, publicworks@hanfordca.gov, regarding the information below:

1. Must I hook up to the City's sewer system if I already have a septic system?

Not at this time. Neither the County nor the City can require you to have sewer service if you are using a properly operating septic system. However, if your septic system violates State and/or local health and building codes, both County and City ordinances require most homeowners to connect to a sewer system if one is available within 200 feet of the property.

2. Can I replace my septic tank or do substantial work on the leach field once I am in the City?

The city will issue permits for new septic tank work or substantial work on the leach field only if the sewer line is not within 200 feet of your property line. Minor work on the leach field is allowed.

3. Can I keep my existing well and continue to use it after annexation to the City?

Yes. Existing wells can be retained after annexation. The City encourages property owners to hook up the house to city water, but the existing well can be retained long term for watering the property as long as a backflow device is installed on your domestic water service.

4. Is there a time in which I must connect the house to city water?

No. You will only be required to connect to city water when major work on the well is needed. Minor work, such as cleaning or pump replacement, will not require connection.

5. If I already have City water and sewer service, will my water and sewer bills go up after annexation?

No; however, the City will begin street sweeping the annexed areas and that charge will now appear on your bill.

6. What about curbs, gutters, sidewalks, street trees, storm drains, or streetlights?

There is no requirement that curbs, gutters, sidewalks, street trees, storm drains, or streetlights be installed as part of the annexation. The City may require a developer to make off-site improvements, which may include



improvements along the frontage of individual properties. If a property owner undertakes substantial building remodeling or new building construction on an individual lot basis after annexation, then curbs, gutters, sidewalks, street trees and streetlights must be constructed along the frontage of property. If desired by a neighborhood, a special district could be established to install these items at the cost of the property owners within the newly established district.

7. I now have trash service from a private contractor, can I keep my existing service and for how long?

You would have 12 months after annexation before you are required to sign up for City trash service. Currently, the city trash service for solid waste, and recycling and green waste is \$25.76 per month (fees subject to change). The City also provides a spring clean-up for a free pickup truck load to the dump. This service is included in the normal service fees.

Fire Department

Contact the Fire Department via phone (559)585-2545 or email, FirePrevention@hanfordca.gov, regarding the information below:

1. Who will be responsible for Fire protection?

Fire protection service will be provided by the City Fire Department upon annexation.

Police Department

Contact the Police Department, via phone (559)585-4540 or email, PoliceAdministration@hanfordca.gov, regarding the information below:

1. Who will be responsible for Police protection?

Police protection service will be provided by the City Police Department.

Kings County Elections Office

Contact the Kings County Elections Office via phone (559)852-4401 or email, elections@countyofkings.com, regarding the information below:

1. What changes will annexation have on elections?

The Kings County Elections Department conducts Federal, State, School, County, City and Special District elections. After annexation, residents of the areas affected would become citizens of the City, entitled to vote in City elections, and eligible to hold City elective and appointive positions.



Community Development Department – Planning Division

Contact Senior Planner, Gabrielle Myers, via phone (559)585-2578 or email, gmyers@hanfordca.gov, regarding the information below:

1. What effects will annexation have on zoning?

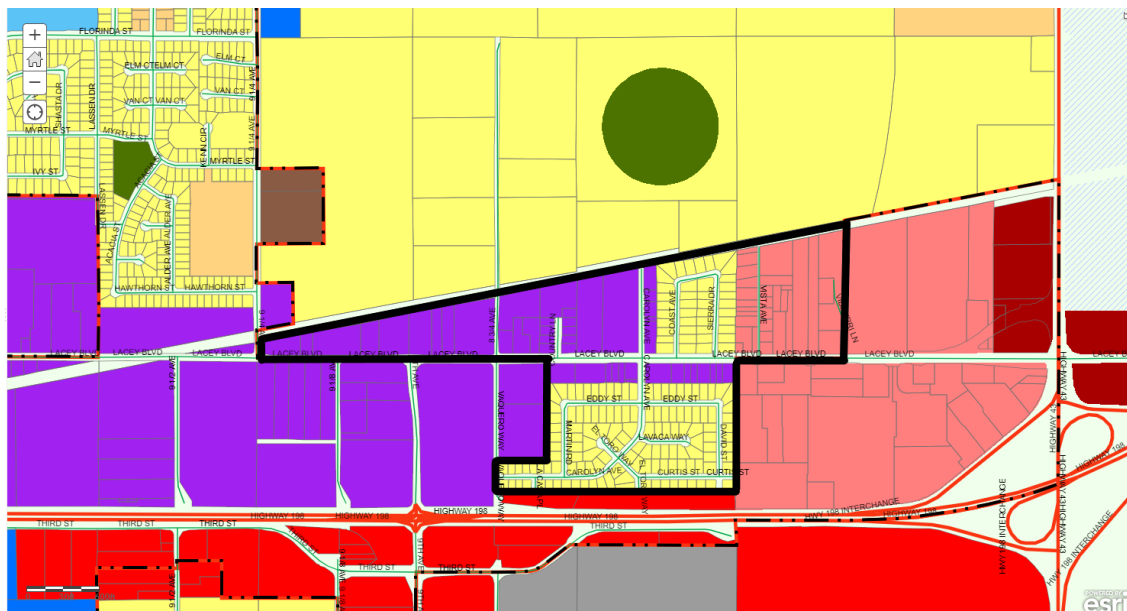
The county islands will be pre-zoned, based on the General Plan Designation for the area.

The ordinance can be viewed at this address: <http://qcode.us/codes/hanford/>

Island #	General Location	General Plan Designation	Pre-Zoning
9	East Lacey Boulevard, South of Southern Pacific Railroad Tracks	Corridor Mixed Use	MX-C Corridor Mixed Use
		Low-Density Residential	R-L-8 Low-Density Residential
		Regional Commercial	C-R Regional Commercial
12	West of 10 ½ Avenue, North of Houston Avenue	Low-Density Residential	R-L-5 Low-Density Residential
		Light Industrial	I-L Light Industrial
13	West of 10 th Avenue, between Idaho and Iona Avenues	Heavy Industrial	I-H Heavy Industrial
14	South of Flint Avenue, West of 11 th Avenue	Low-Density Residential	R-L-12 Low-Density Residential

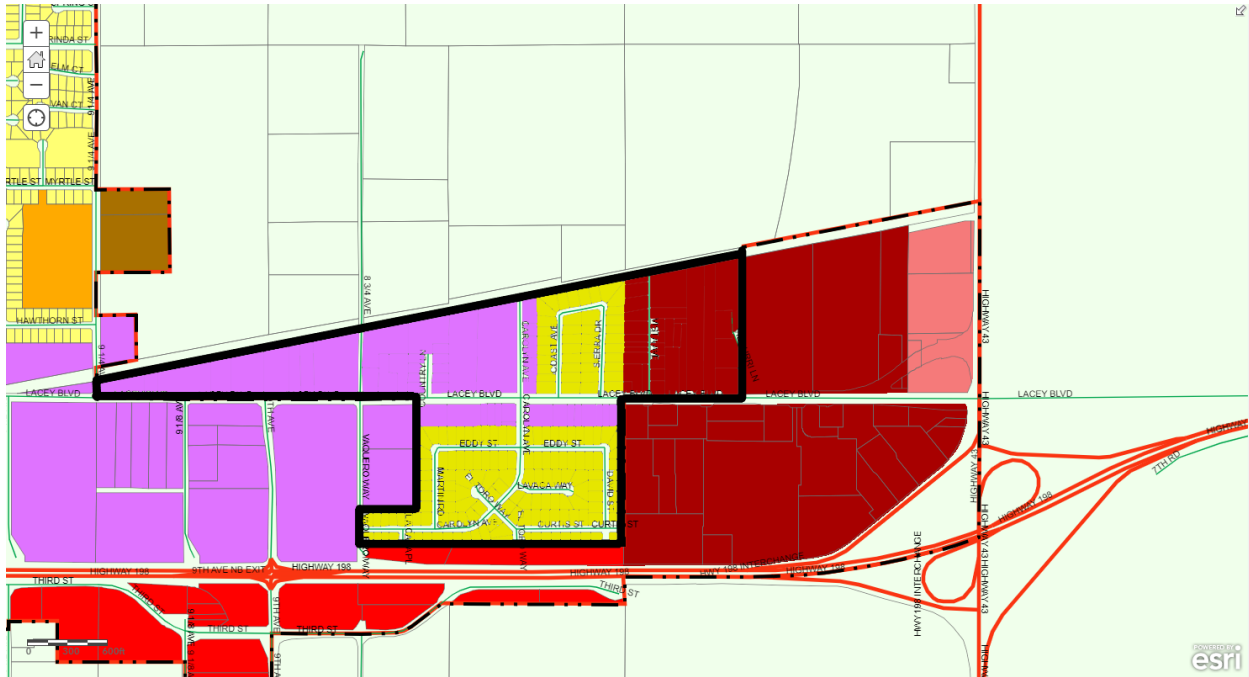
County Island #9

General Plan Designation: Combination of Corridor Mixed Use, Low-Density Residential, and Regional Commercial



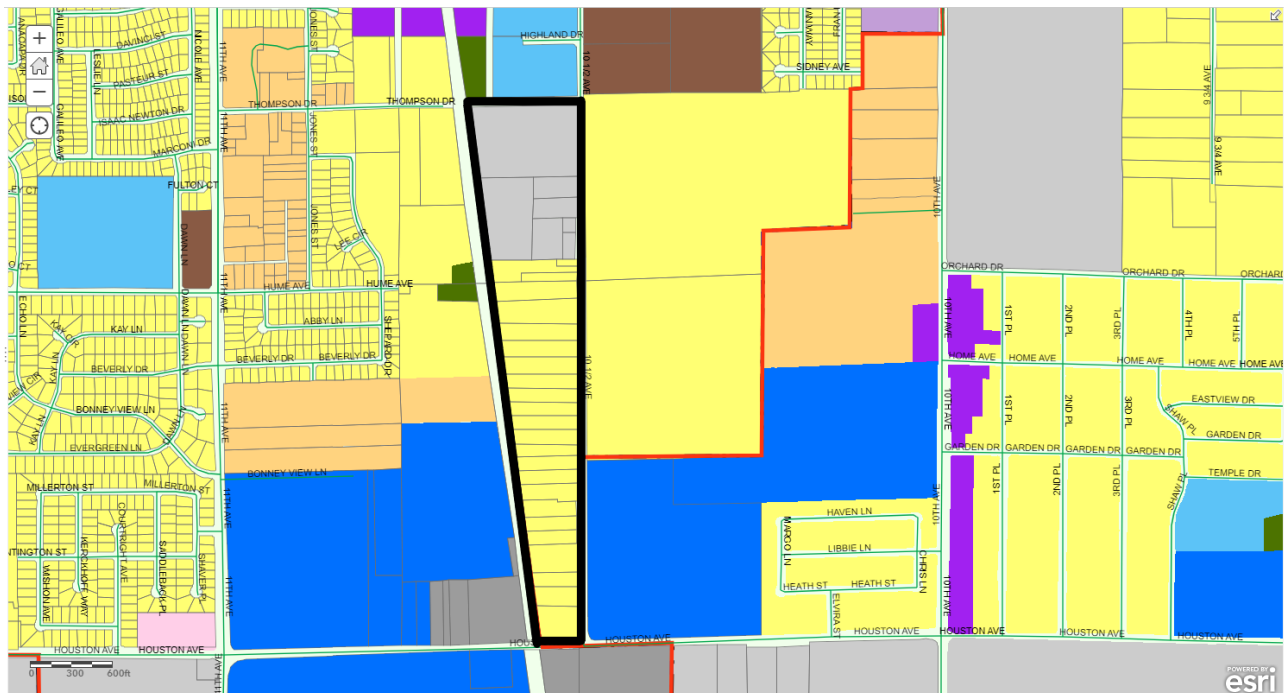


Pre-Zone: MX-C Corridor Mixed Use, R-L-8 Low Density Residential (8,000 sq. ft. minimum lot size), and C-R Regional Commercial



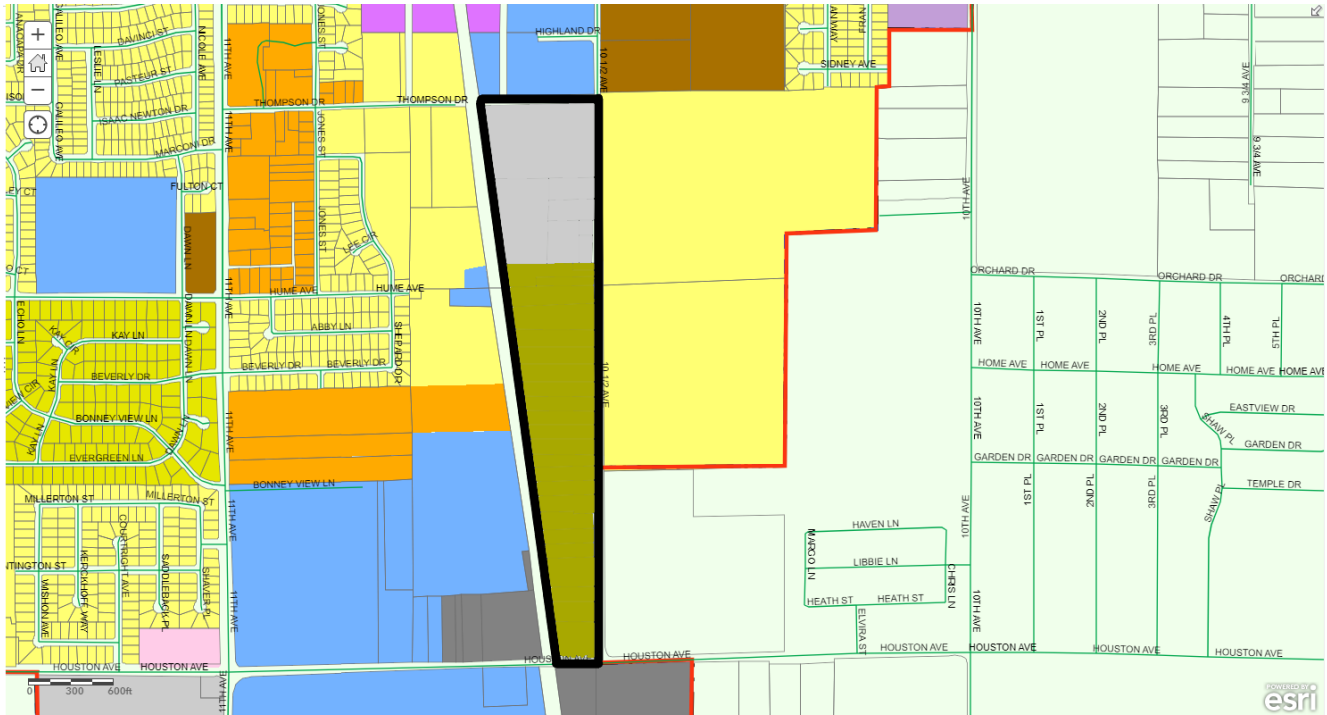
County Island #12

General Plan Designation: Combination of Light Industrial and Low-Density Residential



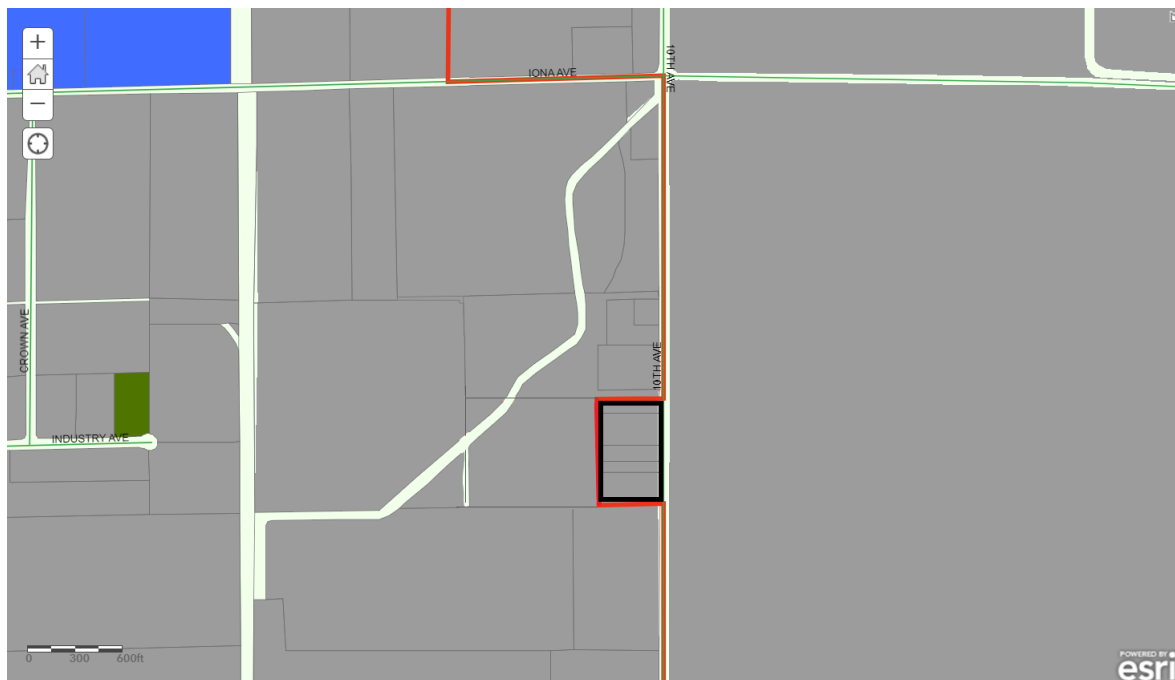


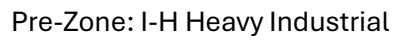
Pre-Zone: I-L Light Industrial and R-L-12 Low-Density Residential



County Island #13

General Plan Designation: Heavy Industrial



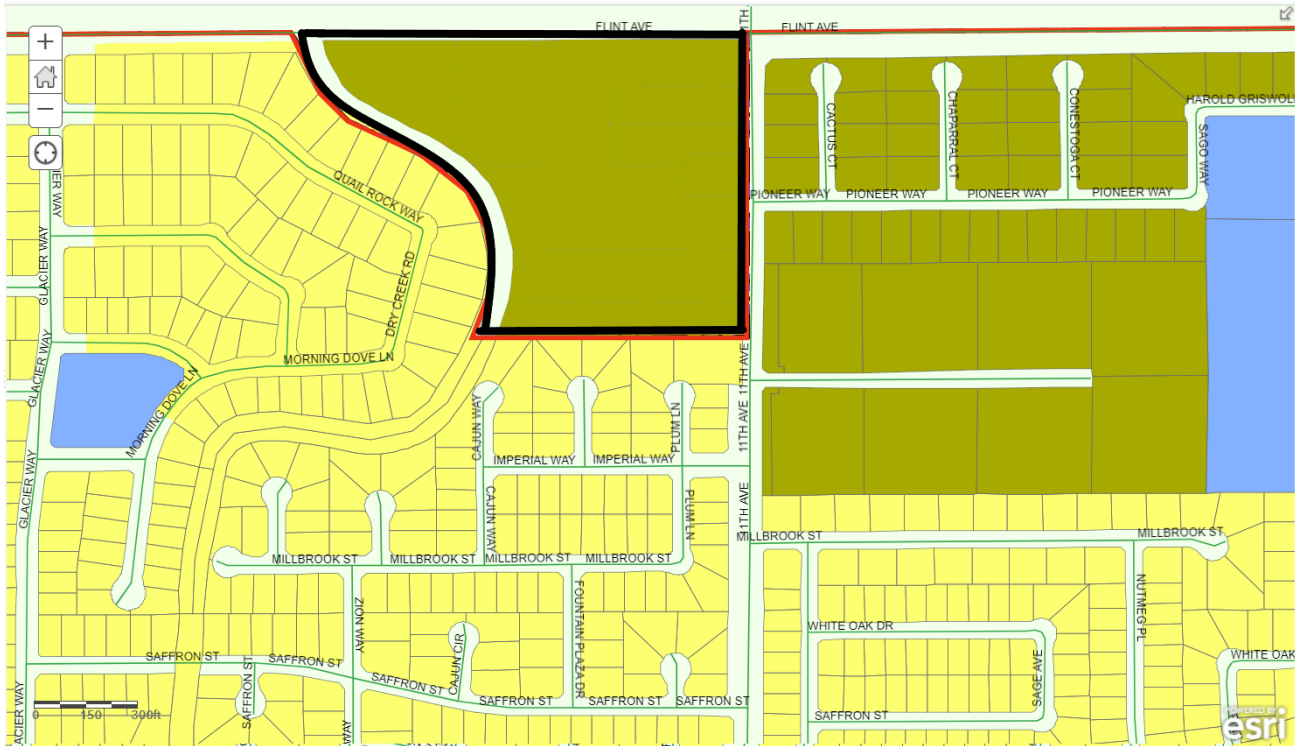


General Plan Designation: Low-Density Residential





Pre-Zone: R-L-12 Low-Density Residential (12,00 sq. ft. minimum lot size)



2. What effects will annexation have on the uses allowed? If a use is allowed in the County, but not allowed in the City, what happens?

A use shall be deemed nonconforming if it was lawfully commenced while under the jurisdiction of Kings County, but which, after annexation of the site into the City, does not conform to the use regulations of the City

For example: If you are legally operating (have a valid business license and all required permits for operation/structures) a vehicle repair shop in Kings County, currently, but upon annexation the use is not allowed in the City's zone district, you may still operate. However, if you discontinue the use for a period of six months or more, the non-conforming use shall not be able to reestablish. A nonconforming use may be expanded by up to 10% of its exiting floor area if a conditional use permit is granted. The expansion of a nonconforming use or structure may be allowed only one time per use.

3. What is the permitting process like in the City?

The permitting and entitlement process is a similar process and requirements as Kings County.

4. I have various animals in the County, can I keep them in the City?



An animal raising use that is nonconforming due to annexation or adoption or amendment to this title shall be allowed to continue, provided that the intensity of the animal raising use (i.e., type and number of animals) shall not change or increase. The provisions for abandonment or discontinuance shall not apply. **Please note that you are limited to the allowances approved by Kings County.**

Community Development Department – Building and Code Enforcement

Contact Building Official, Tom Webb, via phone (559)585-2584 or email, twebb@hanfordca.gov regarding the information below:

1. Does the City of Hanford have Code Enforcement?

Yes, the City of Hanford does have Code Enforcement officers and will enforce the City ordinances upon annexation on a complaint-basis. Code enforcement issues include, but are not limited to:

- a. Abandoned vehicles
- b. Junk and debris
- c. Property maintenance
- d. Building without permits

2. Will my address be changed?

It depends, if you currently do not have a City-style address, you will be reassigned one; City-style addressing is typically four numbers verses County-style, which is five.

- a. The City will notify you and the post-office of the change

Community Development Department – Housing Division

Contact Housing Analyst, Sandra Lerma-Martinez, via phone (559)585-4766 or email, slerma@hanfordca.gov, regarding the information below:

1. Upon annexation, homeowners will now be eligible to apply for City assistance programs (formerly, while being located outside of city limits, owners were not eligible for these programs).

Should you have any questions not addressed by this letter, or wish to discuss further, please contact the staff-member associated with the topic you wish to discuss. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jason Waters

Deputy City Manager

319 N. Douty Street

Hanford, CA 93230

(559)585-2590

jwaters@hanfordca.gov