

8-24-21  
Item # 7

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**From:** DePew, Rosa@EDD <Rosa.DePew@edd.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 3:21 PM  
**To:** BOSComments  
**Subject:** Fresno Board of Supervisors 8-24-21.pdf  
**Attachments:** Fresno Board of Supervisors 8-24-21.pdf; Street ; Street ; Street ; Street

**CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK**

August 23, 2021

Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
Hall of Records, Rm 301  
2281 Tulare Street  
Fresno CA 93721

Meeting date: August 24, 2021  
Item: #7  
American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Dear Board of Supervisors,

My name is Rosa DePew. I live in District 3. My address is 521 E. Britten, Fresno CA, 93706. I am requesting that my street be included in receiving funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

At this time, my street is a dusty, pot filled street lined with lower income homes where the residents pay their property bills however never in a hundred years has the street been maintained by the county.

Britten Ave is filled with dust that covers our homes and vehicles with so much dust our vacuum cleaners clog so quickly that residents have to constantly buy new vacuums. Our car engines also suck up the dust. The pot holes are so big that with any rain they fill up and passing those holes is impossible. Not only cars cannot pass but also school children who must walk to the bus stop. A few years ago the United States Postal Service stop providing services to the residents during the winter. This was truly an inconvenience as the residents had to pick up their mail in Calwa. The USPS in Calwa only has certain times, Monday thru Friday, where they are open for services. Many of the residents work during those times. I had to pick up my mail and it would always take more time than my lunch hour allowed, thus, I had to take extra time off.

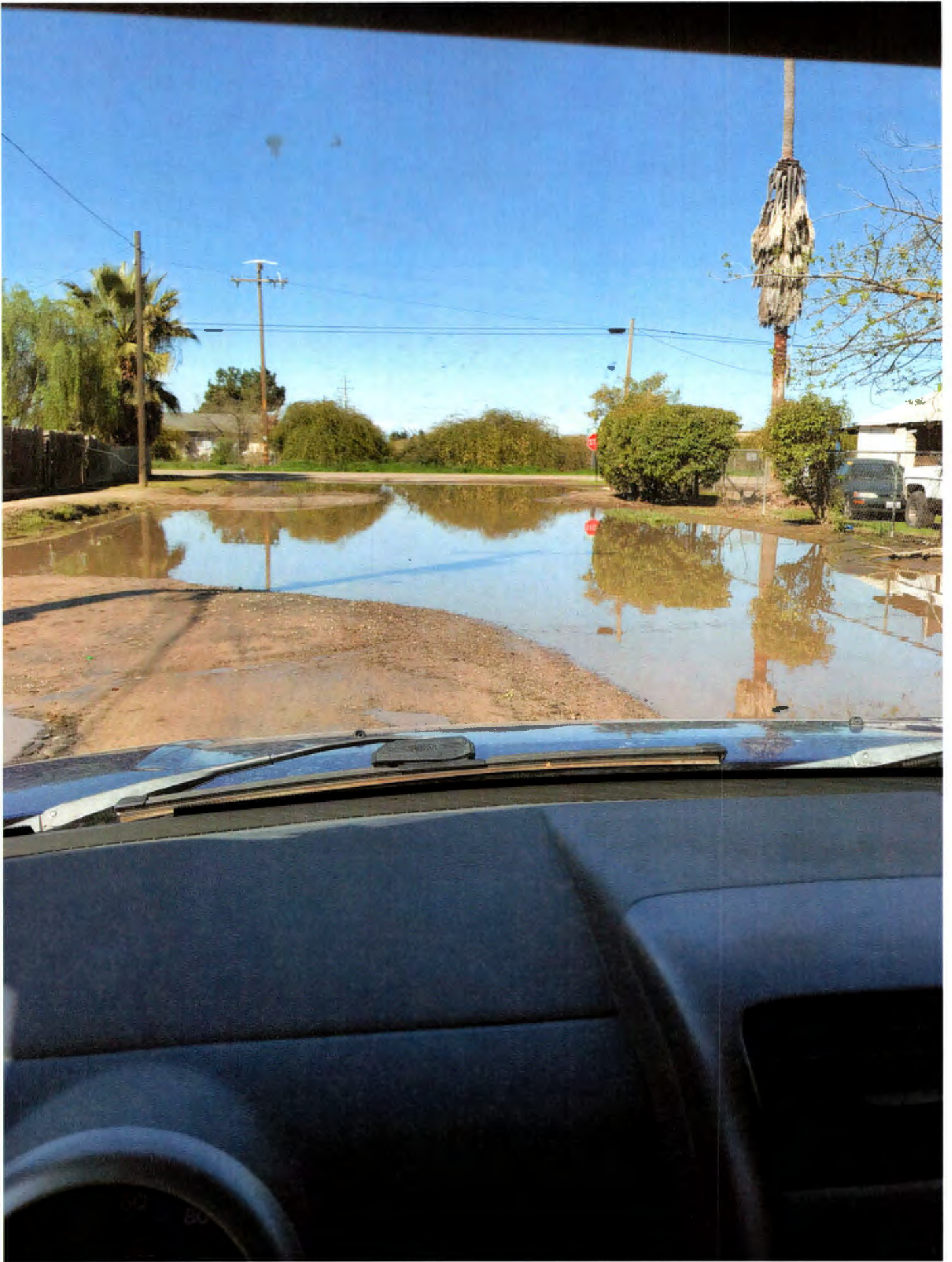
Also, a very important issue, is the impact the condition of the street has on our emergency services. Whenever any services are called, the emergency vehicles must take their time reaching the destination. Time that is very critical to a house burning, a resident having a heart attack or having a stroke. I list these situations as all three have occurred along with other emergencies. Another important issue is the medical transports that have been provided to the residents of Britten. One resident would have a medical transport to dialysis. After a patient has dialysis or even chemo they have a very sensitive stomach along with not feeling well. The patients coming down Britten Ave are thrown around with each pot hole passed making them even more nauseous. This is no way to come home after having such lifesaving treatments.

Although I am concerned with my driving on Britten Ave, my biggest concern is emergency services will determine that they will not be able to enter the street. Amazon delivery, which is located just miles from Britten Ave has advised the residents that they are considering not delivering to Britten due to the road conditions. USPS has already stopped delivery before. What other services do you think will stop soon?

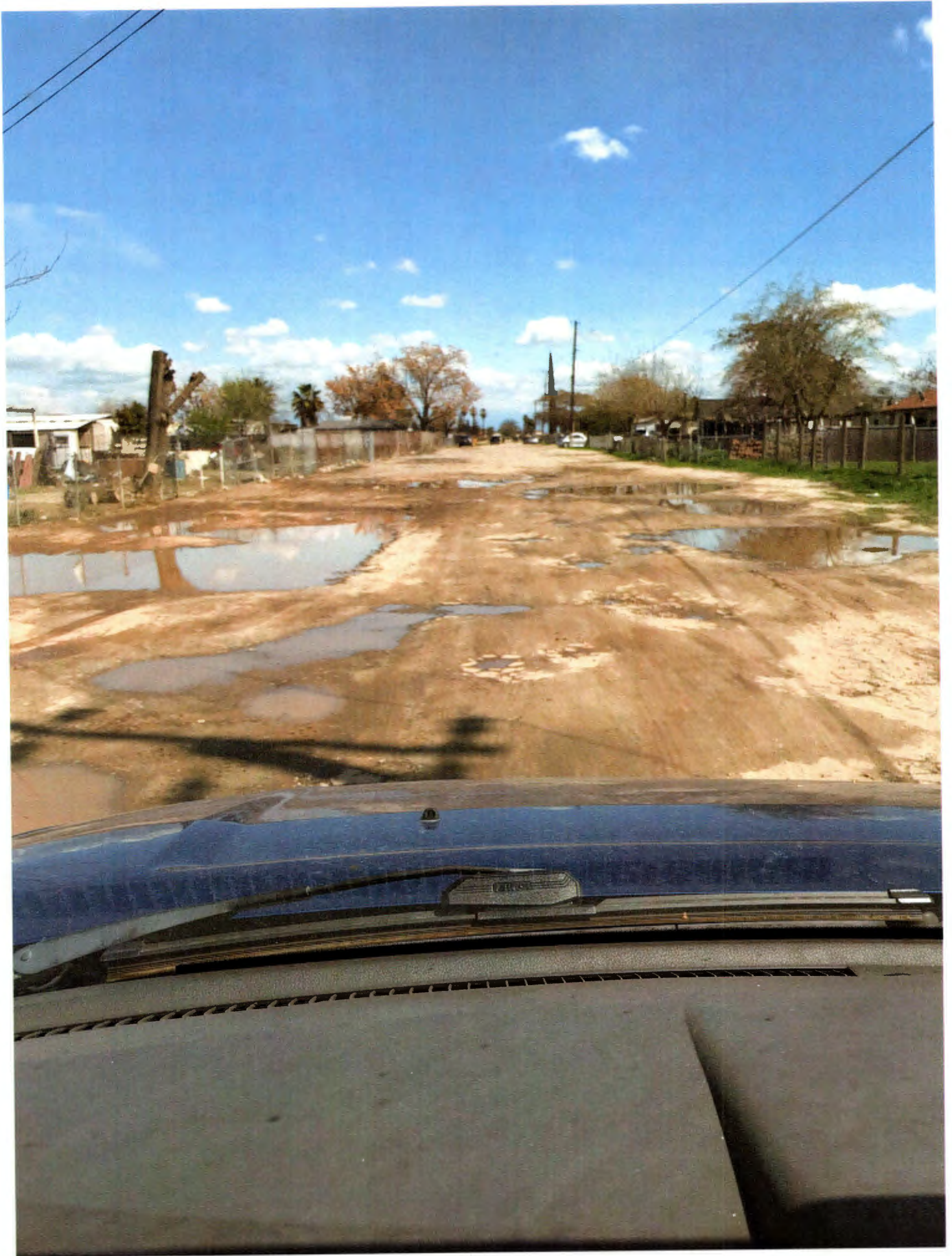
Please contact the emergency services in this area to confirm what I have just stated. I have included photos of the street at a time when the potholes were filled with rain.

Please consider Britten Ave in your funding. The residents of Britten Ave deserve a new street. My family has lived for more than 60 years on Britten and have always paid their taxes. So have all the other families that have lived here.

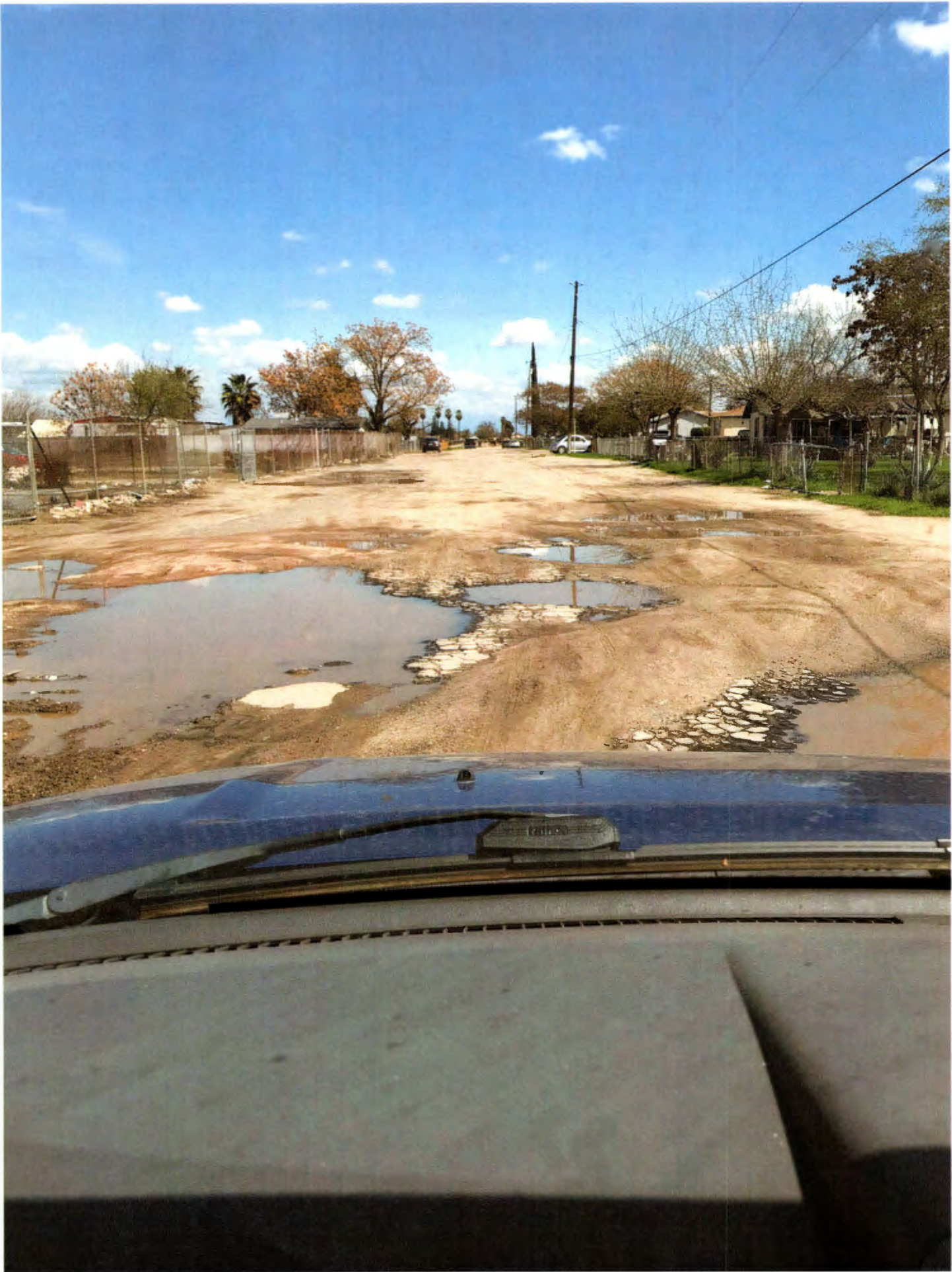
Thank you,  
*Rosa DePew*  
Rosa DePew  
521 E Britten Ave  
Fresno CA 93706  
(559) 264-7974  
(559) 790-3223



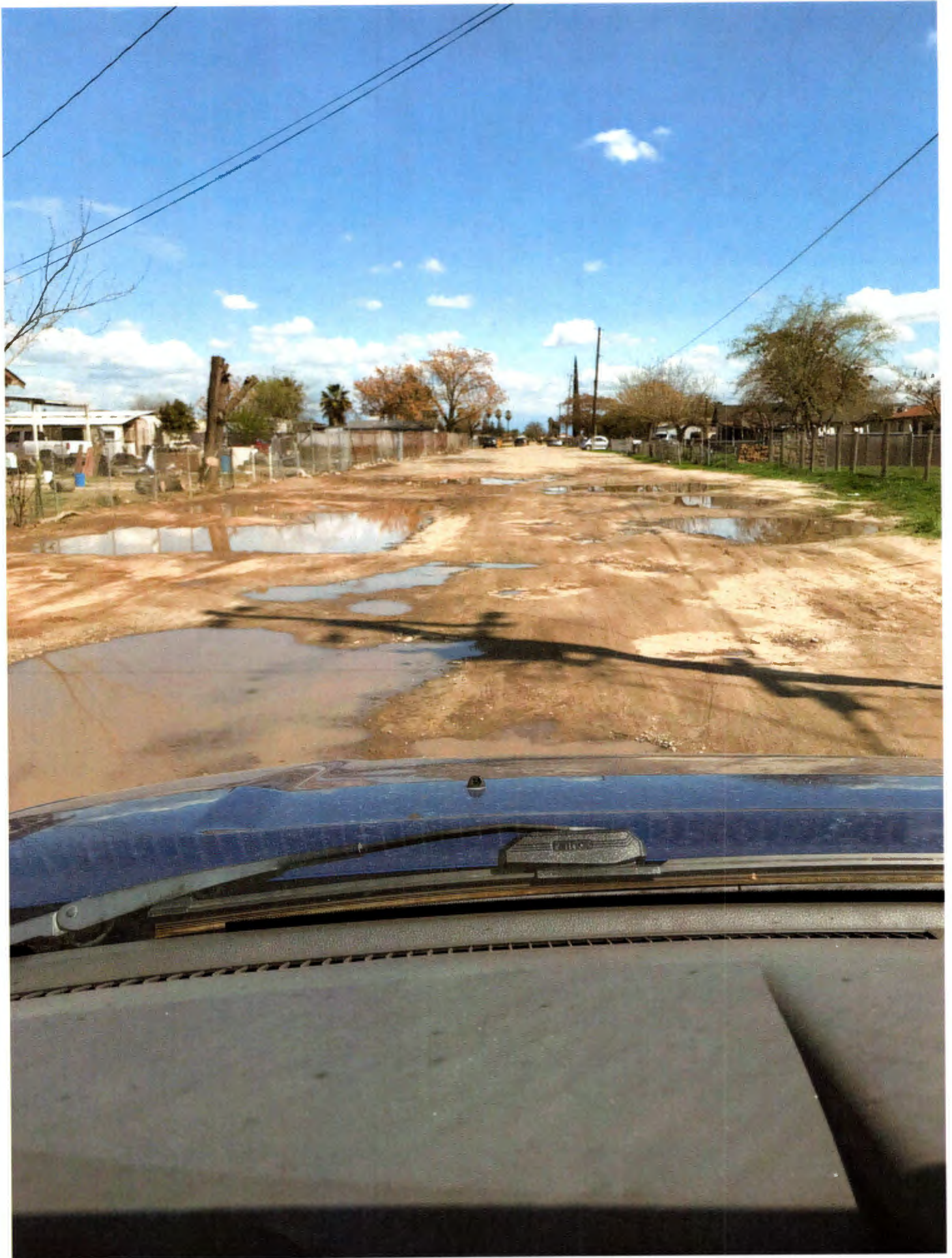














8-24-21  
Item #7

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**From:** Karla Martinez <[kmartinez@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:kmartinez@leadershipcounsel.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 7:52 PM  
**To:** BOSComments  
**Subject:** Comments: Item 7  
**Attachments:** Item 7-ARPA comments.pdf

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Attached are comments for Item 7: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Update for Mr. Armando Medina.

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**Karla Martinez (she/her/ella)**  
Policy Advocate  
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability  
2210 San Joaquin St, Fresno, CA 93721 (**new office location**)  
Office: 559-369-2790 ext. 119 | Cell: 213-944-4935  
[kmartinez@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:kmartinez@leadershipcounsel.org)

Buenas tardes, soy el Sr. ARMANDO MEDINA, vecino de Britten ave. Aquí en Fresno.

Lo anterior porque externo la necesidad de arreglar y pavimentar la calle de Britten y Cherry, ya que el acceso es muy lento, con muchos bordes. En caso de emergencia de Bomberos y Policías por casos que ya se han presentado en el lugar se tarda en llegar al auxilio. Además existe un vecino a la entrada de la calle que tiene un taller mecánico y ha obstruido el paso en un 80%, lo que hace más difícil el acceso. Inclusive ya los botes de basura están a media calle. Apelamos a la buena administración de la ciudad de cuidar el bien común en pro de una vida sana y en armonía, teniendo las condiciones necesarias para transitar.

Por su comprensión y apoyo muchas gracias de antemano por vernos favorecidos.

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**From:** Mariana Alvarenga <malvarenga@leadershipcounsel.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 9:07 PM  
**To:** BOSComments  
**Cc:** District 1; District 2; District 3; District 4; District 5  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Agenda Item #7, 8/24/21 Hearing  
**Attachments:** arcelia - BOS.mov; BOS - blanca.mov; BOS - celia.mov; Fresno County Budget Letter 2021.pdf; BOS 8\_24\_21 resident comments.pdf

**CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK**

Hello,

I am writing to comment on agenda item #7 for tomorrow's Board of Supervisors meeting on August 24, 2021.

I am sharing the comments of the residents we work with in video and written form. I am also resharing our budget letter.

Thank you!

In community,  
Mariana Alvarenga (she/her)  
Policy Advocate  
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability  
2210 San Joaquin St, Fresno, CA 93721  
Office: 559-400-6648 | Cell: 559-577-2920



[anabel - cantua.MOV](#)



[maria - cantua.MOV](#)



[julia BOS.mov](#)



[cantua BOS video.mov](#)



July 29, 2021

Attn: Board of Supervisors  
Fresno County Hall of Records  
2281 Tulare Ave. #301  
Fresno, CA 93721

Cc: Supervisor Brian Pacheco, Vice Chairman, [District1@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District1@fresnocountyca.gov)  
Supervisor Steve Brandau, Chairman, [District2@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District2@fresnocountyca.gov)  
Supervisor Sal Quintero, [District3@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District3@fresnocountyca.gov)  
Supervisor Buddy Mendes, [District4@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District4@fresnocountyca.gov)  
Supervisor Nathan Magsig, [District5@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District5@fresnocountyca.gov)  
County Administrative Officer Jean M. Rousseau, [jrousseau@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:jrousseau@fresnocountyca.gov)

**RE: Fresno County Budget and American Rescue Plan Act Allocations**

Dear Fresno County Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for your time and diligence in reviewing our letter elevating the issues and solutions residents throughout the County have raised. The undersigned organizations write to you to advocate for a budget that is equitable, inclusive, and responsive to disadvantaged communities' needs. We are a group of community-based organizations working hand-in-hand with community partners and leaders throughout Fresno County. Collectively, we work with several communities and hundreds of residents on issues folks deem most important. This includes, but is not limited to, access to affordable housing, safe and affordable water and wastewater services, climate justice, clean air, and quality transportation and transit services.

The convergence of the global pandemic, widespread economic uncertainty, and the ensuing clarion call for racial justice has led to a historic and unprecedented moment for righting some of the most persistent and pervasive challenges; such as, the ever increasing racial wealth gap, divestment in underserved communities, and disparate health impacts resulting from racially motivated practices and patterns (i.e., placing unwanted land uses in communities of color, limiting where nonwhite households could live, etc.). Though the issues are seemingly endless, the moment has also created opportunity for innovative leadership to lessen the gaps and impacts, and atone for the historic injustices placed on black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities.

For too long, we have treated our young people & communities of color as disposable, and we cannot afford to let the opportunity to support our most vulnerable go to waste. As this board moves forward with allocating public funds, including the unprecedented \$194M from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the undersigned organizations urge you to (1) create and implement a meaningful participatory public process where the public has a direct say into how these dollars should be spent, and (2) prioritize new investments in communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic—particularly young people of color, immigrants, refugees, and rural disadvantaged unincorporated communities. Moreover, we ask the board to fulfill the following budget requests identified by the communities we partner with that will address some of their primary concerns.

## **I. Parks and Community Resilience Centers**

- A. Allocate \$15 million for park constructions and improvements in disadvantaged parts of Fresno County.** As the pandemic highlighted, investments in healthy green and open space are critical for community well-being. They provide recreational spaces for communities to support their mental and physical health, while also creating spaces for community members to share and access resources, and increasing Fresno County's tax base as they increase property values and attract quality businesses. Lush green space also lessens the impacts of climate change like heat reduction and reduces pollution from our atmosphere and groundwater. These dollars

could leverage other public and private sources, like the Statewide Parks Program, to support park development.

These investments must prioritize and partner with BIPOC communities who have the least access to green or open space. Specifically, this allocation must include renovations in El Porvenir, Lanare, and Calwa's parks, which have not seen investments in several decades making these spaces unusable. Both, El Porvenir and Lanare parks, have severely dilapidated play structures that are completely unusable. Calwa Park also has an empty pit for a pool as funding was never fully allocated to renovate this blue space, which provides life-saving skills and a place to cool down. Calwa and Lanare have basketball courts and soccer fields in need of update. This includes resurfacing the pavement, receding the grass, and updating the irrigation system. Investments should also include walking loops around the parks. Additionally, monies should also fund construction of a neighborhood park in Cantua Creek.

- B. Allocate \$20 million to create Community Resilience Centers in rural disadvantaged communities.** With record breaking heat waves across the Central Valley, we must acknowledge and address the fact that climate change and its impacts are not impacting everyone the same. Lower-income communities are suffering in sweltering heat and blackouts putting everyone, especially elderly, infant, and immunocompromised populations, at grave risk.

The need for community resilience centers that can act as cooling centers in the summer and heating spaces in the winter has never been more evident. During the pandemic, communities who have community gathering spaces were quick to mobilize mask-distribution events, vaccination clinics in hard to reach communities, and food drives to support families in need. Adequately updated Community Resilience Centers can act as spaces to cool down or warm up in extreme weather conditions or power outages, provide the necessary gathering space for urgent situations, and generally provide a place for social cohesion.

We specifically ask this board to allocate funding to renovate existing spaces in Cantua Creek, Lanare, and Calwa to be turned into Community Resilience Centers. Meanwhile these facilities are renovated and constructed, these funds should also go towards short-term solutions to ensure residents in rural communities have these life-saving resources as soon as possible. This could potentially include community-identified solutions like portable A/C and heating units. These spaces are necessary and will serve residents beyond just these communities, as they already are used as a gathering space for many. For instance, the current community center in



Lanare serves the community through food distributions, mobile COVID testing, and vaccine clinics. Yet it entirely lacks basic necessities such as cooling and heating making it difficult to use this space in times of extreme weather events.

## **II. Healthcare Services**

- A. Allocate \$10 million to construct and staff a fire station in or near the rural community of Cantua Creek and El Porvenir**, which is far from fire services and, as wildfires continue to accelerate this remains a necessity. The residents in Cantua Creek currently pay high home insurance rates and are not guaranteed that their family and home will be safe throughout the year.
- B. Allocate \$5 million for a mobile clinic** that will bring health services to disadvantaged communities in rural parts of Fresno County. These are areas that do not have easy access to important, life-saving medical or healthcare services. Many rural County residents don't have access to reliable or efficient transportation, making what would be an hour or more drive, several hours just to get to a medical appointment.

Residents have shared how these services were provided in the past and as we are in the midst of a global pandemic the need to bring these services back is crucial. As the pandemic highlighted, it is essential to bring services, like mobile testing and vaccinations to these communities. This program can and should be modeled and complement the current COVID vaccination efforts that have brought mobile and pop-up clinics to rural Fresno County.

## **III. Basic Infrastructure**

- A. Allocate \$20 million for road maintenance and complete streets** prioritizing low-income communities with the longest deferred maintenance. Residents have seen minimal—if any—transportation related improvements. Streets in disadvantaged unincorporated communities like Lanare, Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, Tombstone, and fringe communities in South Central Fresno have not seen improvements in decades. Many even lack basic signage identifying the street they are on. Additionally, street lighting in Lanare, Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, and Tombstone are dim or nonexistent. The years of disregard worsened with heavy-duty truck traffic, flooding from no drainage, and band-aid solutions have resulted in street conditions that wear down cars quicker and are not conducive to active modes of transportation like biking or walking.

Specifically the community roads residents have elevated are:

- Lanare: Community streets along Grantland, Garfield, and Chateau Avenue.

- Cantua Creek: Latta, Hidalgo, Domengine, Terrado, Chappo, and Santa Clara Avenue which have deteriorated over the years especially recently through the current water project. Safe routes to school leading to Cantua Creek Elementary.
- El Porvenir: El Progreso Avenue where certain homes experience heavy flooding.
- Tombstone: Fairbanks, Tinoco, Cottle, and Greenwood Avenue.
- South Central Fresno: Cherry Avenue from American to North Avenues, Central from Highway 41 to 99, and Britten Avenue and the back road on Cherry Avenue.

With the various sources of competitive and formulaic funding available at every level of government, we urge the Board of Supervisors to direct staff in systematically addressing street improvements in communities with the highest needs. This means prioritizing disadvantaged communities where largely vulnerable populations reside and safe routes to school. We recognize this county is vast and has several miles of deferred maintenance and general basic infrastructure improvements, but this is why we ask for an objective approach that listens to community needs to ensure we're equitably investing our limited resources.

- B. Allocate \$50 million for water, wastewater, clean energy infrastructure and appliances, and broadband infrastructure in disadvantaged communities.** The County must allocate local resources to leverage state investments for critical, basic needs including drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, clean energy infrastructure and appliances to support both energy reliability and environmental stewardship, and broadband to ensure every household in Fresno County has access to reliable internet. The global pandemic - that hit lower income and rural Fresno communities hardest - reinforced the unmet basic needs facing so many residents. Lack of access to safe drinking water, reliable clean energy, and internet service can be life-threatening - more so when isolated and vulnerable communities are cut off from existing life lines as they were through much of 2020.

#### **IV. Affordable Housing and Community Planning**

- A. \$15 million dollars to support affordable housing preservation and production, and homeownership opportunities for low-income households.** Many people mistakenly assume the Central Valley is a region with vast affordable housing options. However, as is demonstrated by CalEnviroScreen data, Fresno County suffers from high housing burden rates, meaning that most households pay well over 30% of their income towards housing. As we have it, tenants not only deal with unaffordable costs, but also with poor quality housing stock. This leaves families struggling every month to pay their bills while dealing with poor housing conditions

like mold, leaky pipes, and pest infestation.

With ARPA funding leveraged by local and state dollars, the County has a rare opportunity to do something and support its disadvantaged unincorporated residents to attain quality affordable housing. This set aside should be used, though not limited to, support gap financing in affordable housing projects, rehabilitation grants or loans to renovate our affordable housing stock, and programs to foster homeownership opportunities.

- B. Assign \$3 million to conduct community, specific, and climate action plans.** As stated above, Fresno County is in a housing crisis restricting residents' spending power as over a third of their income goes towards rent or mortgage payments. Currently, the State has allocated billions of dollars and has allocated billions more to support localities' efforts to house folks who are unhoused and build more affordable units. In order for the County to be prepared to disburse formulaic dollars and be competitive in others, it's necessary to develop local plans that will facilitate affordable housing developments. The County cannot continue relying on the private market to build more housing units, but must proactively work towards that end goal.

Additionally, per AB 379, local jurisdictions must integrate climate adaptation into their general plans by January 1, 2022. To comply with State law, we urge the County to allocate part of these dollars to develop a countywide Climate and Emergency Preparedness Plan. This plan will ensure that as climate change-induced disasters, such as wildfires, drought, and extreme heat, worsen, the County will have plans in place to protect its residents, especially the most vulnerable populations.

## V. Youth Investment

- A.** We support youth-based organizations advocacy requesting the County to invest in underserved youth and young adults. It is critical to ensure Fresno County's young populations are provided with the resources and opportunities to learn, develop, and engage. This includes, but is not limited to, providing a guaranteed income for disadvantaged youth, especially those exiting the foster care system; investing in a participatory budgeting process that engages youth and other stakeholders; and divesting from facilities and programs that punish young people.

\* \* \* \* \*

This past year is one we must not forget simply because a sense of normalcy is in sight after the deadly pandemic. We cannot forget the tens of thousands of lives lost disproportionately impacting BIPOC populations destabilizing their housing situation, widening the wealth gap between white and non-white households, and further setting BIPOC students back relative to

their white classmates. We must not forget the continuous lynching of BIPOC bodies, especially black men and women, and the civil unrest where millions of Americans demanded for equal treatment and accountability of our local governments and police departments.

Again, we ask that the FY21-22 Budget be done through a transparent, meaningful, and responsive participatory process and ensure significant investments in community-identified priorities including but not limited to those listed above. In allowing communities, who have long been overlooked, lead way ensures the County equitably invests their resources, acknowledges and addresses historical injustices, and sets a new tone that puts communities first.

Sincerely,

Mariana Alvarenga & Grecia Elenes  
*Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability*

Nayamin Martinez  
*Central California Environmental Justice Network*

Socorro Santillan  
*Planned Parenthood Mar Monte*

Sandra Celedon  
*Building Healthy Communities*

Laura Moreno & Linda Calvillo  
*Friends of Calwa*

Kevin Hamilton  
*Central California Asthma Collaborative*

Isabel Solorio  
*Community United in Lanare*

Genoveva Islas  
*Cultiva La Salud*

**Julia Mendoza**

**Blanca Gomez**

**Carolina Garcia**

*Fresno County Resident*

## **Item 7 - American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Update**

Hello,

Good morning. My name is Rosario Rodríguez. I am commenting on Item 7.

I am a resident of the Three Rocks community, we are located more or less 60 miles from the city of Fresno, as you can see, we are very far from all services (clinics, food stores, clothing stores and schools) we know that there is a fund of \$194 million for improvements of our communities. To me personally and speaking for the needs of my community I would like that part of that money be used to provide us with public transportation knowing that many people do not drive and it is very difficult to go to medical appointments. It is really a great need because everyone should have access to personal care and due to lack of transportation, we have to miss appointments.

We also have the community park called El Porvenir that instead of a park it seems like a forgotten land where our children and young people, far from being safe, go to have fun, but are exposed to accidents because it is very deteriorated. It would be fabulous if they could also invest in the park that it is the only place in the community for our young people, children and adults to enjoy a safe and pleasant afternoon. Attached are pictures of our park to highlight the need for renovations.

I hope you take our needs into consideration and do not forget us when making the decision on how to distribute and invest this money. Thank you in advance, I hope for results!

Rosario Rodriguez  
El Porvenir/Three Rocks Resident



El Porvenir Park, August 2021



El Porvenir Park, August 2021

Hello,

My name is Esther Ramirez. I am commenting on Item 7.

I reside in Cantua Creek. My concerns are as follows:

1. The ongoing water project is needed to provide the community with potable water. Will the money for this project be enough to make sure a water filtration system is also built? If the allotment of the grant doesn't cover the projects being built, will the projects stop?
2. The \$194 million allocated to Fresno County needs to be used in the CSA 30 and 32 for the continuation of improvements on the roads, safety and community staples, such as parks, cooling center. Also, can there be an allotment for the operation and maintenance of the potable water system to avoid an increase of the water costs.

Thank you to Mr. Pacheco for your support and representation of our communities.

Sincerely,  
Esther Ramirez

\* \* \* \* \*

Hola buenos dias,

Mi nombre es Esperanza Cendejas, vivo por la calle Cherry y Britten y tengo 5 años viviendo aquí. Quiero apoyar a mis vecinos para que arreglen la calle Britten Avenida que está por la Cherry entre la Central y América, y también la calle al sur de Britten que no tiene nombre. Nos afecta visitar a alguien que vive ahí porque no se puede caminar porque cuando llueve se inunda y no es posible caminar. Les pido que nos ayuden arreglar esta callecita.

Sinceramente,  
Esperanza Cendejas

\* \* \* \* \*

**My name is Renatto Maroquin:**

I am a resident of the Britten Ave community. I am commenting on Item 7 regarding where funds from the American Rescue Plan should be allocated. I would like to see funding spent on the paving of Britten Ave. This road is all dirt and serves as the only entrance/exit to an entire community.

During the rainy season Britten Ave becomes a swamp. The puddles are deep and large, up to about 50ft long by 10ft wide. It's near impossible to drive through. If you do attempt to drive a car through the flooded road, your vehicle may get stuck. If it doesn't get stuck the water floods into the engine compartment and your car will smell like rotting grass for days. Please consider paving this road. Thank you.



**My name is Panfilo Cerrillo.**

I am a resident of South Central Fresno and reside on East Ave. I would like to see ARPA funds spent on the following issues:

- Britten Ave residents need this road paved and more attention and funding needs to be put towards solutions to solve their water crisis as most wells are either dry, near dry, or are toxic.
- There needs to be more communication efforts from elected officials with their constituents through community engagement. ARPA funds can be used to pay for a communications program like Zoom, so that residents can actually engage with their elected officials during Board of Supervisor hearings.
- More communications between the City and County of Fresno agencies regarding the industrial project developments that are occurring within South Central Fresno communities that are in the sphere of influence of the city but are still part of the county. Permits are being given to projects without any consideration for the environmental impacts. There needs to be a coordinated planning committee that is truly reviewing all of these projects before permits are issued.
- Illegal Dumping is a major concern on Orange and East Avenues, south of Central Ave. These ARPA funds could pay for vouchers for curbside pick up for tires and large trash items, or a voucher for individual dumpster delivery. Similar to the city of Fresno annual free dump / trash pick up campaign
- Safety: There are not enough Sheriff deputies assigned to cover such a large regional area of South Fresno county. Due to the large geographic coverage area, the response time in case of an emergency is extremely slow.
- Animal Control: While it may be a 'rural' area, uncontrolled and loose dogs are a problem and dangerous to families and children. Would like to see funding allocated to improve the animal control services.



Britten Avenue





Britten Avenue