



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **City of Menifee Recognized by National Planning Organization**

**MENIFEE, CA-** The City of Menifee is proud to announce that the City received the 2020 Best Practices Award from the Inland Empire Section of the American Planning Association (APA) for the City's Comprehensive Development Code Update. The Best Practices Award is for a specific planning tool, practice, program, project, or process. This category emphasizes results and demonstrates how innovative and state-of-the-art planning methods and practices help to create communities of lasting value. The APA California Awards Program encourages quality in planning and increases the public's awareness of the planning profession by recognizing outstanding achievement in the planning field.

The Comprehensive Development Code, adopted by the City Council on Dec. 18, 2019, includes regulations (zoning, subdivision, grading, and design guidelines) reflective of Menifee's vision for the community as reflected in the goals and policies of the City's General Plan, adopted in 2013. The new Development Code provides more consistency with the General Plan and adds more certainty and clarity for the development community. The Zoning Code was developed as a Smart Code utilizing an online platform to make the code user-friendly and interactive. The new Code can be viewed on the City's Community Development [website](#).

"This award highlights the outstanding work staff has put in to updating the Development Code," said Community Development Director, Cheryl Kitzerow. "This was no small undertaking and a great accomplishment for the City as a whole as we comprehensively unify the development code to consistently align with the General Plan."

To complete the process of updating the Development Code, City staff, in conjunction with the consultant team from Michael Baker International, prepared the comprehensive updates through a structured process that included:

- Stakeholder interviews and workshops
- Development Code analysis
- Planning Commission and City Council study sessions and workshops
- Preparation of draft zoning, subdivision, and grading ordinances and Public Hearings

"As a priority of the City Council, the Menifee Streamline is the city's business friendly initiative," said Armando Villa, City Manager. "We are proud of the group effort to spur economic development, and updating the Development Code enhanced the ease of doing business in Menifee and assisted with certainty for our stakeholders."

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**ABOUT MENIFEE:** *Situated in the heart of southern Riverside County along Interstate 215, Menifee is a vibrant, new city of more than 97,000 residents who enjoy a pleasant year-round climate, abundant recreational offerings, reasonably priced housing and convenient proximity to some of Southern California's premiere attractions and employment centers. Within its 50 square miles, Menifee's business, retail and entertainment outlets are starting to shape the community's character and this growing economic base is also contributing favorably to the city's strong financial position. Menifee's growing family-oriented population values the city's ongoing commitment to public safety, community events and smart growth for the future. All of these elements are working together to support the city's strategic vision to make Menifee one of the state's most promising new cities.*