

Media Alert

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Groundbreaking of the Mexican Colony Sidewalk Project in Shafter *Transforming 0.8 miles and a step forward for the community*



What: Kern County Public Works, in partnership with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and California Climate Investments, celebrate the groundbreaking of the Mexican Colony Sidewalk Project near the project site in Shafter.

When: **Tuesday, September 30, 2025**
11 a.m.

Where: **Ceremony**
At the intersection of Mannell Avenue and Burbank Street, Shafter, CA

Parking: Available on Burbank Street, heading east before Mannell Avenue

Who: Groundbreaking Remarks and Attendees:

- Kern County Supervisor David Couch, District 4 – *Master of Ceremonies*
- Kern County Public Works Director Joshua Champlin & Staff
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Executive Director/APCO Samir Sheikh
- Steven Kemp, Field Representative for U.S. Congressman David G. Valadao

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Background: Join Kern County Public Works, local elected officials, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, the Shafter Assembly Bill (AB) 617 Community Steering Committee, and community members as we break ground on a project that will transform the heart of the Mexican Colony.

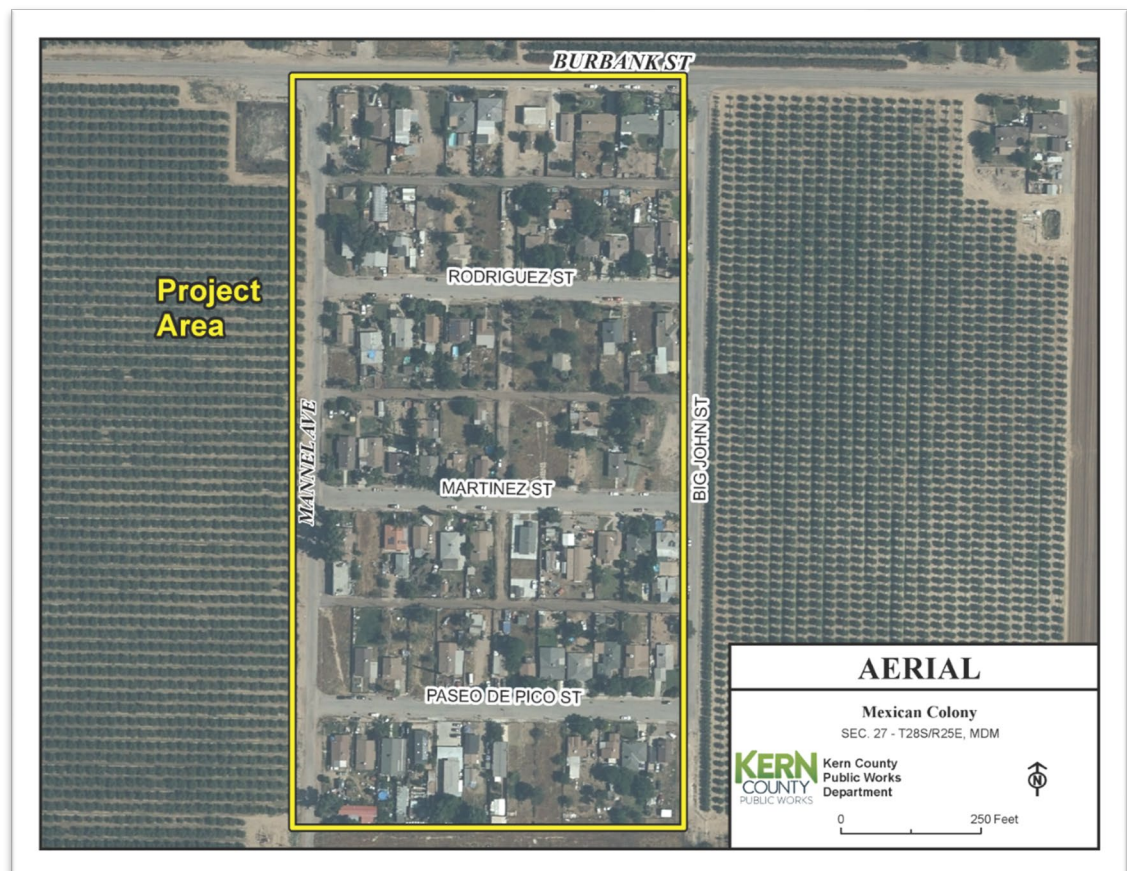
Located just south of the City of Shafter, the Mexican Colony is a vibrant unincorporated community that will soon benefit from major pedestrian improvements thanks to California Climate Investments – a statewide initiative aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and enhancing public health and the environment, especially in communities most in need.

The Mexican Colony Sidewalk Project will add approximately 0.8 miles of new sidewalks, curbs, and gutters along Burbank Street, Rodriguez Street, Martinez Street, Paseo De Pico Street, and Mannel Avenue. These upgrades will provide safer, more accessible routes for walking, helping residents – especially seniors and individuals with disabilities – get to important neighborhood destinations such as school bus stops, a neighborhood market, a restaurant, and a community park.

By improving pedestrian infrastructure, this project supports cleaner air and healthier lifestyles. By encouraging walking over short car trips, it's expected to eliminate more than 17,000 vehicle trips annually and reduce vehicle miles traveled by 13,750 miles per year – cutting more than 17 pounds of harmful pollutants from our air annually. In addition, the project will reduce particulate matter emissions from unpaved dirt roads, improving community health.

Funded with \$2,093,778 through AB 617, construction will begin on October 6, 2025, and is expected to be completed by December 5, 2025.

Representatives from the Valley Air District will be available for interviews in English and Spanish.



For more information, visit our website at www.kernpublicworks.com and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @kerncountypublicworks.

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