

Media Alert

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Ribbon-cutting Celebrating the Mexican Colony Sidewalk Project in Shafter *Improving 0.8 miles – an important milestone 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 completion of the Mexican Colony Sidewalk Project in Shafter.
- When:** **Wednesday, April 22, 2026**
11 a.m.
- Where:** **Ceremony**
At the intersection of Mannel Avenue and Burbank Street, Shafter, CA
- Parking:** Available on Burbank Street, heading east before Mannel Avenue
- Who:** Ribbon-cutting Ceremony 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 Representative
 - Shafter AB 617 Community Steering Committee Member
 - Steven Kemp, Field Representative for U.S. Congressman David G. Valadao
- 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 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the successful completion of the sidewalk improvement project in the heart of the Mexican Colony.

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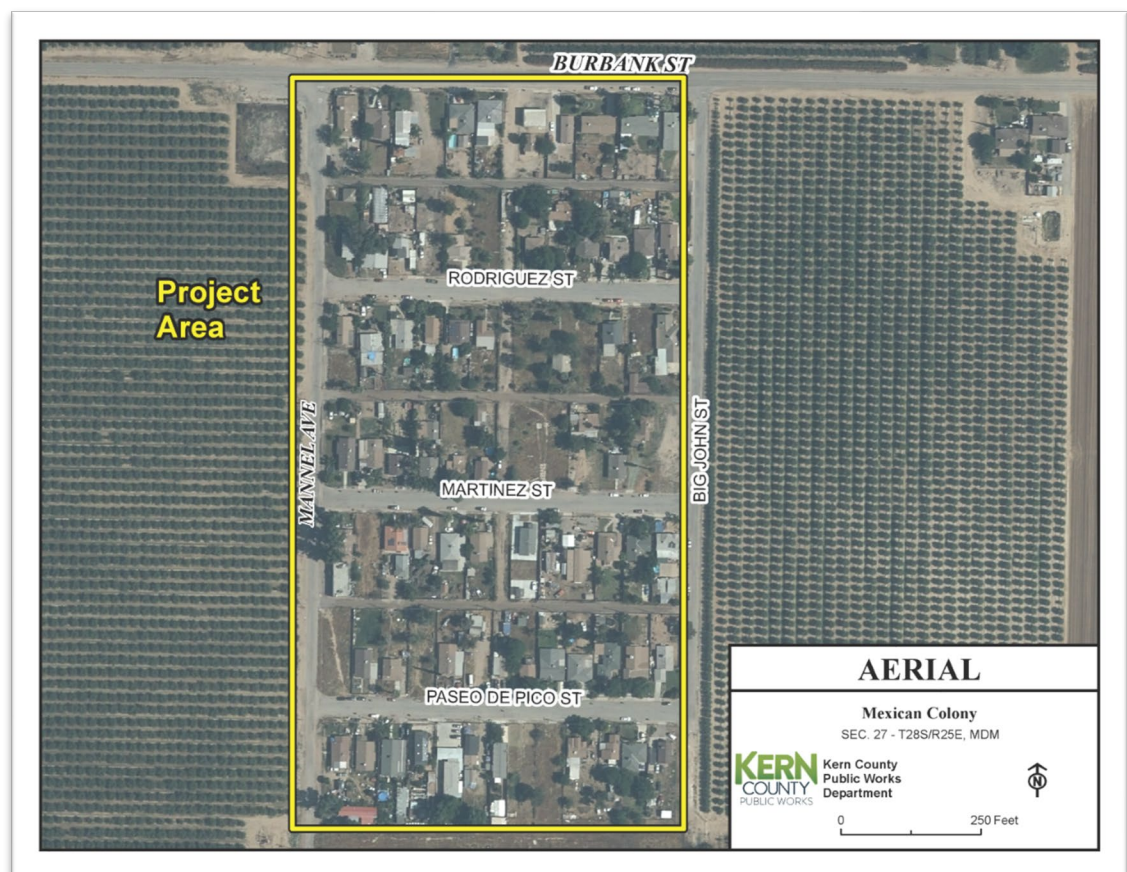
Located just south of the City of Shafter, the Mexican Colony is a vibrant unincorporated community that is now benefiting from significant pedestrian enhancements made possible through California Climate Investments – a statewide initiative focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and environmental conditions, especially in communities most in need.

The completed Mexican Colony Sidewalk Project has added 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 improvements provide safer, more accessible walking routes, helping residents – especially seniors and individuals with disabilities – reach key neighborhood destinations such as school bus stops, a local market, a restaurant, and a community park.

By enhancing pedestrian infrastructure, the project supports cleaner air and healthier lifestyles. Encouraging walking instead of short car trips is expected to eliminate more than 17,000 vehicle trips annually and reduce vehicle miles traveled by 13,750 miles each year – cutting more than 17 pounds of harmful pollutants from the air annually. The project also reduces particulate matter emissions from previously unpaved roads, further improving community health.

In total, the project cost \$1,746,345.00 and was funded through AB 617. Construction began on October 6, 2025, and was completed on March 16, 2026.

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



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