

# Hesperia gets enterprise zone status

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In an economy and region where businesses are struggling, Hesperia will soon be offering some assistance that other High Desert cities can't — tax incentives that come along with being designated an enterprise zone.

In August, the city was one of five areas conditionally designated as an enterprise zone by the state Department of Housing and Community Development. The other four areas were Tulare, Pittsburg, Sacramento and Taft.

Ted Shove, an administrative analyst with city of Hesperia, said officials were "currently in negotiations with HCD for final designation" of its enterprise zone

and those negotiations should be completed by the end of February. The Hesperia Enterprise Zone encompasses 15,764 acres, including 6,948 acres currently zoned for commercial and industrial use.

"For over 18 months, staff worked diligently on the Enterprise Zone application to ensure limited questions or conditions existed after conditional designation," said Deputy Director Steven J. Lantsberger, in a statement. "We are now looking ahead at how the enterprise zone will provide the city with a competitive advantage with respect to economic development opportunities and lead to business growth and job generation."