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City of Modesto and United Soccer League (USL) Letter of Intent FAQ's

The City of Modesto has been chosen as a promising location in the Central Valley for professional soccer. The City Council approved a Letter of Intent (LOI) between the City and the United Soccer League (USL), committing to exclusively negotiate the potential of bringing professional men's and women's soccer teams to Modesto and the surrounding region over the next year. What does this mean for Modesto? Below are some questions and answers to help you better understand this process.

1. What does the letter of intent mean between the City and the USL?

- The letter of intent between the City of Modesto and the USL represents a commitment to an exclusive negotiation window to bring a men's and women's professional soccer team to Modesto under the USL banner.

2. How long will the City and the USL be in negotiations to bring professional soccer to Modesto?

- The Letter of Intent is a one-year exclusive negotiating period followed by a six-month extension if necessary.

3. Why is the City of Modesto a promising location for the USL expansion efforts?

- Modesto is a community with a larger population compared to other locations in our region with major economic development along California State Highway 99.
- The 10- 20- 30-minutes' drive to other prominent cities in the region expands the reach for a target market for sports and entertainment.

4. Where will the professional soccer teams play?

- During the negotiation time-period, the City and the USL will discuss potential sites for a multi-purpose stadium with an entertainment district. The discussions will also include the stadium design and size.

5. Who will be paying for the stadium?

- The location and the financing of a stadium is still to be determined. There are many potential options the City can explore during this negotiating period. including private and/or public financing.

6. Who will own the professional men's and women's soccer teams?

- Ownership, operations, and management of the stadium will be discussed in negotiations.
- Agreements relating to leases, licenses, easements, and other real property transactions for a stadium will also be discussed in negotiations.

7. If a stadium is built, what impact will it have on the surrounding community?

- Ancillary development such as housing, retail and commercial businesses, and restaurants could be constructed adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, a potential stadium. These options will be evaluated and discussed in negotiations.

8. What is a multi-purpose stadium, and will there be other uses for if it is built?

- A multi-purpose stadium maximizes the use of the space for various public, private, and entertainment-related events including:
 - Sports events
 - Concerts
 - Community events such as fairs, festivals, charity events, and much more.
 - Exhibitions
 - Trade Shows
 - Any type of event that would need a large facility with an ability to hold large crowds.

9. Information about the USL.

- The USL was founded in 1986 and is the largest and fastest-growing pre-professional and professional soccer organization in the country.
- The USL Championship, sanctioned by the United States Soccer Federation (U.S. Soccer) as a Division Two league since 2017, is the top professional men's soccer league in the USL, featuring 24 clubs and reaching more than 84 million across North America.
- The USL Super League is a Division One women's soccer league that launched in August 2024 with eight teams and plans to add additional teams in subsequent seasons. With a vision to be a global leader in women's soccer on and off the field, the league is providing more professional opportunities for women, especially in communities without existing women's sports.
- The USL is the most widely accessible soccer league in the US with multi-year national and international media rights agreements across various platforms.

10. What level of soccer will the USL bring to Modesto for men's and women's teams?

- The goal is to bring a professional men's and women' soccer team to Modesto.