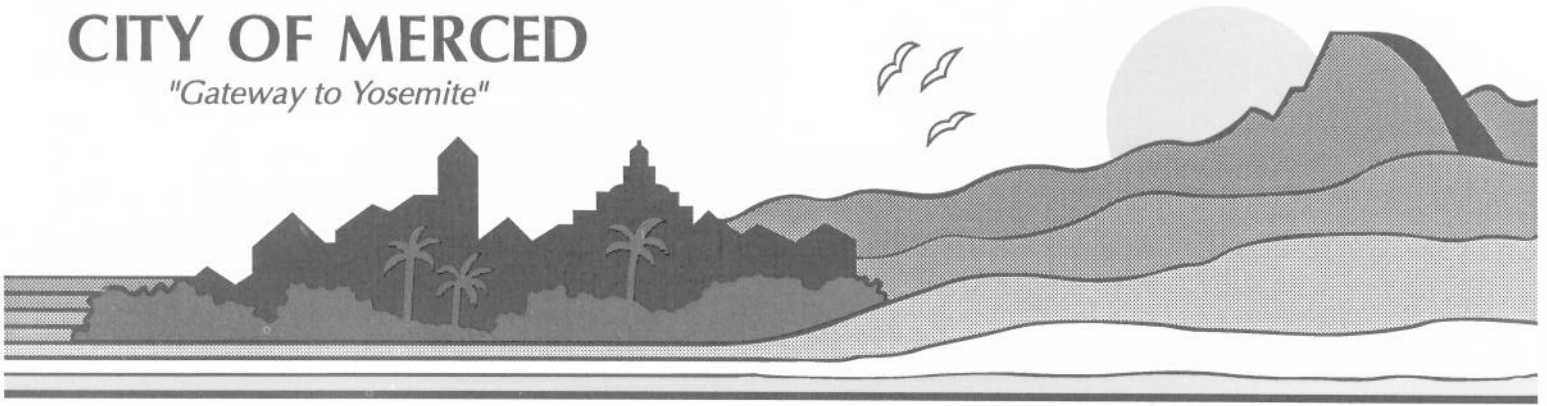


CITY OF MERCED

"Gateway to Yosemite"



Proclamation

- WHEREAS, general aviation and community airports play a vital role in the lives of our citizens, as well as in the operation of our businesses and agriculture; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Merced in the State of California has a significant interest in the continued vitality of general aviation, aircraft manufacturing, aviation educational institutions, aviation organizations, and community airports; and
- WHEREAS, general aviation and local airports, including Merced Regional Airport and Castle Airport, contribute an immense economic impact to the City of Merced; and
- WHEREAS, California is home to 250 public-use airports, 220 of which are general aviation airports, that serve 61,185 pilots and 22,830 active general aviation aircraft; and
- WHEREAS, the State is home to 631 repair stations, 968 heliports and 66 FAA-approved pilot schools, as well as 11,832 flight students and 9,429 flight instructors; and
- WHEREAS, general aviation contributes an annual economic impact of \$18.2 billion to California's economy; and
- WHEREAS, general aviation not only bolsters California's economy, it improves our overall quality of life by supporting emergency medical and health care services, assisting law enforcement, fire-fighting, disaster relief, and transporting business travelers to their destinations quickly and safely; and
- WHEREAS, the nation's aviation infrastructure represents an important, public benefit, and Congressional oversight should be in place to ensure stable funding of this system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STANLEY P. THURSTON, Mayor of the City of Merced, do hereby proclaim general aviation a vital strategic resource to the City of Merced and declare June to be General Aviation Appreciation Month in the City of Merced.

DATED: June 2, 2014



MAYOR