



# THE WEEKLY COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

July 16, 2021

## GOOD DEEDS

### PW EMPLOYEES TO THE RESCUE

On Thursday, Finance Accountant Melanie Karle witnessed a fellow City staff doing a good deed.

“I noticed a truck with flashing lights at the intersection of V & 16th Streets this morning on my way to work. Then I see a City of Merced, I think a PW Parks employee, jump out of the passenger side and start pushing the car when the light turned green. He started pushing the vehicle through the intersection. I was able to catch the images, showing our totally awesome City workers helping a citizen in a sticky situation. I am so proud of my co-workers!”

After some detective work, turns out, the outstanding Public Works employees who jumped to the rescue were Carlos Gallegos and Angel Rubalcava from the Streets Division.

Thank you, Mr. Gallegos and Mr. Rubalcava, for lending a hand to someone in need, and for all you do on the streets of Merced!



### MUTUAL AID SYSTEM IN FIGHTING FIRES

As California continues to recover from the historic 2020 fire season and faces continued severe fire threat and extreme drought conditions in 2021, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) is deploying new resources to protect California communities and augment the state's fire and rescue mutual aid system. The mutual aid system is a one-of-a-kind partnership between state and local government that provides equipment and personnel surge capacity to protect the state during wildfires and other hazards.

On July 8th, a Type VI Engine (OES 5601) was delivered to the City of Merced for use by the City of Merced Fire Department to combat statewide wildfires and respond to other disasters and emergencies.

Thank you to our City Council for authorizing the transfer of OES 5601 to the City of Merced Fire Department.



MORE PHOTOS OF TYPE VI ENGINE



2020 MAP OF CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES



CURRENT MAP OF ACTIVE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES



To acquire the status of active fires and incidents overview, visit the CAL Fire website at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/>

## TYPE VI ENGINE TRAINING

The Fire Department conducted training on their new equipment from the Office of Emergency Services (OES). This is a Type VI engine made to be more maneuverable in wildland situations.

Crews are becoming more comfortable with the new equipment as they train and receive additional experience fighting grass fires. They practiced using fire to create defensible space, mobile attack operations, and constructing handline to protect infrastructure.



## MERCED YOSEMITE REGIONAL AIRPORT PARTICIPATES IN HISTORIC FLIGHT

### The Historic Flight:



Beams “Flying on Sunshine” world record attempt for the longest flight in a production electric aircraft powered by off-grid renewable energy is officially underway.

The multi-leg quest started and ends in Fresno and culminated with a media event at Fresno Chandler Executive Airport Saturday July 17, proving zero emission aviation is not only possible, it’s here.

Members of the media were invited to attend the record-setting touchdown July 17 and the stops along the way to explore the plane while it is charging on the tarmac. The stops include City of Fresno (starting location), City of Madera, City of Merced, City of Modesto, City of Lodi and City of Sacramento, with the return trip in reverse.

When the electric aircraft landed at Merced on July 14th, several airport tenants were on-hand to check out the plane and talk to CEO Desmond Wheatley and Pilot Joseph Oldham.

Flying on Sunshine™ flight in a Pipistrel production electric aircraft, powered completely by Beam’s EV ARC™ solar-powered charging unit delivering off-grid, sustainably generated, locally stored energy.

### The Solar Charging Unit:



The EV ARC™ 2020 being used to power the Pipistrel plane is equipped with 2 Enel X JuiceBox® Pro EV chargers and one 15kW aircraft charger and is capable of charging two vehicles and one electric plane. 100% solar-powered EV ARC™ units are off-grid so require no permitting, no construction, no electrical work and generate no utility bill. Designed to fit in a standard parking space, without reducing available parking, the small footprint and construction-free deployment does not disrupt city or airport planning efforts and can be rapidly deployed. Beam Global EV charging products enable municipalities and states to build zero-emissions infrastructure that is rapidly scalable as charging needs evolve.

### The Electric Aircraft:

Pipistrel is a Slovenian light aircraft manufacturer established in 1989 by Ivo Boscarol and based in Ajdovščina. Its facilities are located in Ajdovščina, Slovenia, and near the town of Gorizia, Italy. By March 2019, Pipistrel had produced more than 2000 aircraft.

Pipistrel introduced an electric version called the Alpha Electro in 2015 at a price of 69,000 euros (about 81,000 USD), with technology from the Pipistrel WATTsUP proof of concept design, for short training. It has energy for one flight hour plus reserves and can recharge in 45 minutes or have its batteries replaced in 5 minutes. Instead of 78 lb. of fuel, it has 277 pounds of LiPo cells, however the water-cooled electric motor weighs 24 lbs., much less than the gasoline engine. It has a useful load of 380

lb., whereas a Cessna 152 has between 350 and 480 lb. useful load.

After 38 minutes of flying various maneuvers, battery charge may be 25%. From the inside, the Electro is very similar to the gasoline-powered version, but from the outside, the Electro is much quieter. Electricity costs are about 1/10 of gasoline.

The Electro is now certified in the USA. Four Electro aircraft will be used to provide flight training in Fresno, California starting in late 2017 as part of the Sustainable Aviation Project

Performance of the ALPHA Electro 2-seat electric trainer is tailored to the needs of flight schools. Short take-off distance, powerful 1000+ fpm climb, and endurance of one hour plus reserve.

The Alpha Electro is optimized for traffic-pattern operations, where 13% of energy is recuperated on every approach, increasing endurance and at the same time enabling short-field landings.

Operating costs, in most areas it could be as little as \$3/hour for electricity to operate the aircraft.

The aircraft is available in a fixed configuration of instrumentation and is targeted directly to flight schools and the training market but can also be used by recreational flyers looking for a fully featured electric aircraft at very reasonable pricing.

The aircraft also features a ballistic parachute system.

*Photo credit: Airport Operations Technician Jon Kwiatkowski*



## WORLD WAR II WARBIRO STOPS AT MERCED YOSEMITE REGIONAL AIRPORT



Planes of Fame Air Museum – Douglas SBD-5 Dauntless: “The Museum’s SBD-5 is a World War II Combat Veteran that was manufactured in El Segundo, California and delivered on June 18, 1943. Following shipment to Espirito Santo in the combat zone, the aircraft was assigned to the Royal New Zealand Air Force. It flew over 30 combat missions with Squadron 25 off of the South Pacific island of Bougainville. In May 1944, it transferred to the U.S. Marine Corps. For the remainder of the war the aircraft served with six different Marine and U.S. Navy squadrons. After the war, it was sold to Warner Bros., where it appeared in several movies, including Midway. It was acquired by the Museum in 1959 and restored to flight in 1987.”

The SBD ("Scout Bomber Douglas") was the United States Navy's main carrier-based scout/dive bomber from mid-1940 through mid-1944. During its combat service, the SBD proved to be an excellent naval scout plane and dive bomber. It possessed long range, good handling characteristics, maneuverability, potent bomb load, great diving characteristics from the perforated dive brakes, good defensive armament, and ruggedness. To learn more about the vintage warbird, visit <https://planesoffame.org/aircraft/plane-SBD-5>.

**UTILITY BOX ART PROJECT UPDATE**

The utility box artists are making more progress this week. Here are some snapshots of this week's work.

**Completed box at M & 16th Streets, Artist Stephen Schertz / High Quality Arts:**



**Box at Main & K Streets, Artist Kobie Griggs:**



Box at 18th & R Streets, Artist Karen McComb:



**INSPECTION SERVICES BIWEEKLY REPORT**

Please find attached, the Inspection Services Biweekly Report for the period of 6/28/21 – 7/11/21.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS UPDATE**

**PROJECT #117020 – GERARD SEWER MAIN, HWY 99 TO KIBBY RD.**

Rolfe Construction Co., Inc., installed sewer line.

This project is approximately 65% complete.



**PROJECT #120060 – N STREET IMPROVEMENT**

This week, TBS Contractors, Inc., set concrete forms, installed electrical conduit and irrigation. They also put in grading.

This project is approximately 65% complete.



**PROJECT #117047 – WELL SITE 3 TANK REMOVAL**

Standard Demolition started removing parts of the water tank this week.

This project is approximately 1% underway.



**CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

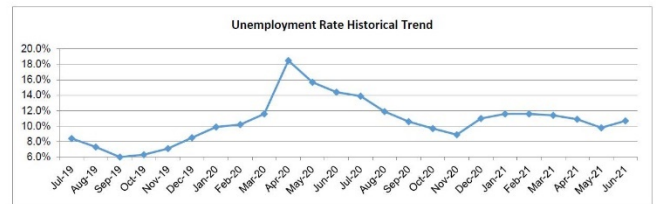
1. 117047 – Well Site 3 Tank Removal
2. 117020 - Gerard Ave. Sewer Main Hwy 99 to Kibby Road
3. 120060 - N Street - 16th to 18th Streets, Roadway Improvement
4. 121053 - G St. – Park Ave. to Bear Creek Rehabilitation (Emergency)
5. 117038 - V Street - 16th to 18th Streets, Road Improvement (to be awarded by Council)

**PROJECTS IN DESIGN**

1. Highway 59 Widening (11%)
2. Highway 59 and 16th Street Signal and Channelization (90%)
3. Motel Drive Multi-Use Path (100%)
4. R Street, 16th to 18th (90%)
5. B Street Improvements (50%)
6. G Street Improvements Childs to 13th St. (100%)
7. Orchard Avenue Sewer (50%)

**2021 JUNE MERCED COUNTY LABOR MARKET INFORMATION**

The unemployment rate in the Merced County was 10.7 percent in June 2021, up from a revised 9.8 percent in May 2021, and below the year-ago estimate of 14.4 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 8.0 percent for California and 6.1 percent for the nation during the same period.



A copy of the June 2021 Labor Market Report is attached for your review.

**MCOE SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PRESS CONFERENCE**

Join MCOE on Monday, 8/2/21 at 11 a.m., MCOE Downtown Professional Center for an event to learn more about the safe return to school.

The event flyer is attached.

**REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

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| 3. MCOE Event Flyer           | Page 13 |



## INSPECTION SERVICES CI

**For the period of June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 through July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, there were 31 New Single-Family Dwelling Permits Issued.**

The running total of New Single-Family Dwellings in Plan Review is **264**.

### Multi Family Permits in review:

Gateway Terrace Apartments located at 405 W 12<sup>th</sup> St; 1 office/lounge and 6, 2 story apartments: 2 buildings have 16 units, 3 buildings have 30 units, and 1 building has 4 units for a total of 126 units.

Compass Pointe, Phase II: 128 units in 16, 8-plex buildings, plus a clubhouse.

There is a fire damage repair that is also adding an ADU located at 1740 Shirley St.

There were 0 multi-family permits issued during this period.  
(No change from last report)

There were 2 new construction commercial permits issued during this period; one for a 6,305 SF shell/tenant improvement combo for a food mart located at 809 S. Coffee St., and one for a 2,264 fast food shell building located at 805 S. Coffee St.

There were 0 new tenant improvement permits issued during this period.

There were 0 new commercial submittals during this period.

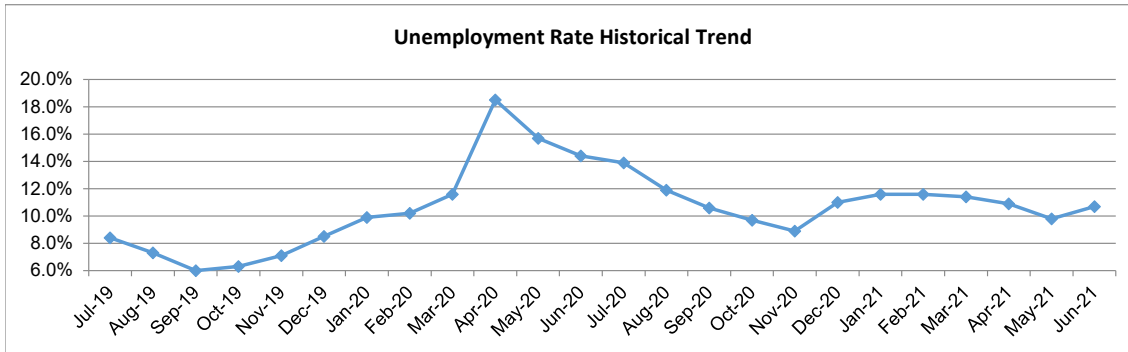
There was 1 new tenant improvement submittal during this period; for a 100 SF addition on a commercial building located at 580 Collins Dr.

There were 2 CofOs issued for this period; one for an interior office remodel and bathroom addition, and a new 680 SF covered loading dock at 1870 Wardrobe, and one for a new 850 SF E-cart area at Raley's located at 3550 G St.

There were 28 CofOs for Single-Family Dwellings during this period.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 MERCED METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)  
 (Merced County)

The unemployment rate in the Merced County was 10.7 percent in June 2021, up from a revised 9.8 percent in May 2021, and below the year-ago estimate of 14.4 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 8.0 percent for California and 6.1 percent for the nation during the same period.



Industry	May-2021	Jun-2021	Change		Jun-2020	Jun-2021	Change
	Revised	Prelim				Prelim	
Total, All Industries	84,600	84,500	(100)		79,600	84,500	4,900
Total Farm	15,900	15,700	(200)		14,400	15,700	1,300
Total Nonfarm	68,700	68,800	100		65,200	68,800	3,600
Mining, Logging, and Construction	2,700	2,800	100		2,700	2,800	100
Manufacturing	10,500	11,200	700		10,000	11,200	1,200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,300	13,700	400		12,700	13,700	1,000
Information	200	200	0		200	200	0
Financial Activities	1,800	1,800	0		1,800	1,800	0
Professional & Business Services	3,800	3,800	0		4,000	3,800	(200)
Educational & Health Services	10,300	10,200	(100)		10,200	10,200	0
Leisure & Hospitality	5,900	6,100	200		5,400	6,100	700
Other Services	1,300	1,300	0		1,300	1,300	0
Government	18,900	17,700	(1,200)		16,900	17,700	800

Notes: Data not adjusted for seasonality. Data may not add due to rounding  
 Labor force data are revised month to month  
 Additional data are available on line at [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov)

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Jun 20	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Percent Change	
			Revised	Prelim	Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force (1)	113,800	113,900	116,700	116,600	-0.1%	2.5%
Civilian Employment	97,300	101,500	105,300	104,100	-1.1%	7.0%
Civilian Unemployment	16,400	12,400	11,400	12,400	8.8%	-24.4%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	14.4%	10.9%	9.8%	10.7%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	14.1%	8.1%	7.5%	8.0%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	11.2%	5.7%	5.5%	6.1%		

Total, All Industries (2)	79,600	80,900	84,600	84,500	-0.1%	6.2%
Total Farm	14,400	12,600	15,900	15,700	-1.3%	9.0%
Total Nonfarm	65,200	68,300	68,700	68,800	0.1%	5.5%
Total Private	48,300	49,500	49,800	51,100	2.6%	5.8%
Goods Producing	12,700	12,900	13,200	14,000	6.1%	10.2%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,800	3.7%	3.7%
Manufacturing	10,000	10,200	10,500	11,200	6.7%	12.0%
Nondurable Goods	8,500	8,800	9,000	9,600	6.7%	12.9%
Service Providing	52,500	55,400	55,500	54,800	-1.3%	4.4%
Private Service Providing	35,600	36,600	36,600	37,100	1.4%	4.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	12,700	13,300	13,300	13,700	3.0%	7.9%
Wholesale Trade	1,200	1,000	1,000	1,200	20.0%	0.0%
Retail Trade	8,000	8,600	8,600	8,700	1.2%	8.8%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	3,500	3,700	3,700	3,800	2.7%	8.6%
Information	200	200	200	200	0.0%	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	0.0%	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	4,000	3,800	3,800	3,800	0.0%	-5.0%
Educational & Health Services	10,200	10,400	10,300	10,200	-1.0%	0.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	5,400	5,800	5,900	6,100	3.4%	13.0%
Other Services	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0%	0.0%
Government	16,900	18,800	18,900	17,700	-6.3%	4.7%
Federal Government	800	800	800	800	0.0%	0.0%
State & Local Government	16,100	18,000	18,100	16,900	-6.6%	5.0%
State Government	2,800	3,900	3,700	3,000	-18.9%	7.1%
State Government Education	2,200	3,300	3,100	2,400	-22.6%	9.1%
State Government Excluding Education	600	600	600	600	0.0%	0.0%
Local Government	13,300	14,100	14,400	13,900	-3.5%	4.5%
Local Government Excluding Education	4,000	3,900	3,900	4,100	5.1%	2.5%
Special Districts plus Indian Tribes	600	600	600	600	0.0%	0.0%

**Notes:**

(1) Civilian labor force data are by place of residence; include self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike. Data may not add due to rounding. The unemployment rate is calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Industry employment is by place of work; excludes self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike. Data may not add due to rounding.

These data are produced by the Labor Market Information Division of the California Employment Development Department (EDD). Questions should be directed to: Steven Gutierrez 559-230-4102 or Frances Gines 951-955-3204

These data, as well as other labor market data, are available via the Internet at <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>. If you need assistance, please call (916) 262-2162.

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**REPORT 400 C**  
**Monthly Labor Force Data for Counties**  
**June 2021 - Preliminary**  
 Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

COUNTY	RANK BY RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	---	<b>19,003,600</b>	<b>17,481,000</b>	<b>1,522,700</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
ALAMEDA	23	803,500	750,900	52,600	6.5%
ALPINE	47	470	430	40	8.9%
AMADOR	24	14,700	13,680	1,020	6.9%
BUTTE	31	92,600	85,900	6,700	7.3%
CALAVERAS	10	21,670	20,410	1,260	5.8%
COLUSA	57	11,070	9,760	1,300	11.8%
CONTRA COSTA	24	536,000	499,100	36,800	6.9%
DEL NORTE	42	9,390	8,650	750	7.9%
EL DORADO	14	90,800	85,300	5,500	6.0%
FRESNO	51	448,700	406,600	42,100	9.4%
GLENN	28	13,050	12,140	910	7.0%
HUMBOLDT	19	59,900	56,100	3,800	6.4%
IMPERIAL	58	68,100	56,200	11,900	17.5%
INYO	14	8,270	7,770	500	6.0%
KERN	55	381,300	340,100	41,200	10.8%
KINGS	52	55,600	50,000	5,700	10.2%
LAKE	33	29,670	27,460	2,210	7.4%
LASSEN	7	9,750	9,200	560	5.7%
LOS ANGELES	53	5,080,000	4,547,800	532,200	10.5%
MADERA	49	63,000	57,200	5,700	9.1%
MARIN	1	131,800	125,600	6,200	4.7%
MARIPOSA	30	7,730	7,190	550	7.1%
MENDOCINO	19	36,670	34,320	2,340	6.4%
MERCED	54	116,600	104,100	12,400	10.7%
MODOC	14	3,440	3,230	210	6.0%
MONO	33	7,620	7,060	570	7.4%
MONTEREY	31	225,900	209,300	16,500	7.3%
NAPA	14	70,700	66,500	4,300	6.0%
NEVADA	12	46,560	43,820	2,740	5.9%
ORANGE	19	1,564,400	1,464,000	100,400	6.4%
PLACER	5	185,600	175,500	10,100	5.4%
PLUMAS	39	8,130	7,510	620	7.6%
RIVERSIDE	42	1,113,500	1,026,000	87,500	7.9%
SACRAMENTO	33	709,800	657,300	52,500	7.4%
SAN BENITO	36	31,300	29,000	2,300	7.5%
SAN BERNARDINO	44	976,400	898,300	78,100	8.0%
SAN DIEGO	28	1,527,300	1,421,000	106,300	7.0%
SAN FRANCISCO	5	551,500	521,400	30,000	5.4%
SAN JOAQUIN	49	332,600	302,400	30,100	9.1%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	10	130,800	123,200	7,600	5.8%
SAN MATEO	3	432,700	411,200	21,500	5.0%
SANTA BARBARA	12	221,800	208,700	13,100	5.9%
SANTA CLARA	4	1,013,300	961,700	51,600	5.1%
SANTA CRUZ	24	134,300	125,100	9,200	6.9%
SHASTA	24	74,900	69,700	5,200	6.9%
SIERRA	2	1,390	1,320	70	4.9%
SISKIYOU	39	16,900	15,610	1,290	7.6%
SOLANO	41	202,400	186,800	15,700	7.7%
SONOMA	7	246,200	232,100	14,100	5.7%
STANISLAUS	45	239,200	218,000	21,100	8.8%
SUTTER	48	46,800	42,600	4,200	9.0%
TEHAMA	36	25,700	23,770	1,930	7.5%
TRINITY	7	4,800	4,520	270	5.7%
TULARE	56	202,000	179,800	22,200	11.0%
TUOLUMNE	36	19,830	18,340	1,490	7.5%
VENTURA	19	408,800	382,600	26,300	6.4%
YOLO	18	106,600	100,100	6,500	6.1%
YUBA	45	30,200	27,600	2,700	8.8%

**Notes**

- 1) Data may not add due to rounding. The unemployment rate is calculated using unrounded data.
- 2) Labor force data for all geographic areas now reflect the March 2020 benchmark and Census 2010 population controls at the state level.

*Please join us!*

# For an Event to Learn More About the Safe Return to School

**Monday, August 2, 2021 • 11:00 a.m.**

**MCOE Downtown Professional Development Center  
501 W. Main Street, Merced, CA**

**Entrance at 1715 Canal Street**



READY TO  
**RETURN**  
— TO SCHOOL —



Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools