



COUNCIL INFORMATION REPORT

July 19, 2024

Merced County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Approves UC Merced Annexation into the City of Merced

This week, the City of Merced celebrated a major milestone with the successful approval of the annexation of the University of California, Merced campus into the city by county authorities. The annexation includes approximately 1,040 acres of the UC Merced campus and a vital two-mile stretch of Bellevue Road, totaling 1,140 acres now under the city’s jurisdiction. This development marks a significant step in Merced’s planned urban expansion, underscoring our commitment to effective urban service delivery and community growth.

Mayor Matthew Serratto commented on the importance of this achievement, saying, "The annexation is a pivotal moment in Merced's journey towards sustained economic growth and development. By incorporating UC Merced within city limits, we expand our geographical boundaries and enhance our community's educational and infrastructural framework. This decision reflects our dedication to efficient urban planning and superior service delivery to all residents."

City Manager Scott McBride also highlighted the benefits of this advancement, noting, "The annexation facilitates more cohesive planning and development between the City of Merced and UC Merced. This partnership will allow us to more effectively meet the needs of the university and the community, fostering an environment conducive to academic excellence and urban vitality."

Following a 30-day administrative review process, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will officially record the annexation. City services will begin in the newly annexed area, ensuring a smooth transition and integration for all stakeholders involved.

The City of Merced remains committed to maximizing the benefits of this annexation. We are moving forward with plans to enhance infrastructure, streamline public services, and promote sustainable development within the newly incorporated area, aligning with our broader goals of economic growth, business attraction, and improved quality of life for all residents.



Celebrate National Parks & Recreation Month with Us!

This month, we continue to shine a spotlight on the incredible benefits of parks and recreation. Each week, the City’s Parks and Community Services team will showcase how these spaces enhance our lives.

Meet Mario Alvarez!

Mario is the overseer of our Parks and Community Services summer camp sports programs. Mario has coordinated several popular recreational activities since joining the city about a year ago.

Mario oversees the Teal Top Street Hockey program, which has quickly become a favorite among local youth. The program emphasizes teamwork, skill development, and, most importantly, fun.

In addition to street hockey, Mario also runs the H.I.T.S Tennis program. This program introduces children to the fundamentals of tennis, promotes physical fitness, and fosters a love for the sport. Thanks to Mario's enthusiasm, the program has received rave reviews from participants and parents.

Mario is also the driving force behind our Pickleball summer camp. Pickleball, a fast-growing sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, has seen a surge in popularity.

Through these programs, Mario has successfully created a fun and inclusive environment that encourages physical activity and community engagement.

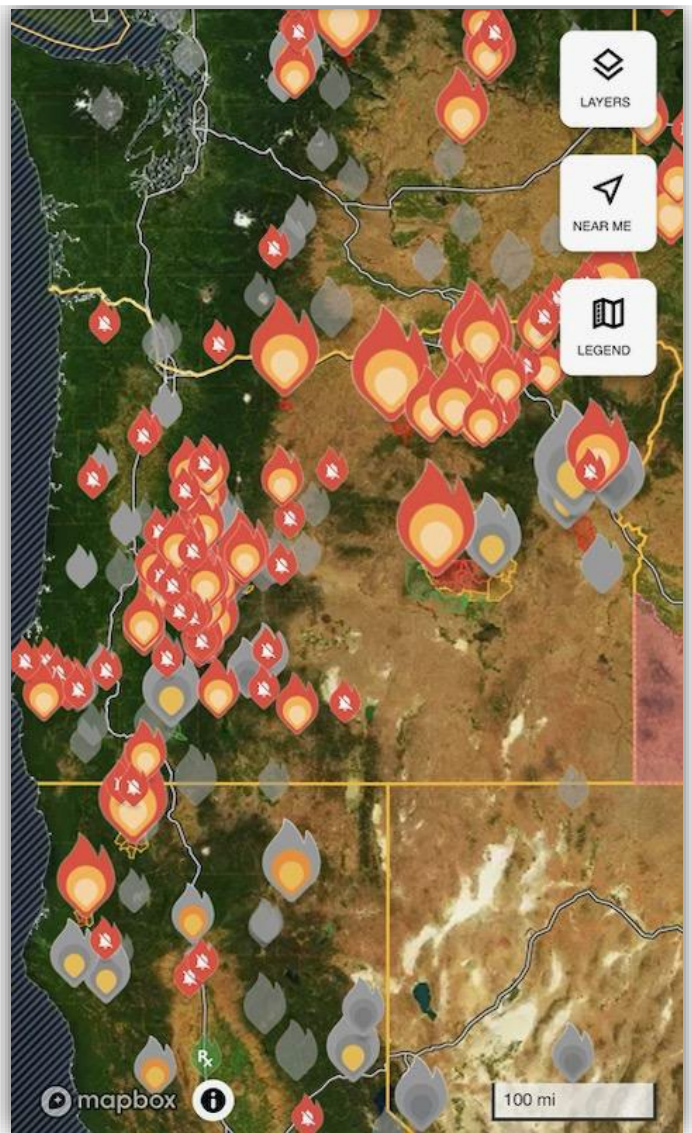


OES Engine 5601 Joins Strike Team for Oregon Wildfire Response

This week, OES Engine 5601, along with units from Merced County, Bakersfield, Rancho Cucamonga, and San Bernardino, were deployed as part of a strike team to Oregon. The team mobilized to assist our neighbors in their time of need, providing crucial support to combat the ongoing wildfires.

Our dedicated crews are prepared for a minimum deployment of 14 days, with the possibility of extending their stay to over 20 days depending on the situation. Their commitment to aiding Oregon highlights the teamwork and dedication of our firefighting teams.

Also deployed and assigned to the Lightning Complex in Sequoia National Forest, is Firefighter Drew Derek as a division group supervisor, and Captain Brett Markarian, and Engineer Jamison Kraft as line EMTs.



Symbols

Gray = Contained

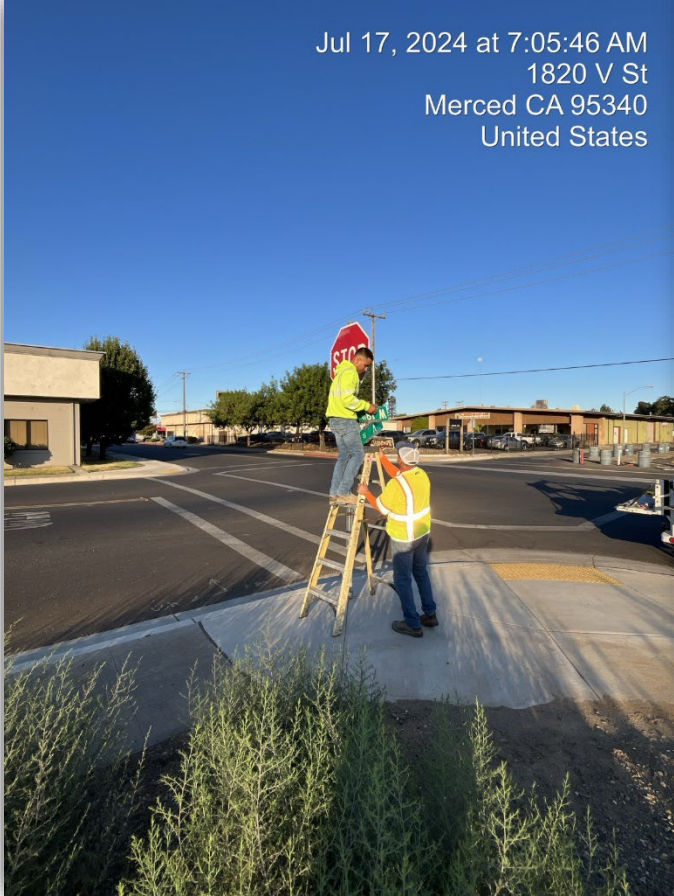
Yellow/gray = Partially Contained – over 50%

Red = less than 50% contained

Pictured left to right – Engineer Dustin King, Captain Tony Giotta, and Firefighter Grayson Pilloff.

Public Works in Action

Crews started installation of signs for Spaghetti Acres, designating it as an honorary historic district.



Street crews repaired sidewalks, curbs, and gutters along 15th Street.

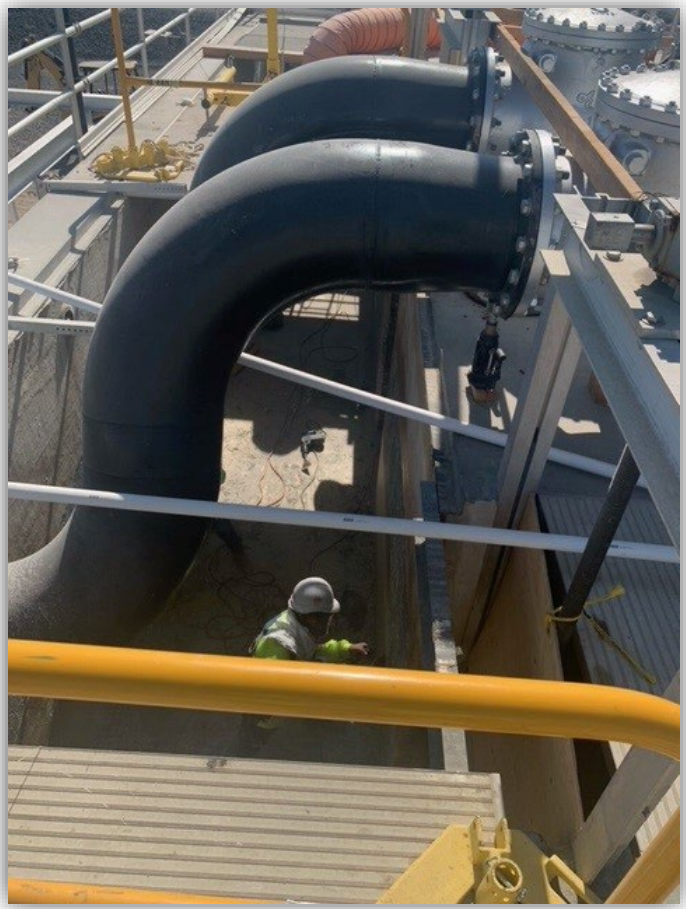


Engineered for Success

Wastewater Treatment Plant- Crews backfilled excavation around manhole.



Crews chipped the outer layer of the sewer tanks inside the headworks.



Merced Yosemite Regional Airport Terminal Replacement Project

Work continues with the exterior/interior metal stud framing and metal joists. The new storm drains and valley gutters are partially backfilled.

