

# Clovis Area Modelers

6/4/19  
AI #20



Plan for a Designated  
RC Area

## **Academy of Model Aeronautics is the largest federally recognized association**

- **representing a membership of 195,000,**
- **chartering 2,500 model airplane clubs, and**
- **is the liaison to the FAA, FCC, and other government agencies.**

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### **Local AMA Charter**

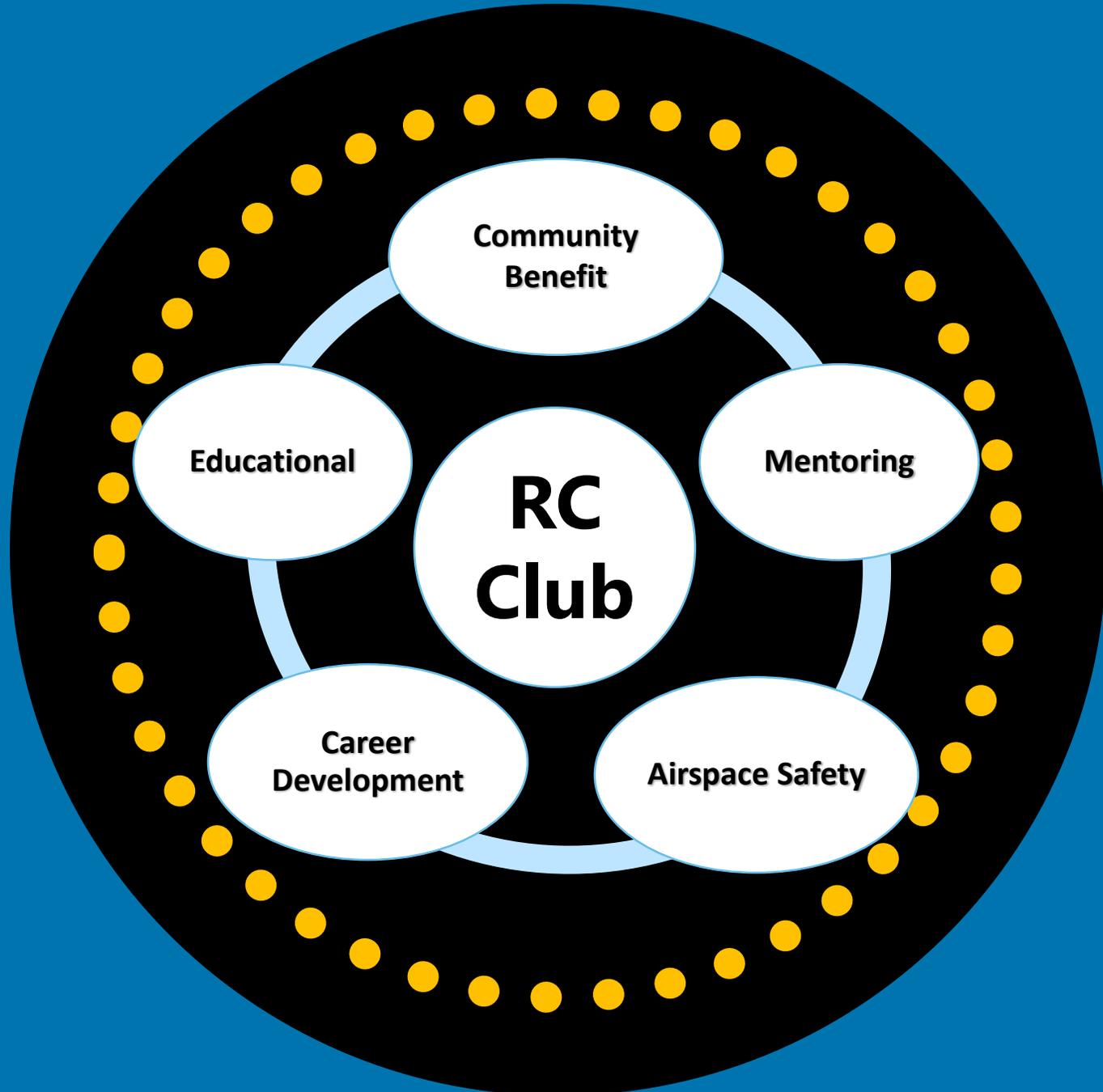
Clovis Area Modelers has an AMA charter and 501c3 non-profit status.

### **Fully Insured**

Clovis Area Modelers is fully insured by the AMA with a \$2.5M liability policy.

### **Safety First**

Members carry proof of liability insurance and follow AMA safety guidelines.



**Community Benefit**

**Educational**

**Mentoring**

**RC Club**

**Career Development**

**Airspace Safety**

# Mentoring

Radio Control modeling provides a great opportunity for the mentoring of youth. Club memberships for youth are FREE.

We are currently establishing relationships with EAA, Boy Scouts, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs, Air Force ROTC programs, Fresno State University and the City of Clovis



# Educational Benefits

Imminent need for a venue nearby where schools with STEM programs (Clovis East, Duncan Polytech and Fresno State University) can engage in UAV testing related to curriculum.

**CSUF UAS Research**  
[uas.csufresno.edu](http://uas.csufresno.edu)



# Airspace Safety



Imminent need for a designated RC area to make Fresno Air Terminal airspace safer by reducing the chance of incursions in controlled airspace

There have been multiple incursions by RC aircraft into our local air traffic.

A designated RC area would attract enthusiasts to a safe place clear of air traffic.

# FACT

Outside of our efforts, there is no venue currently in Fresno County where RC aircraft of all varieties can be legally and safely operated.

In comparison:

Phoenix	17
Sacramento	6
Merced	3
Stanislaus	5
Tulare	3

# THE STAGE HAS BEEN SET

The Answer: RC Area In the Fancher Creek Reservoir

**1**

The reservoir is  
1200 acres of  
underutilized  
land

**2**

FAA approved to  
be clear of our  
local air traffic

**3**

Many other RC  
areas have been  
located in flood  
control reservoirs

**4**

Noise will never  
be a factor in this  
area

# Our Request

1. Recognize RC Modeling as a recreational activity in like manner as the Federal Government (*See 49 USC 44809(a)*);
2. Enforce the Fresno County Open Space Policy (*See Fresno County General Plan Policy Document; PF-E.15, HS-C.6, HS-C.11*) as also stated in the FMFCD Master EIR open space policy (*See FMFCD 2004 District Services Plan Final Master EIR; OS-H.15*), which would allow our use without the need for a CUP; and,
3. Recognize FMFCD in their lead agency capacity has authority over recreational use of property they own (*See FMFCD Flood Control Act, § 73-8, para. 10-11*) and agree to our use of this de facto open space area.

# Guests – Q&A

THANK YOU

Item #20  
6-4-2019

Request of Clovis Area Modelers  
(Fresno County Board of Supervisors, June 4, 2019)

1. **Recognize RC Modeling as a recreational activity in like manner as the Federal Government (See 49 USC 44809(a)\*);**
2. **Enforce the present Fresno County open space policy (See Fresno County General Plan Policy Document, October 3, 2000; PF-E.15, HS-C.6, HS-C.11\*) as also stated in the FMFCD Master EIR open space policy (See FMFCD 2004 District Services Plan Final Master Environmental Impact Report, Oct 2007; OS-H.15\*), which would allow our use without the need for a CUP; and,**
3. **Recognize FMFCD in their lead agency capacity has authority over recreational use of property they own (See FMFCD Flood Control Act, Dec 2016, § 73-8, para. 10-11\*) and agree to our use of this de facto open space area.**

*49 USC 44809(a)*

“...a person may operate a small unmanned aircraft without ... operating authority from the Federal Aviation Administration if .... The aircraft is flown strictly for recreational purposes...”

*Fresno County General Plan Policy Document, October 3, 2000; PF-E.15*

“The County should require that retention-recharge basins be suitably landscaped to complement adjacent areas and should, wherever possible, be made available to the community to augment open space and recreation needs.”

*Id.*, HS-C.6 “The County shall promote flood control measures ... and, to the extent possible, combine flood control, recreation, water quality, and open space functions. ...”

*Id.*, HS-C.11 “The County shall encourage open space uses in all flood hazard areas. ...”

*FMFCD 2004 District Services Plan Final Master Environmental Impact Report, Oct 2007; OS-H.15*

“The County shall utilize retention-recharge basins as open space areas for parks and recreation purposes.”

“When the basins are not inundated with water, they can be used for recreational and wildlife management purposes.” (*Id.*, page 4.5-10)

*FMFCD Flood Control Act, Dec 2016, § 73-8, para. 10-11*

“[10]...the Flood Control District may carry out any or all of its powers either separately or in conjunction with one or more of the public agencies, and may make any contract or lease or accept any conveyance of property necessary or convenient for the accomplishment of the purposes of the Flood Control District. The powers granted by this subparagraph shall be liberally construed. [11] To develop property for recreational uses and purposes in connection with the use thereof for control or conservation of waters or to lease to or contract with individuals or public or private agencies for use or for development and use thereof for the recreational purposes.”

See also:

*Fresno County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, June 2008*

I-5-j. Policy: “The City of Fresno shall continue to assign open space zoning to all undeveloped areas which are within the Designated Floodway of the San Joaquin River and the floodway channels of Dry Creek, Redbank Creek, Fancher Creek, and other streams.” (Emphasis added.)



Margaret Mims  
Sheriff-Coroner  
Fresno County Sheriff's Office

January 18, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner's Office was established in 1856 and has a proud history and tradition of providing professional law enforcement services to the nearly one million citizens of Fresno County. We are a strong supporter of community based efforts that encourage support of our youth.

Clovis Area Modelers is an AMA chartered club dedicated to the safe operation of radio controlled models. Modeling is a great opportunity for the much needed mentoring of youth in our community.

Aerial incursions between our department's helicopter and radio controlled aircraft is a growing concern. It is a serious safety hazard to the low flying aircraft in Fresno County. A designated area for modeling activity is a big step in the right direction. This effort is long past due. Sacramento currently has several RC fields.

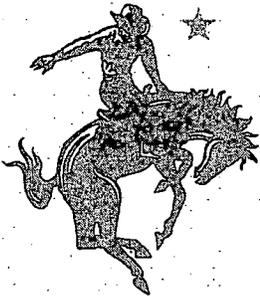
The Sheriff's Office is fully supportive of Clovis Area Modelers efforts of creating an RC park. It would be a great benefit to our county in many ways.

Sincerely,

Margaret Mims, Sheriff-Coroner

*Dedicated to Protect & Serve*

Law Enforcement Administration Building / 2200 Fresno Street / P.O. Box 1788 / Fresno, California 93717 / (559) 600-8800  
Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



# CITY of CLOVIS

1033 FIFTH STREET • CLOVIS, CA 93612

To Whom It May Concern:

Clovis Area Modelers is an Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) chartered club dedicated to the safe operation of radio controlled model aircraft. The Clovis Area Modelers recognize that a need exists for a designated area within Fresno County where students and model aviation enthusiasts can legally and safely operate Remote Control (RC) models and drones. Currently no such location exists anywhere in the City of Clovis or Fresno County, and an urgent need exists to formalize a location where modeling activity can occur.

The FAA estimates the fleet of small hobbyist drones will more than triple from an estimated 1.1 million vehicles in 2016 to more than 3.5 million by 2021. The agency also estimates the commercial drone fleet will grow from 42,000 at the end of 2016 to about 442,000 aircraft by 2021. The aviation safety agency said there could be as many as 1.6 million commercial drones in use by 2021. The local FAA indicates that they receive 100 reports per month of RC related aerial threats to full size aircraft in the U.S. This statistic has spiked in the last 2 years. Establishing a designated safe location for modeling is a big move in the right direction, as it would centralize the activity well clear of controlled airspace.

Structured activities such as aeromodelling provide a great foundation for youth to consider STEM fields in college. Students in the area should have the advantage of a local facility. Dr. Ram Nunna Ph.D, from the Fresno State University Engineering Department, has indicated that the university would incorporate such a facility into its educational curriculum. This would directly provide youth with a unique opportunity to gain insight and experience from model aviation experts. Location is key for youth who reside in the Clovis area to be able to participate in mentoring programs aimed at acquiring, constructing, and flying model aircraft.

Given the above challenges faced by our community, there is great value in the efforts presented by the Clovis Area Modelers Club. The Clovis City Council fully supports their efforts of finding an appropriate location accessible to the local community where RC modeling can be safely engaged in.

Very truly yours,

Bob Whalen  
Mayor



# Federal Aviation Administration

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## Memorandum

Date: April 10, 2018  
To: Clovis Area Modelers Club  
From: Jamie Andres, Fresno Air Traffic Control Tower, Operations Support  
Subject: *Jamie Andres*  
UAS Operation in KFAT Airspace

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Reports of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) sightings from pilots, citizens and law enforcement have increased dramatically over the past two years. The FAA now receives more than 100 such reports each month. The operation of drones around airplanes, helicopters and airports is dangerous and illegal.

UAS sightings and even near-mid-air-collisions have increased in Fresno County. The following are just a few occurrence reports involving UAS pulled from KFAT database:

- California Highway Patrol was turning a 2nm base to KFAT, and observed a white fixed wing remote control airplane at 800 feet.
- A helicopter was operating in the Class C surface area. The pilot was at 850 feet, and reported a near-mid-air collision with a UAS at approximately 900 feet.
- An aircraft reported that a UAS passed less than 200 feet from him while inbound to KFAT. The aircraft was at 3,500 feet.
- A UAS sighting was reported by a local law enforcement helicopter. They observed the UAS operating at 500 feet inside the Class C surface area in the vicinity of Regional Medical Center. The UAS was operating in the arrival flight path to the hospital helipad.
- A military aircraft departed KFAT, and reported a UAS operating approximately four miles south of the airport at 2,500 feet. The UAS was reported to be white with a red stripe, 4 rotors, and passed approximately 100 feet from the military aircraft.
- An aircraft reported passing an unauthorized UAS approximately a half mile west of the VA Hospital at 1,700 feet. The UAS passed the aircraft by 200 feet.
- Medevac helicopter on an approach to Valley Children's Hospital reported a UAS off their right side, approximately 200-400 feet from their position. UAS was

described as blue with dome top, 2 feet in diameter, and possibly similar to a Typhoon brand quadcopter.

As the UAS coordinator and quality assurance representative at the Fresno Air Traffic Control Tower, I see the following as potential benefits to local air traffic control by having a centralized location for UAS operations:

- Education opportunity: Hold UAS pilot meetings to discuss rules and safety. This also gives the opportunity for myself or other air traffic controllers to attend and answer questions.
- We have the ability to depict the exact location on our air traffic controller radar video maps. This allows us to give aircraft traffic advisories, or vector aircraft away from the location, if needed.
- We can provide the location to local law enforcement, military helicopter operations, and general aviation helicopter operations at KFAT.
- It may reduce the amount of Part 101 phone calls we receive for UAS operations within the Class C surface area.

The FAA promotes safe and responsible use of unmanned aircraft systems. With UAS sightings and near-mid-air collisions continually growing in the national airspace system, we are actively working towards safety and the communication of UAS activity around the KFAT Class C surface area.

To whom it may concern,

5Oct2017



The mission of the EAA Chapter 376 of Fresno, CA is to provide our youth and adults of all ages the opportunity to experience the thrill of flight, gain exposure to lay people who have built their own airplanes and to interact with pilots young and old. We support our community by offering our youth 8-17 their first opportunity to experience flight via our 'Young Eagles Program'. This often leads to the pursuit of a career in aviation. We love airplanes and the privilege of experiencing flight. Many of us started with rubber band balsa wood airplanes, progressed to control line and then on to radio controlled flight. We strive to capture the hearts of our youth with aviation seminars, aviation projects and actual flight. We believe we have impacted the lives of many.

In that regard we have been made aware of the current efforts to find a radio controlled aircraft flying field in this area. The EAA is in full support of such an effort. The presence of a local RC field would complement the efforts of our organization by further familiarizing our youth with building and flying aircraft and learning the dynamics of flight. RC pilots are great mentors for our youth and adults as well. The EAA is committed to partnering with the RC community in the continuance of their members interests in Aviation. Our youth today need hobbies like this to get them focused on something worthwhile that will help them develop their skills along with fun interaction with like minded mentors.

We are aware that the FAA is working to improve safety with new regulations on where RC models may be flown. A designated area where the Radio Controlled Hobbyist can safely and legally be enjoyed makes our airspace safer for everyone.

As President of the EAA Chapter 376 of Fresno I endorse the approval of a properly located and operated RC flying field in the immediate Fresno/Clovis area. Let's give our youth something worthwhile to do in their free time.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to further discuss this endeavor.

Sincerely,

William Campbell

President

Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 376, Located at Sierra Sky Park Airport Community,  
Fresno, Ca

Exhibit A



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
SEQUOIA COUNCIL

December 6, 2017

Clovis City Council  
Clovis, CA

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to write this letter of endorsement for the efforts of Academy of Model Aeronautics Chapter #5405 and President Erik LaCour. I understand that Chapter #5405 is attempting to establish an area for the pursuit of this sport. Moving forward we believe our Scouts would benefit from this established area. We currently have a Robotics Merit Badge and we also have programs in the STEM area.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

John Richers  
CEO/Scout Executive

6005 N. Tamera Avenue    230 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93711-3911    Visalia, CA 93291-3628  
(559) 320-2100    (559) 732-3424  
(559) 320-2114 Fax    (559) 732-0822 Fax  
[www.seqbsa.org](http://www.seqbsa.org)

Prepared. For Life.™



Exhibit A



**AIR FORCE JROTC (CA-20131)  
CLOVIS EAST HIGH SCHOOL  
2940 LEONARD AVE. CLOVIS CA 93619**



14 December 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: To Whom It May Concern

FROM: CMSgt Dennis Nodine (Ret), Aerospace Science Instructor

SUBJECT: Endorsement: Radio Control (RC) Club of Clovis, Clovis Area Modelers AMA Chapter 5405

1. The Air Force Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (AFJROTC) is committed to provide high school students the skills and opportunities necessary to become successful and productive citizens in American society. The goal of AFJROTC is to instill values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and sense of accomplishment. The curriculum contains four years of aerospace science to include everything from why mankind became interested in the mechanics of flight to the most recent outer space discoveries.
2. For a subject as intricate as aerospace science, it is essential to focus on the theoretical aspect as well as the practical application. The preconception that anyone in the aviation industry is a pilot is a misnomer. The aviation industry employs engineers, scientists, designers, cyber specialists, communication operators, mechanics, accountants, human resource managers and a host of other occupations. The Bookings Institute categorizes the aerospace industry as one of the most scientifically advanced industries in America. Preparing our young people for the challenges ahead is a responsibility shared by the entire community.
3. Having a space dedicated to operating radio-controlled aircraft will foster an understanding of aircraft design principles, aerodynamics, modeling, electronic control mechanisms and air traffic control. Having a space located in Fresno County, specifically in the city of Clovis, will increase the availability to students interested in the field of aviation by giving them an avenue to convert their theoretical knowledge into practical applications.
4. As a lifelong aerospace enthusiast and a member of the Clovis community, I wholeheartedly endorse a dedicated space in the Clovis area be set aside for the use of RC flying activities. Having a space for the public to safely participate in this activity is a legitimate use of public land. As an Aerospace Science instructor at Clovis East High School, I will certainly use this space throughout the school year to fly RC aircraft built by students. This will further their study of aerospace science with the hope that they will embrace the hobby and utilize the space on their own.

Sincerely,

Dennis Nodine, CMSgt (Ret) USAF  
Clovis East High School, CA (CA-20131)  
Aerospace Science Instructor  
DennisNodine@cusd.com

# FRESNO STATE

## Lyles College of Engineering

21 December 2017

Clovis City Council  
Clovis, CA

Dear Members of the Clovis City Council,

I am writing this letter upon the request of David White, President of MEC Aerial Work Platforms, and a Fresno State engineering alumnus.

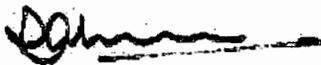
I understand that the Academy of Model Aeronautics Chapter Clovis Area Modelers #5405 is seeking your approval to establish an area in north Clovis to fly their model aircraft. I fully support their efforts in having a formally designated public access location for their activities.

Structured activities such as aeromodelling, car building, robotics, etc. provide a great foundation for youth to consider STEM fields in college. Given the workforce demands of the aerospace and other engineering and technology industry, any efforts that can promote interest and participation in aerospace and other engineering related projects and activities are worthy of support.

Fresno State's Lyles College of Engineering has an active research program in Unmanned Aerial Systems. There could be future partnership between the Clovis Area Modelers and Fresno State researchers as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ram Nunna, Ph.D  
Dean, Lyles College of Engineering



**STALLION SQUADRON**  
Duncan Polytechnical High School (AFJROTC)  
4330 E Garland Avenue  
Fresno, California 93726

15 Dec 2017

To: Whom It May Concern

Subject: Endorsement—Radio Control (RC) Club of Clovis, Clovis Area Modelers AMA Chapter 5405

Our Air Force JROTC unit of 150 cadets engage in an accredited aeronautical science curriculum IAW national standards published by HQ AFJROTC. While our curriculum is nearly all hands-on, much of the flying material is taught in the AFJROTC classroom and indoor PC-based flight simulation. We also teach a 3-week block of model rocketry that the students respond to with great enthusiasm. What we are missing is outdoor model flying where we can apply the physical science, meteorology and airmanship principles directly to a real 3-D, non-simulated environment. With the establishment of an RC Club in the area, our cadets will benefit by utilizing hands-on training with actual flying models in designated airspace (our school is in the middle of Fresno and too close to the airport to fly anything on campus).

As Department Chair of Aerospace Science at Duncan Polytechnical High School and the Senior Aerospace Instructor for the nationally recognized Stallion (AFJROTC) Training Squadron CA-862, I endorse that a dedicated space in Clovis be set aside for RC flying training. Our program will gladly support the RC Club of Clovis by integrating RC activities into our curriculum and advocating for this important hobby. Please also note that with current pilot shortage facing our industry, the RC Club of Clovis will do an outstanding job inspiring the next generation of fliers to embrace the flying profession.

Please contact me anytime if you need more information. I can be reached at 559-248-7080 or [Samuel.vandiver@fresnounified.org](mailto:Samuel.vandiver@fresnounified.org).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel Vandiver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

SAM VANDIVER/Senior Aerospace Science Instructor  
AFJROTC CA-862 Duncan H.S. Fresno, CA

Exhibit A



January 17, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California has a longstanding reputation with the community of mentoring youth. We are fully supportive and excited about the formation of a radio controlled model park in the local area. Clovis Area Modelers Club will be a great partner for our activities with youth. RC modeling is a great educational opportunity that can lead to important aviation and engineering related careers. We are always looking for new opportunities for our clients that will help build quality relationships. It is long past due that our local community has a radio controlled model park for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

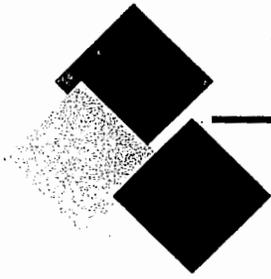
Dianne Phakonekham, MS  
Executive Director  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California  
[www.bigs.org](http://www.bigs.org)

Think of the possibilities. What will you start?

**start something**

Exhibit A

Item #20  
6-4-2019



Public  
**Authority**  
OF FRESNO COUNTY

IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES – PUBLIC AUTHORITY  
MARLENE PASCUA, IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITY DIRECTOR

July 21, 2010

Re: In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Provider Wage and Benefit Status Update

Dear IHSS Recipient and Provider,

In a letter dated June 18, 2010, the Public Authority notified providers of an IHSS Provider Wage and Benefit reduction. This letter is to notify you that as of July 1, 2010, there will be no reduction to IHSS Provider Wage and Benefits at this time. The reason is because of a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) issued by the Federal District Court on June 30, 2010.

**As of July 1, 2010, the IHSS Provider pay rate is \$10.25 and health insurance payment will be \$0.85 per total monthly hours.**

If you have any questions about your union contract, you can call SEIU-UHW West at 559-265-4890.

Sincerely,

Marlene Pascua  
Executive Director

If you do not understand this information or letter, call the Public Authority at 559-453-6220.

Si usted no entiendo esta información o carta, llame a la Autoridad Publica a 559-453-6220.

Yog koj tsis to taub cov lus no los yog daim ntawv no, hu rau Public Authority ntawm 559-453-6220.