

DEPARTMENT: County Counsel BY: Jeffrey G. Green PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes \_\_\_ No X)

Adopt the Resolution attached hereto which establishes guidelines and policies regulating model airplane activity at the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport. Members of the Mariposa Model Airplane Club, along with members of the public, would like to continue flying model airplanes at the Airport, however, there is no formal policy in place for the operation of model airplanes.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

On September 26, 1995, the Board of Supervisors approved adopting a policy regarding model airplane operations at the Airport with direction given that said policy be prepared in appropriate policy format.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

- ⇒ Adopt Resolution as proposed.
- ⇒ Do not adopt Resolution as proposed; revise as the Board desires.

**COSTS:** (X) Not Applicable

A. Budgeted current FY \$ \_\_\_\_\_

B. Total anticipated costs \$ \_\_\_\_\_

C. Required additional funding \$ \_\_\_\_\_

D. Internal transfers \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SOURCE:** ( ) 4/5ths Vote Required

A. Unanticipated revenues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

B. Reserve for contingencies \$ \_\_\_\_\_

C. Source description: \_\_\_\_\_

Balance in Reserve for Contingencies, if approved: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**  
List the attachments and number the pages consecutively:

Resolution.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CLERK'S USE ONLY:**

Res. No.: 96-55 Ord. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Vote - Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Noes: \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Approved ( ) Denied

( ) Minute Order Attached ( ) No Action Necessary

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:**  
This item on agenda as:

Recommended

Not Recommended

For Policy Determination

Submitted with Comment

Returned for Further Action

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

A.O. Initials: [Signature]

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board  
County of Mariposa, State of California

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

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TO: JEFF GREEN, County Counsel  
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*  
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NUMBER 96-55

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THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,  
ADOPTED THIS Order on February 13, 1996

ACTION AND VOTE:

**9:48 a.m.** Jeffrey G. Green, County Counsel;  
Resolution Establishing Guidelines and Policies to Regulate Model  
Airplane Activity at the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport  
**BOARD ACTION:** Discussion was held. Mike Edwards/Public Works  
Director, provided input relative to the liability insurance  
coverage amounts; and advised that ultimately the guidelines and  
policies need to be incorporated into the County Code.  
Supervisor Balmain requested clarification of the gasoline fuel  
restriction. (M)Parker, (S)Reilly, Res. 96-55 adopted  
establishing guidelines and policies, with the restriction of  
gasoline fuel excluded, and with direction for Public Works  
Director to require a minimum of one hundred thousand dollar  
liability insurance coverage per occurrence/Ayes: Unanimous.

cc: Mike Edwards, Public Works Director  
File

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES AND POLICIES TO  
REGULATE MODEL AIRPLANE ACTIVITY AT THE  
MARIPOSA/YOSEMITE AIRPORT**

**WHEREAS**, various members of the public including members of the Mariposa Model Airplane Club #1627 do, and desire to continue, flying model airplanes at the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport, and

**WHEREAS**, prior to this time, there have been no adopted formal policies relative to the operation of model airplanes at the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport, and

**WHEREAS**, both the individual flying the model airplanes and the County deems it to be in the public interest, and in the interest of aviation safety, to have a formal written policy relative to the operation of model airplanes at the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County, a political subdivision of the State of California, that the County of Mariposa adopts the following policy relative to the operation of model airplanes at the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport:

1. Only individuals who are currently licensed pilots through the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) or sports flyers may operate a model aircraft at the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport. Pilots operating model aircraft shall display proof or upon request by an Airport or County official or other member, show current proof of being licensed.

2. Operators shall always use a frequency control pin from the control board when there are two or more pilots operating on the field.

3. All other aircraft have right-of-way at all times.

4. Model aircraft shall not be flown unless an observer is used by the operator at all times.

5. All model aircraft flying must be done north of the safety net, towards Mt. Bullion, no less than four hundred (400) feet from the runway.

6. Model aircraft engines shall not be started before 9:00 a.m.

7. Model aircraft engines shall not be operated without an approved silencing device.

8. All guests or other individuals accompanying a pilot with the exception of the observer shall stay fifteen (15) feet behind the pit area and shall additionally stay behind the safety net.

9. All pilots, observers, and guests shall keep off of the Mariposa/Yosemite General Aviation Airport, i.e., runways, taxiways, and apron.

10. Access to the model airplane field shall be on Mt. Bullion CYA Camp Road.

11. The Mariposa Model Airplane Club #1627 shall annually provide to the Public Works Director proof of liability insurance for operation of model aircraft at the airport in a form and amount acceptable to the Public Works Director, in a minimum amount of \$100,000 per occurrence.

12. The 1995 official AMA National Model Aircraft Safety Code, as amended from time to time, shall be followed by all model airplane pilots while operating model aircraft at the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport. A copy of the 1996 Safety Code is attached hereto marked Exhibit "A" and by this reference incorporated herein.

13. The Public Works Director and/or the Airport Manager may, at anytime, revoke the right of a model airplane operator to operate his or her model airplane at the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport if the Public Works Director or Airport Manager determines the model airplane is being operated in an unsafe manner.

14. In the event the Board of Supervisors at any time determines that the operation of model airplanes at the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport constitutes either a nuisance or a safety hazard to the operation of the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport, the Board of Supervisors reserves the right to preclude operation of the model aircraft at the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport or to further restrict said use.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1996, by the following vote:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:
- ABSTAINED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DOUG BALMAIN, Chairman  
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MARGIE WILLIAMS  
Clerk of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFFREY G. GREEN  
County Counsel

## Membership Information

Insurance coverage is effective on the date of receipt at AMA Headquarters of a properly completed application and correct dues payment. Membership ends each year on December 31, regardless of the date a membership application is received. If a magazine is included with the membership, it begins with the first issue available for the year after a correct current application and payment are received; it expires with the issue printed in December (which is dated February of the following year). Membership rates and insurance limits are those in effect at time of printing. Actual cost of dues and amount of insurance coverage is subject to change. Any such changes will be noted at the time of membership processing so that they may be accepted or not.

## 1996 OFFICIAL AMA NATIONAL MODEL AIRCRAFT SAFETY CODE - Effective January 1, 1996 Model Flying MUST be in accordance with this Code in order for AMA Liability Protection to apply.

### GENERAL

- 1) I will not fly my model aircraft in sanctioned events, air shows, or model flying demonstrations until it has been proven to be airworthy by having been previously, successfully flight tested.
- 2) I will not fly my model higher than approximately 400 feet within 3 miles of an airport without notifying the airport operator. I will give right-of-way and avoid flying in the proximity of full-scale aircraft. Where necessary, an observer shall be utilized to supervise flying to avoid having models fly in the proximity of full-scale aircraft.
- 3) Where established, I will abide by the safety rules for the flying site I use, and I will not willfully and deliberately fly my models in a careless, reckless and/or dangerous manner.
- 4) At all flying sites a straight or curved line(s) must be established in front of which all flying takes place with the other side for spectators. Only those persons essential to flight operations are to be permitted on the flying side of the line; all others must be on the spectator side. Flying over the spectator side of the line is prohibited, unless beyond the control of the pilot(s). In any case, the maximum permissible takeoff weight of the models is 55 pounds.
- 5) At air shows or model flying demonstrations a single straight line must be established, one side of which is for flying, with the other side for spectators. Only those persons accredited by the contest director or other appropriate official as necessary for flight operations or as having duties or functions relating to the conduct of the show or demonstration are to be permitted on the flying side of the line. The only exceptions which may be permitted to the single straight line requirements, under special circumstances involving consideration of site conditions and model size, weight, speed, and power, must be jointly approved by the AMA President and the Executive Director.
- 6) Under all circumstances, if my model weighs over 20 pounds, I will fly it in accordance with paragraph 5 of this section of the AMA Safety Code.
- 7) I will not fly my model unless it is identified with my name and address or AMA number, on or in the model. Note: This does not apply to models flown indoors.
- 8) I will not operate models with metal-bladed propellers or with gaseous boosts, in which gases other than air enter their internal combustion engine(s); nor will I operate models with extremely hazardous fuels such as those containing tetranitromethane or hydrazine.
- 9) I will not operate models with pyrotechnics (any device that explodes, burns, or propels a projectile of any kind) including, but not limited to, rockets, explosive bombs dropped from models, smoke bombs, all explosive gases (such as hydrogen-filled balloons), ground mounted devices launching a projectile. The only exceptions permitted are rockets flown in accordance with the National Model Rocketry Safety Code or those permanently attached (as per JATO use); also those items authorized for Air Show Team use as defined by AST Advisory Committee (document available from AMA HQ). In any case, models using rocket motors as a primary means of propulsion are limited to a maximum weight of 3.3 pounds and a G series motor. Note: A model aircraft is defined as an aircraft with or without engine, not able to carry a human being.
- 10) I will not operate any turbo jet engine (axial or centrifugal flow) unless I have obtained a special waiver for such specific operations from the AMA President and Executive Director and I will abide by any restriction(s) imposed for such operation by them. (Note: This does not apply to ducted fan models using piston engines or electric motors.)
- 11) I will not consume alcoholic beverages prior to, nor during, participation in any model operations.

### RADIO CONTROL

- 1) I will have completed a successful radio equipment ground range check before the first flight of a new or repaired model.
- 2) I will not fly my model aircraft in the presence of spectators until I become a qualified flier, unless assisted by an experienced helper.
- 3) I will perform my initial turn after takeoff away from the pit or spectator areas, and I will not thereafter fly over pit or spectator areas, unless beyond my control.
- 4) I will operate my model using only radio control frequencies currently allowed by the Federal Communications Commission. (Only properly licensed Amateurs are authorized to operate equipment on Amateur Band frequencies.)
- 5) I will not knowingly operate an R/C system within 3 miles of a pre-existing model club flying site without a frequency sharing agreement with that club.
- 6) I will not fly my model aircraft in any racing competition which allows models over 20 pounds unless that competition event is AMA sanctioned. (For the purposes of this paragraph, competition is defined as any situation where a winner is determined.)

### FREE FLIGHT

- 1) I will not launch my model aircraft unless at least 100 feet downwind of spectators and automobile parking.
- 2) I will not fly my model unless the launch area is clear of all persons except my mechanic and officials.
- 3) I will employ the use of an adequate device in flight to extinguish any fuses on the model after it has completed its function.

### CONTROL LINE

- 1) I will subject my complete control system (including safety thong, where applicable) to an inspection and pull test prior to flying.
- 2) I will assure that my flying area is safely clear of all utility wires or poles.
- 3) I will assure that my flying area is safely clear of all non-essential participants and spectators before permitting my engine to be started.

Separate Code(s) available from AMA Headquarters for boats, cars, and rockets.

ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS, 5151 EAST MEMORIAL DRIVE, MUNCIE, INDIANA 47302-9252