

**CITY OF SONORA
MAYORAL PROCLAMATION
CIVIL AVIATION APPRECIATION DAY
OCTOBER 23, 2026**

Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the 1936 Historic Flight to Sonora

WHEREAS, aviation has been an important part of the history and development of Sonora and Tuolumne County, connecting our mountain communities with the rest of California and providing opportunities for transportation, commerce, recreation, tourism, emergency response, and public service; and

WHEREAS, on May 30, 1936, the Aviation Country Club of California made a historic flight to Sonora, marking an early and memorable chapter in the City's aviation history and its connection to the growing world of civilian flight; and

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the 90th anniversary of that historic 1936 flight, providing an opportunity for the City of Sonora to recognize and celebrate the long and continuing relationship between our community and civil aviation; and

WHEREAS, Columbia Airport, located near the historic community of Columbia, has been an important part of our region's aviation heritage since its construction in 1934 and dedication in 1935 as Ralph Field, with significant early work performed by the Civilian Conservation Corps under the supervision of the Sonora Ranger Unit; and

WHEREAS, for more than nine decades, Columbia Airport has served as a general aviation facility and gateway to the Sierra Nevada foothills and historic Gold Rush communities, providing an important resource for residents, visitors, pilots, and aviation enthusiasts; and

WHEREAS, Columbia Airport has also played an important role in public safety and emergency response, including supporting aerial firefighting efforts that have helped protect the forests, communities, and natural resources of Tuolumne County; and

WHEREAS, the history and continued success of aviation in our community reflect the dedication of pilots, aircraft owners, mechanics, flight instructors, airport personnel, firefighters, first responders, aviation businesses, volunteers, and enthusiasts who have contributed to the growth and safety of aviation throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, civil aviation continues to provide valuable educational, economic, recreational, and public-service opportunities while inspiring future generations to pursue interests and careers in aviation, aerospace, engineering, and related fields; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sonora recognizes the enduring relationship between our community and aviation and appreciates the generations of individuals whose passion, service, and dedication have made civil aviation an important part of the history, character, and future of Sonora and Tuolumne County;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, the Mayor of the City of Sonora, California, do hereby proclaim October 23, 2026, as CIVIL AVIATION APPRECIATION DAY in recognition of the 90th anniversary of the historic 1936 flight to Sonora in the City of Sonora, and encourage all residents to recognize and celebrate the rich history, contributions, and continuing importance of civil aviation to our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Sonora to be affixed this 19th day of October, 2026.

Ann Segerstrom
Mayor, City of Sonora

Nicole McCutchen
City Clerk, City of Sonora