



## Valley Go/MioCar

Kern Council of Governments was instrumental in bringing two electric cars to showcase at the Villa Hermosa Apartment Complex in Wasco in late July. CalVans and Self Help Enterprises partnered together with Kern COG, Chevy and BMW to provide this new option for one-car families who need access to a second car. Wasco held a launch ceremony at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 25, at 1500 Poplar Avenue and Arvin conducted its launch ceremony at 7:00 p.m. Friday, July 26, at 909 Meyer Street. Also, people living in Tulare county have the same car sharing service that will take them where they need to go while reducing air pollution in the Central Valley. Miocar is an electric vehicle car sharing service which is being rolled out in small cities like Wasco, Arvin, Dinuba and Orosi. “We chose these locations because they are a bit more remote and these are areas where residents feel that they need more access to transportation services,” Abigail Solis, Self Help Enterprise Community Development Manager said. She said this program will give people who are 21-years-old or over with a good driving record an easy and flexible transportation option for running errands, getting to medical appointments or other daily needs. “We have seen that many times in rural areas, we have families with one vehicle and if that vehicle is taken to work, gone all day by one parent, the other parent will stay home without a vehicle throughout the day,” Solis said.



This pilot program is currently available in Kern and Tulare counties and is funded through a California Air Resources Board Grant. Solis said her organization teamed up with Miocar and CalVans to bring these electric car stations to affordable housing units around Tulare and Kern County. Solis said the program is similar to Uber but instead of ordering a ride, you're ordering a vehicle, the subscriber would have to pick up the electric car at its charging station.

There is a one time membership fee of \$20. It will cost you about \$4 an hour to rent the electric car or \$35 for the entire day. “We are really hoping that after this initial pilot phase that it will be super successful and we'd be able to expand into other areas of Tulare and Kern county and other areas of the San Joaquin Valley like Fresno County,” she said.

## Roundabout Project on Schedule

Construction on the roundabout at Highway 119 and Highway 43 is on schedule to be completed in late October or early November. Roundabouts are a growing trend around the state targeting accident-prone and congested four-way intersections. Project Manager, Paul Pineda, explained “mainly it's safety, it reduces both the number of accidents and the severity.” Citing statistics from roundabouts already installed, he said they result in a 35% drop in total accidents, a 76% drop in injury accidents and a 90% drop in fatal accidents compared to two-way and four-way stops and all traffic signals. Construction on another roundabout at Highway 43 and Stockdale Highway is also underway. More are planned in Kern County by Caltrans, and as many as seven are planned in San Luis Obispo County.



## Off-Road Park May Be a Reality in Kern

Kern County officials announced in early August that the State General Services Department awarded a \$380,000 grant to begin searching for a location for a new Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) park. For years, dirt bike and ATV riders have said there is no legal place to drive the vehicles within close proximity to Bakersfield. The grant will allow the county to hire a consultant to find a potential location for the park. The county hopes to find the new location by the end of the year, and the state's grant will cover the environmental impact report for the new site.



## **Upcoming Events**

August 29 - 2019 Rideshare Week Kickoff Luncheon  
September 14-22 - National Drive Electric Week  
September 18 - 29 - Kern County Fair (Kern COG booth)  
September 25 - Tehachapi Fall Business Showcase  
October 2 - California Clean Air Day  
October 7-11 - CommuteKern 2019 Rideshare Week  
October 13 - Tehachapi Apple Fest with EV Ride and Drive