



**For Immediate Release**



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### **YARTS FREE service for Mariposa County Residents ends**

**MERCED** – The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) announced this week that the free service to Yosemite National Park for Mariposa County residents has ended, after selling out in less than 4 weeks.

“We are thrilled by success of this program,” said Transit Director, Artis Smith. “We look forward to offering this type of service in the future, as funding becomes available.”

The Free Fare program which launched in August, was made possible through the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) grant. The grant funded approximately 1,800 free trips to Yosemite for Mariposa County Residents and was projected to run through June 2019. However, the program was such a success, tickets were sold out within the first month of its release.

LCTOP is provided to transit agencies to improve mobility and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. YARTS is a regional public transit service that provides a year-round alternative to driving to Yosemite from Merced and Mariposa along Highway 140, and from Highways 120, 395 and 41 during summer months. YARTS schedules make connections with all intercity transportation providers in Merced: Amtrak, Greyhound and Boutique Air at the Merced Airport, and connects to transit providers in Mono, Tuolumne and Fresno Counties during summer operations.

For more information about YARTS or the seasonal schedules, please visit [www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com) or call (877)989-2787.

*YARTS is a California Joint Powers Authority comprised of Merced, Mariposa and Mono Counties in partnership with Caltrans, Federal Highway Administration, National Park Service and the United States Forest Service. MCAG provides staff services and operational support for YARTS.*

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