

# MST

MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT

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JOINT POWERS AGENCY MEMBERS:

*City of Carmel-by-the-Sea • City of Del Rey Oaks • City of Marina • City of Monterey • City of Pacific Grove  
City of Salinas • City of Seaside • County of Monterey • City of Gonzales (ex. officio)*

October 24, 2008

Carl Holm  
Assistant Director  
County of Monterey  
168 W. Alisal Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Salinas CA 93901

Dear Mr. Holm:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the GPU draft EIR. Please amend the EIR document, Sections 4.6.2.3 and 4.6.2.8, to reflect the latest changes with MST services.

#### **4.6.2.3 Tourism Traffic**

Tourism is the county's second largest industry, and the continued expansion of the tourism industry in Monterey County will further exacerbate this source of impact. Present alternatives to the automobile are not attractive to casual weekend travelers or to long-distance tourists. Although visitors comprise a high percentage of commercial airline passengers arriving at Monterey Peninsula Airport (62 percent, according to a 1996 AMBAG study), the relatively low number of airline trips in and out of the Peninsula accounts for only a very small percentage of the annual tourist volume. Monterey-Salinas Transit's popular MST Trolley service is an example of a non-impact transportation mode specifically tailored to tourist demand. Line 22 is another bus route that is tailored to tourist demand as it serves the Big Sur coastline with a limited number of daily roundtrips year around. MST's Line 24 Carmel Valley Grapevine Express also is attractive with visitors and provides a safe alternative to driving between wine tasting venues while reducing congestion on Carmel Valley Road.

#### **4.6.2.8 Public Transit Services**

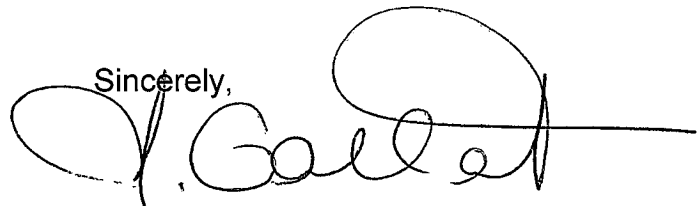
The Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) system is an inter-city and intra-city bus service. MST serves a 280 square-mile area of Monterey County, Southern Santa Cruz County, and Santa Clara County. Intercity bus service is provided between Monterey-Salinas, Watsonville-Salinas, Watsonville-Marina, Monterey-San Jose, and Salinas-King City. Intra-city service is provided by in Carmel, Gonzales, Greenfield, King City, Marina, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Salinas, Seaside and Soledad. MST offers 37 routes

that serve an estimated 352,000 people residing within three-quarters of a mile from a fixed-route bus line. Three MST bus routes connect with Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District buses at the Watsonville Transit Center. One MST route offers daily express service to cities in southern Santa Clara County as well as downtown San Jose and provides convenient connections to Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) bus and light rail transit lines. This express route serves Diridon Station in San Jose with direct connections to AMTRAK, Altamont Commuter Express (ACE), as well as CALTRAIN commuter rail service. MST's rural service is provided to Carmel Valley and to Big Sur as well as to unincorporated areas of the county such as Castroville, Prunedale and Chualar. The MST Trolley offers locals and tourists service to popular tourist destinations within the City of Monterey.

Monterey County's paratransit program, MST RIDES, provides transportation for individuals with disabilities who are unable to use MST's regular fixed route transit services. The MST RIDES program also provides RIDES Special Transportation (RIDES ST) service for persons living outside of the ADA-required service corridor (up to three-quarters mile from any MST fixed route bus line). MST RIDES serves 14 municipalities in two counties and 10 additional communities in the unincorporated area of Monterey County. Service coverage spans the Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley and the Watsonville Transit Center in Santa Cruz County. As of October 2008, there are 3,171 people certified as ADA Paratransit eligible within the service area. About one half of that population resides in either Monterey or Salinas. The MST RIDES ST service area includes the unincorporated areas of Prunedale, Castroville, and Aromas for North Monterey County as well as the area along River Road from State Hwy 68 to, and including, Las Palmas Ranch II. The MST RIDES ST service area extends one mile on either side of Highway 101 from Salinas to Bradley including the unincorporated communities of San Lucas and San Ardo for South Monterey County. MST RIDES ST services are provided when MST RIDES and MST's regular bus services are in operation. Table 4.6-7 lists each of MST bus route. Exhibit 4.6.3 shows MST bus routes in Monterey County.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Gallant", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Gallant  
Planning Manager