

MST

MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT

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)*

February 29, 2008

Ms. Jacqueline R. Onciano
Monterey County Resource Management Agency
Planning Department
168 W. Alisal St., 2nd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Ms. Onciano:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Rancho Canada Village Draft Environmental Impact Report. In general, Monterey-Salinas Transit supports the creation of workforce housing and "Smart Growth-style" developments throughout the county, especially in areas that are near MST bus routes. MST's highly popular Line 24 Carmel Valley-Grapevine Express travels hourly along Carmel Valley Road directly adjacent to the Rancho Canada site. With the preponderance of workforce housing proposed for this development, we would anticipate increased use of this line from the residents and visitors of Rancho Canada Village.

According to the DEIR Notice of Availability, "the DEIR identifies potentially significant impacts in the following resource areas that can be mitigated, but not necessarily to a less than significant level: transportation." In that regard, MST requests the opportunity to work with Rancho Canada Village to implement innovative public transit programs that would be designed to potentially reduce transportation impacts to a less than significant level. Such innovative transportation programs can include a deep discount transit pass program, an "Eco-Pass" program similar to that implemented in San Jose, jobs access grant funds, and others.

We look forward to playing a key role in providing access to and from Rancho Canada Village without overburdening the area roadway network. If you have questions about this matter, please contact me at 831-393-8129.

Sincerely,



Hunter Harvath, AICP
Director of Administration

C. Fernando Armenta - *Chairman, MST Board of Directors*