

**MEMORANDUM
CITY OF LANCASTER, CA**

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Mayor R. Rex Parris
Council Member Sherry Marquez

DATE: February 8, 2011

SUBJECT: **Report on the Activities of the Board of Directors for the Antelope Valley Transit Authority**

Recommendation:

Receive a report of the proceedings and issues discussed at the January 25, 2011, regular Board of Directors meeting of the Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA).

Background:

The Antelope Valley Transit Authority is a distinct government entity created under a joint powers authority agreement between the City of Lancaster, the City of Palmdale, and Los Angeles County that provides public transit services. Council members Sherry Marquez and Marvin Crist serve on the AVTA Board for the City of Lancaster. The Mayor acts as an alternate which he did at the January meeting because of Councilman Crist's absence.

The following significant events took place during the January Board meeting:

- The Board approved staff recommendations to increase AVTA's annual insurance premiums by \$88,315, inclusive of terrorism coverage under the AVTA proposed excess liability program. Procurement of increased liability and environmental coverage will require a budget amendment.
- The Board approved the 2011 Legislative Program which staff says will help guide recommendations and actions on state and local proposals during the upcoming year. The accepted motion included a provision that the Board must approve all legislative policy endorsements and any and all fiscal expenditures related to the program. This program includes broad guidelines that will serve as a guide for pursuing AVTA's legislative proposals and strategies.
- The Board authorized the executive director to execute agreements with the parties below for assistance in Finance, Maintenance and Contract Transit Services procurement in amounts not to exceed the following:
 - Finance Department Assistance: City of Lancaster - will not exceed \$4,120
 - Vasquez & Company LLP - \$60,000
 - Maintenance Review: PB Americas, Inc. - \$33,011
 - Contract Transit Procurement: Thompson Coburn LLP - \$49,800

Staff recognizes that City staff have full-time commitments already; therefore they also requested a proposal from Vasquez & Company LLP, an auditing firm that is very familiar with local, state and federal transit funding requirements and that also comes highly recommended by Los Angeles Metro's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) staff.