

MEMORANDUM
CITY OF LANCASTER, CA

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Council Member Sherry Marquez
Council Member Marvin Crist

DATE: September 13, 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 August 23, 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 following significant events took place during the August Board meeting:

- The Board opened a public hearing period to consider local fixed bus route changes. AVTA staff estimate the service modifications will result in annualized cost savings of approximately \$246,000. Staff propose the following changes on routes within Lancaster:
 - Route 1 – Add express bus service which will serve the UAV and four other transfer points. This service will operate two buses one in each direction (north and south) and will serve the UAV in 45 minute frequencies.
 - Route 8 – Discontinue due to minimal ridership and service duplication. This route only serves approximately 5 passengers per vehicle service hour; 15 to 20 passengers per hour is the norm. The Route 12 currently shadows most of the Route 8 and the Route 1 Express will serve the UAV.
- The Board authorized the executive director to execute a sole source contract with Moore & Associates for on-call marketing and communications assistance through June 30, 2012. The cost for on-call marketing and communications services assistance is estimated to be approximately \$30,000. The AVTA's Public Information Officer/Marketing Manager position is currently vacant. An increase in public communications was recently necessitated by a pending work stoppage by Veolia Transportation's unionized coach operators. Due to the urgency of the situation, the Executive Director requested that Moore & Associates assist in the public communications process.
- With the two Lancaster Board members recusing themselves, the Board voted to support the staff recommendation to deny the request for defense and indemnification from the City of Lancaster for a claim filed by Randy Floyd with the City of Lancaster.