



**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*

## **MST HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 17, 2008 BOARD MEETING**

### **NOVEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

The MST Board adopted Resolution 2009-09 recognizing Fred Simkins, Coach Operator, as Employee of the Month for November 2008. Fred began his career with Monterey-Salinas Transit in March 2003 as a Coach Operator. Since his date of hire, Fred has been the recipient of multiple commendations and awards as he has continued to perform his duties and responsibilities in an exceptional manner. In April of 2005, Fred was selected as MST's Employee of the Month for professionally managing a critical situation that occurred on his coach in December of that year.

### **20-YEAR SERVICE AWARD**

The MST Board presented a 20-year Service Award to Sonia A.R. Bannister, Office Administrator & Marketing/Sales Specialist.

### **DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY REVISION**

The MST Board of Directors approved the final Anti-Drug & Alcohol misuse program policy.

### **PROPOSED FARE INCREASE AND/OR SERVICE CHANGE**

The MST Board conducted a public hearing to receive comments on possible fare increases, and other possible service adjustments.

With the adoption of the California FY 2009 Budget in September, over \$1.7B of funds designated for transit purposes was shifted to other General Fund programs resulting in a \$2.9M loss of expected revenue to MST. The revenues that were shifted were State Transit Assistance funds, which are used, in part, to pay for MST's RIDES Paratransit program. Compounding this issue is that MST is experiencing a dramatic growth in usage of the MST RIDES program due to changes in local Medi-Cal policies that have resulted in a surge of dialysis related trips on the MST RIDES service. At the same time, Congress has declined to pass a new federal transportation budget for the federal fiscal year that began October 1, 2008 and has passed a continuing resolution that calls for freezing federal public transportation at last year's level.