



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **San Joaquin RTD Completing Bid Process for Its "County" Services**

(Stockton, CA) – San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) is currently completing the bidding process for the services it provides through its "County" division: Intercity, Hopper, San Joaquin Commuter, and Dial-A-Ride. According to RTD's enabling legislation (the 1994 legislation that expanded the service boundaries of the former Stockton Metropolitan Transit District and established the San Joaquin Regional Transit District): *"All new intercity, interregional, and rural services provided outside the Stockton Metropolitan Area shall be subject to open competitive bidding at least once every five years."* (California Public Utilities Code § 50075.5)

RTD can bid on providing these services and has operated them since November 2002. In 2009, RTD's Board of Directors actually awarded the service to RTD, contingent upon the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 276 signing an agreement on wages and benefits upon which RTD's bid was based. However, the ATU did not sign that agreement, forcing RTD's Board to again put out the services for bid.

In this second solicitation, RTD and MV Transportation are the two finalists in the bid process, and contrary to information that has begun circulating among RTD employees and customers, the bid has not yet been awarded. Friday, July 2, is the deadline for RTD and MV to submit their Best And Final Offers (BAFOs).

To ensure objectivity in selecting *"the lowest responsible bidder"* (CA PUC § 50075.5), RTD's procurement process is being managed by an independent party: a former GM/CFO of another transit agency. The evaluation of the proposals is being done by a panel composed of three northern California transit agency general managers and one representative from the County of San Joaquin.

To protect RTD's employees and to ensure continued provision of high quality service, RTD has provided incentives in the selection process for the successful bidder to retain RTD employees, a requirement to which all of the bidders agree. However, because of the possible award of "County" services to MV Transportation and as a result of the July 25 service reductions approved by RTD's Board of Directors in June, RTD is required by law to issue Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) notices, which will be distributed on July 2 to all its employees.

At this time, the next upcoming dates in this process are July 8, the date upon which RTD's Board is scheduled to make the award, and September 1, the effective date for the successful contractor to begin operating the services. This is a very important decision and RTD is committed to providing its customers and stakeholders with timely, accurate information.

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