

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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As Ridership Increases SYVT Continues to Improvement Service

Solvang, CA – As the books close on fiscal year 2008-09 and enter into a new fiscal year, Santa Ynez Valley Transit (SYVT) records a 6-percent increase in ridership when compared to fiscal year 2007-08; a notable increase in ridership in light of these unstable economic times. During the first quarter of 2009, while national ridership decreased dramatically, SYVT strove to increase ridership by 7-percent.

Carrying over 42,000 passengers during fiscal year 2008-09, SYVT is already gearing up to reach new heights during the remainder of 2009 and 2010 by implementing a number of improvements to better serve the community and visitors alike. Beginning August 1, 2009, SYVT will service two additional new bus stops located at Valley Cottage Hospital and the Shopping Center on Alisal. Both bus stops will become regular timepoints accessible by Routes A and B.

"Improving SYVT service is something the City can do to make the lives of our community members just a little bit easier," commented Solvang City Manager Brad Vidro. "Our transit improvements make it easier for people to travel to work and school as well as help save on the expense of owning a personal vehicle."

Many of the upcoming improvements planned will happen behind the scenes. Two of these improvements include installing new fareboxes and adding a new vehicle to the SYVT fleet. These improvements highlight SYVT's commitment to providing improved transportation alternatives.

SYVT operates from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, linking Santa Ynez, Solvang, Buellton, and Los Olivos. A single adult cash fare is \$1.50. Discounted rates are available to seniors, children, and persons with disabilities. For more information, including routes and schedules, please call (805) 688-5452 or visit www.syvt.com.