

STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING BILLS PASSED

In April, California lawmakers passed Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017, which will provide \$5 billion a year to fix California's roads and bridges by increasing the gas tax and vehicle license fees.

Lawmakers also passed Senate Bill 132 which, thanks to the leadership of Senator Anthony Cannella and Assembly member Adam Gray, provides \$100 million for the construction of the Campus Parkway project and \$400 million for the extension of the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) to Merced.

ACE is a popular commuter rail service connecting Stockton and San Jose through the Altamont Pass. The state's investment will extend ACE service to Ceres and Merced. For more information visit www.acerail.com

The Campus Parkway project will connect Highway 99 and Highway 140 to UC Merced through the construction of 4.5 miles of new expressway from Childs Avenue to Yosemite Avenue in Merced. *(Continued)*



(Transportation Funding continued)

The project will create new middleclass jobs, provide access to employment and educational centers including UC Merced and will cater to bicyclist and ridesharing travelers.

The fuel tax increase will take effect November 1, while the vehicle license fee increase will take effect January 1, 2018.

THE BUS TO ATTEND THE MERCED COUNTY SPRING FAIR IN LOS BANOS

For the 5th consecutive year, The Bus will participate in the Merced County Spring Fair in Los Banos, hosting an informational booth to provide local residents with information about the transit service in the City of Los Banos and throughout Merced County. The booth will provide information on the current Dial-A-Ride service available in Los Banos as well as information about the Los Banos Commuter (LB) route. In addition, The Bus will help promote alternative transportation options by giving away a free bike every night from a pool of participants who enter a drawing by demonstrating how to use the bike rack. Easy to use bike racks can be found on every bus in service throughout Merced County.

For more information about The Bus, please visit our website at www.mercedthebus.com or call (209) 723-3100.

DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT: LEE LOR

Supervisor Lee Lor and her husband, Ber have four children, three of whom currently attend local schools. They have been active in our community for more than 17 years. Their family volunteers and works to ensure our community has higher quality experiences and opportunities. Supervisor Lor was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the 35th District Agricultural Association, also known as the Merced County Fair Board. She currently serves on the Mercy Medical Center Merced's Community Board, its Board Quality Committee and is Chair of its Community Advisory Committee. Supervisor Lor is a Senior Fellow of the American Leadership Forum – Great Valley Chapter and a graduate of Leadership Development in Interethnic Relations. She is also a member of a local School Site Council.

Supervisor Lor earned her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from California State University, Stanislaus and obtained her Master's Degree in Business Administration from California State University, Fresno.

The MCAG Management team and staff would like to welcome Director Lor to the MCAG Governing Board!



ANNA MARIA FUENTES 2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED

MCAG is proud to announce Steven Yeung of Merced as the 2017 Anna Maria Fuentes scholarship recipient. The MCAG Governing Board and staff established the Anna Maria Fuentes Scholarship program in 2010 in memory and tribute to Anna Maria Fuentes.

Anna Maria Fuentes was born on July 18, 1971 to Toribio and Maria Teresa Fuentes in Atwater, Ca. She was the second oldest out of five children, Jaime, Leticia, Jesus, and Javier. Her father was a farm laborer and her mother a janitor at a pre-school. Anna was determined at a young age to be a successful person. She had a dazzling smile, kind heart and was extremely intelligent. She was an amazing daughter and her parents were always proud of all of her accomplishments. Anna never lost an argument because she was always right. She was extremely detail oriented and always made sure things were done right.



Anna Maria Fuentes

When Anna started school she only spoke Spanish as it was the primary language spoken at home. Despite this obstacle she really enjoyed and excelled in school. She graduated from Livingston Middle School and went on to Livingston High School. Throughout high school and middle school she participated in band, sports and student body. Anna graduated from Livingston High School in June of 1990.

After graduating from Livingston High she went to University of California, Davis and earned her Bachelor of Arts in International Relations in June of 1994. After earning her BA, she wanted to further her education and decided to enroll at California State University, Stanislaus where she earned her Master of Public Administration in 1997. Furthering her education, she graduated from the University of San Francisco School Of Law with a Juris Doctor degree of Law in May of 2001 and then passed her Bar Exam in 2001. Anna passed the California Bar exam on her first attempt. After Law School she decided to take a trip to Europe to reward herself for completing law school. She loved to travel and had saved as much money as possible while in school for this trip.

After completing her education, Anna went to work for the City of Livingston as a grant writer to be closer to her family. She later took a job in Merced with MCAG as the Grants Program Manager, where she built not only professional but personal relationships with her colleagues. After her passing the MCAG Governing Board and MCAG staff established this scholarship to honor the memory of their colleague and friend.

The scholarship, which is in its seventh year, continues to be funded by staff donations and is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior from a high school in Merced County with a grade point average of 3.8 or higher and has demonstrated a high level of participation in extracurricular activities including positions of leadership, as well as financial need. The 2017 scholarship selection committee consisted of Leticia Flores (sister of Anna Maria), Merced County Supervisor and Governing Board Member Lee Lor and MCAG staff members Alicia Ochoa-Jones, Cindy Kelly, Mauricio Torres and Eva Garibay. A total of 35 applications were reviewed for multiple criteria including letters of recommendation, personal essay, extracurricular activities and positions of leadership, SAT score and monetary need. The committee selected Merced High Senior, Steven Yeung as the 2017 recipient.

Steven was selected for his tremendous academic achievements as well as his participation in extracurricular activities such as Junior Leadership Merced, Academic Decathlon, Mentor Club, the California Scholarship Federation and an impressive 4,100 plus hours of community service. He also participated in a Psychology and Neuroscience program at Harvard University in the summer of 2016. Steven plans to attend UC Berkeley this fall and pursue a career in medicine.

On behalf of the Fuentes family and the MCAG team we would like to congratulate Steven for all of his hard work and accomplishments!

MAY MEETINGS & COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- 5/5 Citizens advisory committee meeting, MCAG
- 5/10 Technical Review Board Meeting, Livingston
- 5/18 Governing Board Meeting, County Admin Bldg.
- 5/29 MCAG office closed in observance of Memorial Day

ATWATER

- 5/3 Community Discovery Day, Mitchell Senior-Gym
1753 5th St. Atwater, 3:30-6:30 pm.
Contact: Wendy (209) 385-3000 x: 5660

LIVINGSTON

- 5/7 Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Walnut Sports Complex

LOS BANOS

- 5/3-5/7 Spring Fair, Los Banos Fairgrounds

MERCED

- 5/6 Mercy's 6th Annual 5K Stroke Awareness Run
333 Mercy Ave, Merced \$25-\$30
Contact: Mercy Foundation (209) 564-4200
- 5/20 Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce,
Cowboy/Vaquero 5K Run, Merced Bob Hart Square,
Contact: MCHCC Office 209-384-9537
www.runsignup.com
- 5/6 Week of Young Child Day at the Park
Applegate Park, 1045 W 25th St Merced
10:30 am—2:00 pm

PLANADA

- 5/13 Community Day, Houlihan Park, Planada
10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Information: 209-602-3913

If your City or Community has public events you would like published in the MCAG monthly newsletter, please contact Eva Garibay at eva.garibay@mcagov.org



YARTS BEGINS SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULES

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) will transition to a summer schedule for its Merced and Mariposa service, and resume service from Sonora and Fresno on May 15, 2017. Service from Mammoth Lakes will begin the first weekend in June.

Passengers can book their trip in advance at www.yarts.com using the PayPal Pro and simply show the printed confirmation to the driver when boarding.

YARTS is a regional public transit service that provides a year-round alternative to driving to Yosemite from Merced and Mariposa along Highway 140, and from Highways 120, 395 and 41 during summer months. YARTS schedules make connections with all intercity transportation providers in Merced: Amtrak, Greyhound and Boutique Air at the Merced Airport, and also connects to transit providers in Mono, Tuolumne and Fresno Counties during summer operations.

For more information or general questions about YARTS, contact Cindy Kelly at (209) 723-3153 x 800 or cynthia.kelly@yarts.com

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: DAISY ZARAGOZA

MCAG is pleased to welcome our newest staff member Daisy Zaragoza. Daisy recently joined MCAG as the new administrative assistant.

Daisy is a first generation college graduate. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Chicana/o Studies with an emphasis in Accounting from UCLA. While in college, Daisy worked part time and participated in various internships which allowed her to graduate debt free in four years.



She was born in Merced and raised in Planada. Daisy enjoys trying new things, spending time with her family, and taking afternoon jogs. She is looking forward to starting her career at MCAG and building sustainable work relationships.

Welcome to the MCAG team, Daisy!

STAY CONNECTED!

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