

### YARTS ANNOUNCES FARE INCREASE

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) announced last month a new fare rate structure that reflects a fare increase. The increase that went into effect on January 1, 2019, is the first in more than 10 years. The new rates were sought in order to cover the increasing costs associated with providing the popular bus service to Yosemite from Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tuolumne and Mono counties. "We were fortunate to maintain operating costs for the service as long as we did," says YARTS Assistant Manager Cindy Kelly. "Our main goal is to provide a safe and reliable alternative mode of transportation to Yosemite. These new fares will allow us to do just that." 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. In 2018, the service transported more than 26,000 passengers to and from the National Park. A roundtrip ticket from Merced, Sonora, or Jamestown to Yosemite has increased from \$25 to \$32 and from Mariposa to Yosemite from \$12 to \$16.

For a complete YARTS fare schedule, route information, or to reserve tickets, please visit [www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com).



### MCAG NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE ANNA MARIA FUENTES SCHOLARSHIP

Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) is accepting applications for the 2019 Anna Maria Fuentes Scholarship. The MCAG Governing Board and staff established this scholarship program in 2010 to honor the memory of Anna Maria Fuentes, Grants Program Manager at MCAG.

The Anna Maria Fuentes Scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior in Merced County with a grade point average of 3.8 or higher who has demonstrated a high level of participation in extracurricular activities including positions of leadership. Applicants must provide a personal essay that describes their need for the scholarship in order to pursue higher education goals.

The 2019 scholarship recipient will receive \$1,000 and will be eligible to receive additional awards of \$1,000 each year for three years based on scholastic performance and documentation. Applications can be emailed to [eva.garibay@mcagov.org](mailto:eva.garibay@mcagov.org), or mailed, dropped off at, MCAG, 369 W. 18th St., Merced and must be received by

3:00 pm on Thursday, February 28, 2019. The selected scholarship recipient will be notified by May 1, 2019. Interested applicants can access the scholarship application and instructions at [www.mcagov.org/217/Scholarship](http://www.mcagov.org/217/Scholarship). General inquiries can be directed to Eva Garibay at 209-723-3153 x 108.



### DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT: SCOTT SILVEIRA

Scott Silveira was born and raised in Los Banos and graduated from Dos Palos High School. He is a third generation dairyman and has been active in the community both as a public servant and as a volunteer. He served on the Merced County Spring Fair Board, the Merced County LAFCO Commission, and was on the Los Banos City Council for eight years. In addition to public service, he has held leadership positions with FFA, 4H and other Agriculture organizations. He served as a volunteer fireman for over 20 years including his time as volunteer Fire Chief. Director Silveira also volunteers his auctioneering talents to over 20 non-profit organizations throughout the County; raising over half a million dollars annually. Scott and his wife Brooke, with their two children, Deven and Makenna live in Los Banos.

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



## FEBRUARY MEETINGS & EVENTS:

- 2/1** Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, MCAG
- 2/5** Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing, Atwater Council Chambers, 750 Bellevue Rd, Atwater 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm
- 2/7** Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing, Merced Council Chambers, 678 W. 18th St, Merced 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm
- 2/8** State of the City, Merced Theatre 11:00 am, 301 W. Main Street, Merced (Doors open at 10:30 am)
- 2/9** MCOE Arts & Outdoor Education Fundraiser, Merced Multicultural Arts Center, 645 W. Main St, Merced For more information call: 209.381.6602
- 2/11** Unmet Transit Needs Public Hearing, Planada Community Center, 9167 Stanford Ave, Planada 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm
- 2/18** MCAG Offices closed in observance of Presidents Day
- 2/20** Technical Review Board meeting, MCAG
- 2/21** Governing Board meeting, Merced County Admin Bldg.
- 2/27** Westside Regional Projects Committee Meeting, City of Dos Palos, Council Chambers, 2:00 pm
- 2/28** Eastside Regional Projects Committee Meeting, City of Atwater, Council Chambers, 10:00 am

For more information about these events, or if your City or community has public events you would like published in our newsletter, contact Eva Garibay at [eva.garibay@mcagov.org](mailto:eva.garibay@mcagov.org)



For more information about the land-fill hours of operation see the schedule below .

### HIGHWAY 59 LANDFILL

7040 N Highway 59  
Merced, CA 95348  
Phone: 209-723-4481

Monday - Friday:  
7:00 am - 3:30 pm  
Saturday: 8:00 am - Noon

1st Saturday of each month:  
7:00 am - 3:30 pm

### BILLY WRIGHT LANDFILL

17173 S Billy Wright Road  
Los Banos, CA 95348  
Phone: 209-826-1163

Monday - Friday:  
8:00 am - 3:30 pm  
Saturday: 8:00 am - Noon

1st Saturday of each month:  
8:00 am - 3:30 pm

## STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

To receive text and/or email notifications from MCAG related to public meetings, traffic alerts, RFP releases, job opportunities, and more, visit [www.mcagov.org](http://www.mcagov.org) and click on the "Notify Me" icon. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube!



## MCAG TO HOLD UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Merced County Association of Governments' Social Services Transportation Advisory Council is holding public forums to seek input from residents and discuss the future of bus service in the region. The eight public hearings (listed below) are scheduled throughout the County to receive testimony from community residents on unmet transit needs that may exist within the current bus system. These hearings are part of the ongoing commitment to improve the overall transit system and provide efficient bus service to the greatest number of people in Merced County.

<b>CITY OF LOS BANOS</b> Thursday, January 31 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm 645 7 <sup>th</sup> St., Los Banos	<b>CITY OF ATWATER</b> Tuesday, February 5 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm 750 Bellevue Rd., Atwater
<b>CITY OF MERCED</b> Thursday, February 7 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm 678 W. 18th St., Merced	<b>PLANADA</b> Monday, February 11 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm 9167 Stanford Ave, Planada

The Bus will provide free fixed route bus service to members of the community who are interested in attending a public hearing. For members of the community who are ADA eligible, transportation can be arranged by reservation by calling (209) 384-3111. Spanish interpretation services will be available at each hearing. For additional language accommodations, contact Eva Garibay at (209) 723-3153 x 108 or [eva.garibay@mcagov.org](mailto:eva.garibay@mcagov.org).

Residents who are unable to attend a hearing but would like to provide comments may use this online survey [www.mcagov.org/312/Unmet-Transit-Needs-Survey](http://www.mcagov.org/312/Unmet-Transit-Needs-Survey) or contact Natalia Austin at 209.723.3153 ext. 127 or [natalia.austin@mcagov.org](mailto:natalia.austin@mcagov.org) by February 12, 2019.





# Measure V

## FEBRUARY 2019—UPDATE

Measure V, Merced County's ½ cent transportation sales tax, was passed by Merced County voters with 71% approval in November 2016 and went into effect April 1, 2017. In an effort to keep the community informed about this transformative measure, MCAG will feature monthly updates in this newsletter. You can also visit [www.measurev-mcag.com](http://www.measurev-mcag.com) for the latest!

### IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2019 (REGIONAL PROJECTS)

In September of 2018, the MCAG Governing Board approved the first Implementation Plan, which set priority projects for both the eastside and westside for the next two years. Since then staff has been working with the cities and county on a new long range Implementation Plan. Candidate projects have been submitted from each city and the county for review and funding recommendation by the East and West Side Regional Projects Committees. The next round of Regional Project Committee meetings are listed below. All meetings are open to the public.

West Side Regional Project Committee	East Side Regional Project Committee
February 27th, 2:00 pm	February 28th, 10:00 am
City of Dos Palos Council Chambers	City of Atwater Council Chambers

### MEASURE V REVENUE

Since its inception, Measure V has generated \$27,971,137 to date! This amount exceeds projections by over \$4 million.

### Regional Projects

A total of \$12,263,300 has been allocated to regional projects with \$7,525,207 allocated to eastside projects and \$4,738,093 for westside projects.

### Local Projects

A total of \$13,935,569 has been allocated to local projects. The table to the right shows the total amounts allocated to each local agency.

### Transit & Administration

A total of \$1,393,557 has been allocated to Transit for programs such as free rides for Veterans, Seniors and ADA eligible passengers. Finally, \$278,711 has been allocated for administration of the Measure.

## HAVE YOU SPOTTED MEASURE V AT WORK IN MERCED COUNTY?



*Measure V at work in Merced*

Snap a picture and send it to [measurev@mcagov.org](mailto:measurev@mcagov.org) or tag us on Facebook @mcag.merced or Twitter #MercedCAG

### Measure V Local Allocations

From April 2017 through October 2018

City of Atwater	\$1,136,575
City of Dos Palos	\$421,886
City of Gustine	\$423,263
City of Livingston	\$647,101
City of Los Banos	\$1,452,471
City of Merced	\$2,920,765
County of Merced	\$6,933,509

### CONTACT:

Mary-Michal Rawling, Public Affairs Manager  
(209) 723-3153 x 119 or [mary-michal.rawling@mcagov.org](mailto:mary-michal.rawling@mcagov.org)