

Monterey County Regional Tax Authority

*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 Sand City • City of Seaside
Monterey Peninsula Airport District • County of Monterey*

Board of Directors Regular Meeting January 25, 2016 10:00 a.m.

MST Conference Room
One Ryan Ranch Road, Monterey, CA 93940

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1-1. Roll Call.
- 1-2. Pledge of Allegiance.
- 1-3. Review highlights of the agenda. (Carl Sedoryk)

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Members of the public may address the Board on any matter related to the jurisdiction of The Monterey County Regional Tax Authority but not on the agenda. There is a time limit of not more than three minutes for each speaker. The Board will not take action or respond immediately to any public comments presented, but may choose to follow-up at a later time, either individually, through staff, or on a subsequent agenda.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

These items will be approved by a single motion. Anyone may request that an item be discussed and considered separately.

- 3-1. Minutes of the regular meeting of October 26, 2015. (Deanna Smith)
(pg. 5)
- 3-2. Receive October – December 2015 Financial Statements.
(Angela Dawson) (pg. 11)
- 3-3. Receive update on RTA procurement of General Liability and Directors
and Officers insurance. (Kelly Halcon) (pg.15)

End of Consent Agenda

4. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

No action is required unless specifically noted.

- 4-1. Receive update from RTA staff and the July 2015 – December 2015 Report from RTA Administrator. (Hunter Harvath) (pg. 17)

5. BIDS/PROPOSALS

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 6-1. Hold public hearing to consider revocation of taxicab dispatching company permit for MC & Sons, LLC, d/b/a DGTC Taxi. (Hunter Harvath) (pg. 23)

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

- 9-1. Reports on meetings attended by board members at RTA expense. (AB1234).
- 9-2. Board member Comments and Announcements.
- 9-3. Board member Referrals to TAC or future RTA agendas.

10. CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION ITEMS

11. CLOSED SESSION

As permitted by Government Code §64956 et seq. of the State of California, the Board of Directors may adjourn to Closed Session to consider specific matters dealing with personnel and/or pending possible litigation and/or conferring with the Board's Meyers-Milias-Brown Act representative.

12. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

- 12-1. Report on action taken during Closed Session.

13. ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 25, 2016 at 10:00 am

LOCATION: Monterey-Salinas Transit, 1 Ryan Ranch Rd. Monterey, CA 93940

NEXT AGENDA DEADLINE: April 12, 2016

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Board after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the Monterey-Salinas Transit Administration office at 1 Ryan Ranch Road, Monterey, CA during normal business hours.

Upon request, the Monterey County Regional Taxi Authority will provide written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in public meetings. Please send a written request, including your name, mailing address, phone number and brief description of the requested materials and preferred alternative format or auxiliary aid or service at least three working days prior to the meeting. Requests should be sent to Monterey County Regional Taxi Authority/MST – c/o Clerk to the Board, 1 Ryan Ranch Road, Monterey, CA 93940 or clerk@mryrta.org. Taxi-related materials and information are available on www.mryrta.org.

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Taxi services are more than a ride in Salinas

Carlos Cecenas of Salinas has been driving taxicabs for 37 years.

"I take people to work, to run errands and to get them to medical appointments, especially eye doctors," he said of his job. Cecenas drives for SAL's Taxi Service, one of four companies providing rides in Salinas, and the only company with two wheelchair accessible vehicles.

But the livelihoods of Cecenas and scores of other local cabbies are in jeopardy because of another ride service moving into the region. That would be Uber, the global private car-ride company now operating in Monterey County. Uber's cheaper rides endanger the survival of local taxi services. Though taxi companies play a vital role in our car-dependent lives, Uber can undercut and ruin the local competition, creating a gap in the transportation services available to the elderly, disabled and other vulnerable residents. Uber rides are cheaper because the company is not regulated. Meanwhile, taxi drivers and their vehicles must meet rigorous safety standards set by the Regional Taxi Authority. In contrast, Transportation Network Companies such a Uber do not meet the same safety regulations required of taxis. (Online see www.mryrta.org)

Incredibly, Uber is allowed to discriminate, according to the Monterey County regulations: The "{Uber} driver has the sole discretion to accept a fare without regard to the legally protected status of a customer."

Taxi drivers, ruled by RTA regulations, "may not refuse a ... fare based on trip length, legally protected status, or the presence of a service animal." "We are color-blind" and must provide equalaccess taxi service to all, said Cecenas.

In addition, night-time taxis provide a community service — public safety — by driving drunks home who otherwise might get behind the wheel.

"Many of our night taxi runs are people going home from bars and restaurants," said Alex Zepeda, who also drives for SAL's.

All taxi drivers are checked out by the FBI, he said, but as for Uber drivers, "You don't know who is driving you." The cost of a ride also comes into question. Taxi customers are protected by strict fare regulations that are monitored by sealed and inspected taxi meters. On the other hand, Uber can up its fares using "surge pricing" in which the fares suddenly get higher when rides are most in demand. Some special ride programs also depend on a healthy taxi business climate. For example, the Emergency Guaranteed Ride Home offered through Commute Alternatives, a program of TAMC, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, requires the use of taxis. The emergency ride is available to commuters who use alternative transportation to get to work. The service reimburses up to \$60 for a taxi in case of an emergency.

Save our taxi services; call a cab.

Parking protocol: The Alliance on Aging is a community service provider with an office at 247 Main St. While attending a meeting recently, I noticed an agency employee had parked her car in one of the few 90-minute parking slots in front of the office. When I asked her about it, she said she moves her car every 90 minutes to avoid a ticket. One purpose of the 90minute time limit on parking is to allow elderly and disabled clients to visit the agency and park nearby. There are 16 employees at the Alliance on Aging office. If they all parked in front, it would take up all of the

RTA Calendar Year 2016 Board Meeting Schedule

RTA Board Meetings 2016
January 25
April 25
July 25
October 24

- RTA Board meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. in the MST Board Room, 1 Ryan Ranch Rd. Special meetings are scheduled as necessary.