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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Date: August 21, 2017

Antelope Valley Transit Authority Statement on Latest Strike

Lancaster – We are once again deeply disappointed that the Teamsters Local 848 decided to strike for the fourth time without advance notice. Their continued strike action, without warning, only serves to disrupt the lives of thousands of AVTA local and commuter riders who depend on our transit services. Furthermore, with local students recently returning to school after summer break and both AV College and College of the Canyon students starting their semester today, we realize the increased hardship this strike will cause for families with school-age children and students who rely on predictable routines.

The Teamsters' dispute is with Transdev, but it is our riders who are hurt in the process. AVTA is doing everything we can to minimize impacts and restore service. Meanwhile, the union has twice rejected a contract that would make the operators some of the highest paid public transit operators in California, with a top rate of \$25.45 per hour. The Union's demands would have severe fiscal impacts, resulting in the elimination of our free-ride programs for veterans, AV College students, and senior citizens.

AVTA's position remains unchanged. We urge the Teamsters Local 848 to return to the bargaining table and immediately cease actions that harm our riders and do nothing to advance their cause.

AVTA is anticipating no local service through the remainder of the week at a minimum. Updates on expected commuter and TRANSPORTER service will be released by 3:00 p.m. each day for the following day. Riders are encouraged to have alternate transportation plans and to sign up for Rider Alerts to receive the latest updates on all service interruptions.

AVTA provides local, commuter and dial-a-ride service to a population of more than 450,000 residents in the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale as well as the unincorporated portions of northern Los Angeles County. Its total service area covers 1,200 square miles and it is bounded by the Kern County line to the north, the San Bernardino County line to the east, the Angeles National Forest to the south, and Interstate 5 to the West.

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