



Attachment 3

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**  
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July 24, 2007

Tony Campos, Chair  
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
1523 Pacific Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**RE: Taxi Regulation Concerns of Seniors and People with Disabilities**

Dear Commissioner Campos:

In March 2007 the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, as recommended by their Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory committee, sent a letter of concern to the legislative bodies of the county and the four cities regarding conflicts and inadequacies among the various city and county ordinances governing commercial taxi cab regulation.

The Board of Supervisors, advised by their County Administrative Officer and County Counsel, sent a response letter stating interest in updating the taxi regulations on a countywide basis, offering assistance in examining options, and recommending that the Regional Transportation Commission take the lead on creation of an updated model taxi ordinance that will better meet the needs of all residents of Santa Cruz County.

Approximately one-third of Santa Cruz County residents do not own or drive their own vehicles, but instead depend on government, non-profit, and for-profit providers to meet their mobility needs. Shortfalls and gaps in service make this array of transportation services less than comprehensive. Commercial taxi service is often called upon to supply unmet needs for personal transport for people with moderate to severe mobility limitations, as is evidenced by the popularity of the countywide Taxi Scrip program.

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The E/D TAC is interested in continuing its role as an active partner in any efforts initiated by the county and the cities to update taxi ordinances to meet the needs of seniors and people with disabilities.

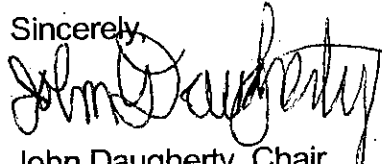
The E/D TAC has compiled a list of concerns related to taxi service and taxi regulation, specifically from the perspective of this unique population of users. This list, in prioritized order (Attachment 1), represents only a brief summary. E/D TAC welcomes ongoing exploration of issues related to updating regulations relative to commercial taxi service.

Also attached is an informal survey, conducted by RTC staff, of commercial taxi providers within Santa Cruz County (Attachment 2). E/D TAC recommends involving these commercial providers in all discussions of possible regulation updates.

The E/D TAC is aware of efforts underway in Monterey County to assess taxicab regulation standardization and oversight. These efforts should be monitored to determine whether the process and/or outcome is useful for Santa Cruz County's efforts.

The E/D TAC commends the Board of Supervisors for its initiative, and offers its commitment to articulating the specific needs of elderly and disabled persons who depend upon this commercial transportation service as an essential supplement to other transportation resources.

Sincerely,



John Daugherty, Chair

Attachments:

1. E/D TAC Concerns Regarding Taxi Regulation Reform
2. Commercial Taxi Service in Santa Cruz County: Senior/ Disabled Riders-

*(see last two pages of attachment 1 in this soft report)*

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# **E/D TAC Concerns Regarding Taxi Regulation Reform**

## **June 2007**

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### **Primary Issues of Concern to the E/D TAC:**

- Availability of accessible taxi vehicles and exclusion of these vehicles from commercial quota restrictions
- Easy availability of fare schedule
- Consistent and advertised discounts for seniors and disabled
- 24-hour availability of accessible vehicles
- Exclusion of non-profit providers from commercial regulation
- Facilitation of taxi service for non-emergency medical rides
- Assurance that elderly and disabled will not be discriminated against by commercial taxi services
- Any other incentives that will insure taxi service availability to elderly and disabled individuals

### **Issues that Might be of Concern to the E/D TAC:**

- Taxi-transit coordination
- Taxi sharing to reduce costs for elderly and disabled
- Increase in availability of taxi scrip or other (new) subsidies
- Grant monies for increasing/subsidizing fleets of accessible taxis
- Incentive for driver training (sensitivity training for mobility-impaired, emotionally-challenged, CPR, etc.)
- Assurance of flexible quotas on taxi vehicles, to respond to increased demand
- Allow the use of disabled parking to accessible taxis
- Requirement that all commercial taxi services provide accessible cabs
- Establishment of formal taxi stands
- Vehicle safety check procedures
- Insurance and background checks
- Taxi fare consistency throughout the county
- Regional taxi authority or commission

**Issues Beyond the Overview of E/D TAC:**

- Business license and driver permit issuance
- Restrictions on commercial taxi operation within jurisdictions
- Method and timing of license/permit issuance
- Formation of private taxi association
- Centralized dispatch service/incentives for new technology
- Fees charged for commercial taxi services
- Deregulation

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