

# REGIONAL TRANSIT ISSUE PAPER

Agenda Item No.	Board Meeting Date	Open/Closed Session	Information/Action Item	Issue Date
10	12/10/18	Open	Action	12/05/18

Subject: Authorizing the General Manager/CEO to Declare Free Ride Days During Periods of Very Unhealthy or Hazardous Air Quality

## ISSUE

Whether to authorize the General Manager/CEO to declare free ride days for SacRT’s bus, light rail and complementary paratransit service during consecutive days of “Very Unhealthy” or “Hazardous” air quality in the Sacramento region.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution No. 18-12-\_\_\_\_, Authorizing the General Manager/CEO to Declare Free Rides for All Fixed Route, SmarT Ride and Paratransit Services During Consecutive Days of “Very Unhealthy” or “Hazardous” Air Quality in the Sacramento Region.

## FISCAL IMPACT

Staff recently performed an analysis to determine the fiscal impact of offering free rides:

<u>Fare Revenue Source</u>	<u>Fare Revenue Impact (Daily)</u>	<u>Estimated Annual Impact (Based on 1-3 days)</u>
Fixed Route and SmarT Ride	(\$37,800)	(\$37,800) - (\$113,400)
Paratransit Services	(\$3,558)	(\$3,558) - (\$10,674)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$41,358)</b>	<b>(\$41,358) - (\$124,074)</b>

The fiscal impact listed above was not budgeted for FY 2019. This will need to be taken into account during a mid-year budget revision and absorbed by the current fiscal year surplus.

## DISCUSSION

May through October is typically the Sacramento region’s smoggy season; however, during the last two years, the Sacramento region has also experienced unprecedented poor air quality in other months due to wildfire smoke. Because the Sacramento Valley is shaped like a bowl, air pollution presents a serious problem when an inversion layer traps pollutants close to the ground. This lid prevents pollutants from escaping into the upper atmosphere, causing poor air quality for residents. The Air Quality Index (AQI) has six rating levels – “Good,” “Moderate,” “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups,” “Unhealthy,” “Very Unhealthy,” and “Hazardous.” “Very Healthy” is reached when the AQI is above 200. Authorizing the General Manager/CEO to offer free rides on the second or later consecutive day of “Very Unhealthy” or “Hazardous” air quality in the Sacramento region will help limit the number of cars on the road and reduce air pollution during a time when it’s at its worst.

Approved:

Presented:

Final 12/5/18

General Manager/CEO

VP, Communications and Partnerships

J:\Board Meeting Documents\2018\16 December 10, 2018\Approving Authority for the GM to Declare Free Ride Days Related to Unhealthy Air Quality .doc

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The number of times that there has been consecutive days with an AQI higher than 200 over the last two years has ranged from zero to two times. The estimated annual cost is \$41,358 to \$124,074. SacRT is working to identify partner agencies that may help to offset any projected cost. In addition, authorizing the General Manager/CEO to declare free rides will demonstrate SacRT's community partnership and leadership in seeking solutions to poor air quality and traffic congestion and reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-12-\_\_\_\_\_

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Regional Transit District on this date:

December 10, 2018

**AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO TO DECLARE FREE RIDES FOR ALL FIXED ROUTE, SMART RIDE AND PARATRANSIT SERVICES ON THE SECOND OR LATER CONSECUTIVE DAY OF “VERY UNHEALTHY” OR “HAZARDOUS” AIR QUALITY IN THE SACRAMENTO REGION**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

THAT, the General Manager/CEO is hereby authorized to suspend fares for SacRT’s bus, light rail and complementary paratransit service on the second or later consecutive day of “Very Unhealthy” or “Hazardous” air quality in the Sacramento region, as determined by the Sacramento Air Quality Management District.

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PATRICK KENNEDY, Chair

A T T E S T:

HENRY LI, Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Brooks, Assistant Secretary