June 22, 2010

TO: Donna DeMartino, GM/CEO, San Joaquin RTD
FROM: Vincent Contino, President/Business Agent, ATU Local 276
SUBJECT: County Yard RFP Bid

The Union has been informed that the bids between MV and the District are close, but MV’s bid is lower. As you know, the operators at the County Yard already make 25% less than the SMA rate, and have a future of no wage increases for two years. The County employees cannot afford to pay increases to their medical costs. The Union will be presenting the District’s proposal to our members on June 24th, but I assure you it will not pass.

First of all, the District is not guaranteeing them their jobs for the next five years. Even if they were guaranteed their jobs, that price would have to be adjusted so there would be no increase in their costs for the next five years. The Union believes, at best, this proposal would only have a 50% chance of being approved.

The Union suggests that the District looks at taking a 10-25% wage and benefit cut to yourself, Gloria Salazar, Laurrie Brown, Mark Fairbanks, all department heads and superintendents. The Union believes, based upon its figures, that this would be sufficient to bridge the gap between MV’s bid and the District’s bid. We believe that this would present you and the management staff in a better light in front of your employees and it would ensure your complete control of the work.
The alternative, the Union believes, will be extremely detrimental to the District. The Union will not give MV any concessions on wages and benefits. The Union is fully prepared to do anything and everything possible to protect its members and ensure they maintain their current standard of living.

If this work goes out to a private contractor, we think it could jeopardize management staff at the District. When you lose over one-third of your employees, it will be extremely difficult to justify the levels of management and the wages and benefits they enjoy.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call me.

Vincent Contino
President/Business Agent, ATU Local 276

Cc: Laurrie Brown
Union Bulletin Boards
Wm. McLean, ATU IVP