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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MTA HOLDS SANTA CATALINA ISLAND PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE USE OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDS**

The MTA will conduct a public hearing on Santa Catalina Island on Tuesday, March 16th to receive ideas and suggestions for meeting public transportation needs on Santa Catalina Island. The hearing will be held in Avalon at the Catalina Justice Court, 215 Metropole Avenue, starting at 7:00 p.m.

The Transportation Development Act of 1971 requires that one-fourth of the 6 percent state sales tax revenue collected in Los Angeles County be returned to the County for public transportation purposes. Article 8 of the TDA stipulates that a proportional share of the sales tax revenue be allocated to areas in the County that do not have MTA service. Article 8 applies to approximately 5 percent of the County population that resides in the Santa Clarita Valley, Antelope Valley and Santa Catalina Island.

TDA funds must be spent for public transit purposes when a legitimate need for transit service can be identified. However, if no "unmet transit needs" are found, sales tax revenue may be used for street and road purposes. Each year, the MTA holds public hearings in areas outside the Agency's service area to determine if any unmet transit needs exist. Following the hearings, and after receiving input from the Hearing Board and Social Services Transportation Advisory Council, the MTA will decide whether there are unmet transit needs on Santa Catalina Island.

Those unable to attend the hearing may submit written comments to MTA by March 31, 2004. Comments should be sent to the MTA Article 8 Hearing Record, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012, Attention: Susan Richan (mail stop 99-23-4). For information regarding TDA funds or the public hearing, contact Susan Richan at (213) 922-3017.

**MTA-044**

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