

NEWS

From the Office of

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Transit for Elderly, Disabled in Big River Receives County Support

SAN BERNARDINO – Transit services for the elderly and disabled in the community of Big River on the Colorado River will continue after the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today approved an agreement with the Bonnie Baker Senior Center to provide financial support for the program.

“When residents are a long way from medical services, veterans services and other facilities, this is a critical transportation link,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who represents the area. “This is a great example of the County partnering with local volunteers and other agencies to make sure our residents receive the services they need.”

The program provides dial-a-ride services for seniors and the disabled to doctor appointments, shopping, veterans services and other needs, sometimes as far away as San Bernardino.

The agreement with Bonnie Baker Senior Citizens Club, Inc. calls for the senior center to provide volunteer drivers and dispatchers, while the County in partnership with the City of Barstow provides administrative support, including the costs of vehicle operations, maintenance, insurance and telephones. The cost of the three-year agreement is \$178,950 and is funded by Measure I, the county’s half-percent sales tax for transportation, and by State Local Transportation Funds, which are primarily used to support public transit.

“I especially want to thank the volunteers who provide dispatch services and the drivers who make sure their community members can make it to the store and to their appointments, which are sometimes hours away,” said Supervisor Mitzelfelt.

Last fiscal year, the service provided more than 450 trips while covering 68,000 miles, meaning the average dial-a-ride trip was 151 miles.