

# Transit district gets money for 10 new buses

The Santa Cruz County Metropolitan Transit District has received a grant to buy 10 new buses.

The district received word yesterday of a \$1.2 million grant from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

The new buses will replace buses now on the streets that have traveled between half-a-million and one million miles each. The buses being replaced are between 12 and 15 years old.

All the new buses will be 35 feet long; buses now on the streets range from 30 to 40 feet long.

The district had at first been told it would not get the grant, because UMTA gives money to the district every year to buy new buses, and the agency didn't think the district should need any extra money. But district General Manager Scott Galloway said that money is only enough to buy three new buses a year, and with a fleet of 96 buses, if only three buses are

replaced each year, much of the fleet would soon be antiquated.

The district sent Galloway, board members Jean McNeil, Joe Cucchiara and Bart Cavallo, and a local resident, Rini van Every, to Washington to lobby for more money. The delegation met with transportation officials and elected representatives, and were successful in persuading them to grant the money to the district.

Although the district received word of the grant yesterday, and has already set aside the \$600,000 it will have to put toward the buses, it will take more than a year to get the new buses on the street, Galloway said. It will take time for the paperwork and bidding to be completed, and it takes between nine months and a year for a company to fill an order because there is a backlog of orders now, he said.