

For Immediate Release  
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**Santa Cruz METRO Announces Free Fares to the Santa Cruz County Fair  
September 13 -17, 2023**

**Santa Cruz, CA (Friday, September 1, 2023)** - The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) announces free fares on both fixed-route and ParaCruz services to the Santa Cruz County Fair hosted at the Watsonville Fairgrounds, September 13 – 17<sup>th</sup>.

To provide additional service to Santa Cruz County Fair attendees, METRO has created a special route, Route 79F, that will provide free daily service to the Watsonville Fairgrounds. Additionally, METRO will offer free service on the Route 79 weekend service and daily ParaCruz service to the fairgrounds in Watsonville. Fixed-Route customers can utilize Route 79F to get to the Fairgrounds daily, but the Route 79 will only provide service to the fairgrounds on September 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>.

Service will depart from the Watsonville Transit Center on the hour from noon – 10pm on weekdays and 10am – 10pm on weekends and will offer a return trip from the County Fair at :25 past the hour from 12:25pm – 10:25pm on weekdays and 10:25am – 10:25pm on weekends.

For more information on taking METRO to the County Fair visit <https://scmttd.com/en/routes/county-fair> or for details on the Santa Cruz County Fair visit <https://www.santacruzcountyfair.com/>. Also, don't forget to stop by METRO's booth at the County Fair for games and giveaways in the First Responders Area.

METRO's Fall Schedule also begins September 14<sup>th</sup>, to see a preview of the fall schedule before it is released visit <https://scmttd.com/en/routes/schedule/202410>.

For more information on METRO visit [scmetro.org](http://scmetro.org).

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**Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)**

Established in 1968, METRO'S mission is to provide easy-to-use, convenient transportation for residents while protecting the environment and building better communities. METRO directly operates county-wide, fixed-route and Highway 17 commuter service, with connections to Santa Clara County and Monterey Salinas Transit at our Watsonville Transit Center. The agency also operates ParaCruz paratransit service. Today METRO operates a fleet of 94 buses on at least 25 fixed routes and 32 paratransit vehicles.

Every ride on a METRO bus takes cars off the road, significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and supports economic opportunity and quality of life in our community. Moving into the future, METRO strives to meet the following goals:

- Increase transit ridership to 7 million trips annually within the next five years
- Transition to a zero-emissions fleet with a mix of hydrogen and electric vehicles
- Increase affordable housing at METRO-owned transit centers to 175 units in the next 10 years.

For more information, visit [scmttd.com](http://scmttd.com).