



# COUNTY of MARIPOSA

P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

GARRY R. PARKER, CHAIRMAN  
DOUG BALMAIN, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
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DISTRICT IV  
DISTRICT II  
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DISTRICT V



## MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### MINUTE ORDER

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TO: STEVE HAYES, Visitors' Bureau Director  
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*  
SUBJECT: Relief from Enforcement of 45-Foot Bus Restrictions on Sections of State Highways 49 and 120; Res. 00-280

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THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,

ADOPTED THIS Order on July 25, 2000

#### ACTION AND VOTE:

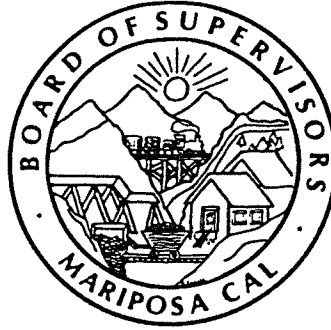
Steve Hayes, Visitors' Bureau Director;

Approve Letter Requesting Relief from Enforcement of 45-Foot Bus Restrictions on Sections of State Highways 49 and 120

**BOARD ACTION:** Discussion was held and Steve Hayes advised of typographical corrections to the letter. Discussion was held relative to making other changes in the letter. (M)Balmain, (S)Stewart, Res. 00-280 adopted approving the letter with changes as discussed. Steve Hayes asked about encouraging an upgrading of the standards for Highway 140 from Yosemite if relief is not granted on this issue. Ayes: Reilly, Balmain, Stewart, Parker; Excused: Pickard. Supervisor Parker requested that the Highway 140 standard issue come back to the Board for further direction before any steps are taken on that matter.

cc: File

# Mariposa County Board of Supervisors



District 1.....PATTI A. REILLY  
District 2.....DOUG BALMAIN  
District 3.....ROBERT C. STEWART  
District 4.....GARRY R. PARKER  
District 5.....BOB PICKARD

County Administrative Officer

**MARGIE WILLIAMS**  
Clerk of the Board

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July 27, 2000

Mark Leja, District 10 Director  
California Department of Transportation  
Post Office Box 2048  
Stockton, California 95201

Dear Director Leja:

Mariposa County is committed to public safety regarding the operation of all vehicles as well as supporting reasonable access for these vehicles. This letter is a request and justification for relief from the enforcement of restrictions on 45-foot buses on selected routes in Mariposa County.

The use of buses on State Routes is important to the success of federal, state, and local transportation initiatives in the Gold Country and Yosemite Regions. If 45-foot buses are not reasonably accommodated this could hamper the ongoing concern of reducing traffic congestion.

The Yosemite Region economy is positively affected by the nearly twelve thousand buses per year that visit Yosemite National Park. Industry sources report that the trend is towards using 45-foot and larger buses, so this will have a definite impact on the economy of the region.

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors requests that the California Department of Transportation temporarily lift the restrictions currently imposed on 45-foot buses. Senator Monteith has indicated that he will seek funding to improve sections of State roads in this region that do not meet the 45-foot bus standards. It is the intent of this request to support the Senator's efforts in this regard. The study requested below will compliment the funding request and possibly expedite the improvements.

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors requests that California Department of Transportation implement a study that will consider the following alternatives:

1. Possible modifications to the sections on Highways 120 and 132 in Mariposa County that have restrictions on 45-foot buses.
2. Specifications and costs of improvements that would bring the sections of Highways 120 and 132 in Mariposa County into compliance with State standards affecting 45-foot bus access.



3. Relief to specific bus makes and models that are 45-foot or longer so they can safely use existing road infrastructure. This might provide an incentive to manufacturers to design their buses for similar performance.

We also take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the California Department of Transportation, especially District 10 and local offices, for doing an outstanding job of maintaining the State Routes in Mariposa County. The dedication and commitment of local employees is impressive and appreciated. Mariposa County and its citizens have not forgotten the excellent and expeditious work done on Highway 140 after the 1997 Flood. We are confident that we can continue to work together to keep State Routes safe and accessible for all reasonable traffic use.

Thank you for considering our requests and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



GARRY R. PARKER  
Chairman

GRP/SH/mbh

cc: Board of Supervisors  
Jeff Green, County Counsel  
Jim Petropulos, Public Works Director  
Dick Monteith, State Senator  
George House, State Assembly Member  
Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors  
Calaveras County Board of Supervisors  
Dale Wagerman, Wagerman & Associates, Incorporated

bcc: Margie Williams, Clerk of the Board