

**BREEZE ROUTE 200
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE CITIES OF SANTA MARIA, BUELLTON, AND SOLVANG, AND
THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

**Regarding Continuation of the Breeze Route 200 Project to
Provide Regular, Fixed-Route, Public Transit Service between
Santa Maria, Los Alamos, Buellton, and Solvang**

**Effective Date: The later of the following to occur: i) July 1, 2020 or ii) the last date
on which all PARTIES have signed the MOU**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between the City of Santa Maria, a municipal corporation (“Santa Maria”), the City of Buellton, a municipal corporation (“Buellton”), the City of Solvang, a municipal corporation (“Solvang”), and the County of Santa Barbara, a local governmental subdivision of the State (the “County”), **collectively referred to herein as “PARTIES” or “The PARTIES”** for the purpose of defining The Parties roles, responsibilities, and commitments in conjunction with the continuation of a project to provide regular, fixed-route public transportation service on the Highway 101/246 corridor between Santa Maria, Los Alamos, Buellton, and Solvang.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions contained herein, **The PARTIES** agree as follows:

1. Project Description

The Breeze Route 200 Continue Project (“PROJECT”) will provide regularly scheduled, fixed-route, intercity bus service between Santa Maria, Buellton, and Solvang. The PROJECT will be open to the public, for all trip purposes, and will be fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Santa Maria in coordination with Buellton, Solvang, and the County will operate the service. The service will continue approximately sixty (60) months, commencing on July 1, 2020 or on the date when all PARTIES have signed the MOU, whichever occurs later, and remaining in effect until June 30, 2025, contingent on the availability of funding.

2. Lead Agency

Santa Maria shall be the sole administrator of the PROJECT and shall be responsible for service contracting with a qualified bus operator (“CONTRACTOR”) and compliance with all federal and state requirements. Santa Maria will be compensated for its administrative activities, including direct and indirect cost, to operate the PROJECT, to the extent such costs are clearly attributable to the PROJECT, and those costs will be shared equally by the **PARTIES** as part of the PROJECT’S operating costs detailed in the ANNUAL REPORT. Direct costs will be tracked by actual staff hours attributed to the PROJECT, and will be billed at Santa Maria’s billing rates which will be provided within the ANNUAL REPORT for the previous completed fiscal year, the current (in-progress) fiscal year, and for the next fiscal year, to which

the ANNUAL PROJECTION applies. Indirect costs are based on Santa Maria's Cost Allocation Plan. Santa Maria's current indirect cost rates will be included in the ANNUAL REPORT, and the Cost Allocation Plan will be made available to the PARTIES at the time of the ANNUAL REPORT.

3. Service Proposal

This MOU contains the service and financial parameters, and operating performance measures to operate the PROJECT. Annual performance measures for the term of the PROJECT will provide thresholds to gauge the PROJECT'S performance. If the service is failing to meet one or more performance measures, then reasonable efforts will be made to modify the service to improve performance. The service may also be discontinued by termination of the MOU after reasonable efforts have been made.

4. Procurement of Insurance Coverage and Indemnification

THE PARTIES agree to procure and maintain liability insurance in an amount sufficient to protect against claims that may be filed against **THE PARTIES** for the services they provide, or **THE PARTIES** may elect to self-insure against such claims as provided by their respective government policies.

In lieu of and notwithstanding the pro rata risk allocation which might otherwise be imposed between the parties pursuant to Government Code Section 895.6, **THE PARTIES** agree all losses or liabilities incurred by a **PARTY** shall not be shared pro rata but instead **THE PARTIES** agree pursuant to Government Code Section 895.4, each **PARTY** hereto shall fully indemnify and hold each of the other **PARTIES**, their officers, board members, employees and agents, harmless from any claim, expense or cost, damage or liability imposed for injury (as defined by Government Code Section 810.8) occurring by reason of the negligent acts or omissions or willful misconduct of the indemnifying **PARTY**, its officers, board members, employees or agents, under or in connection with or arising out of any work, authority or jurisdiction delegated to such **PARTY** under this Agreement. No **PARTY**, nor any officer, board member, employee or agent thereof shall be responsible for any damage or liability occurring by reason of the negligent acts or omissions or willful misconduct of other **PARTIES** hereto, their officers, board members, employees or agents, under or in connection with or arising out of any work, authority or jurisdiction delegated to such other parties under this Agreement.

5. Contractor Insurance

Santa Maria shall require the CONTRACTOR of the PROJECT to comply with the indemnity and insurance requirements specified in Attachment A and provide all **PARTIES** with copies of the Certificates of Insurance, including the endorsement(s) naming **THE PARTIES** as additional insureds.

6. Nondiscrimination

Santa Maria shall require CONTRACTOR to comply with each Party's nondiscrimination policies , as well as the non-discrimination requirements of any other funding agencies, including the following nondiscrimination language insofar as consistent with those requirements:

During the performance of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR and its subcontractors shall not unlawfully discriminate, harass, or allow harassment against any employee, applicant for employment or service customer because legally protected characteristics or conduct including sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, physical disability, medical condition, age, or marital status. Contractor shall insure that the evaluation and treatment of their employees, applicants for employment and service customers are free from such discrimination

7. Service Plan

The PROJECT will operate five days a week, Monday through Friday. To the extent practicable, the services will provide for efficient interlinking connections between Santa Maria Area Transit (SMAT), Santa Ynez Valley Transit (SYVT), the Wine Country Express, and other transit services.

The PROJECT will provide three (3) round-trips per weekday in the morning, mid-day and afternoon. The service will operate generally between the transit center in Santa Maria, Buellton Town Center (Highway 246 and McMurray Road), and Solvang Park in Solvang, with stops at intermediate locations subject to change as demand warrants, and including a stop in the community of Los Alamos at Ferini Park. PARTIES will coordinate schedule and services changes to avoid service disruption to current passengers.

8. Funding

The PARTIES will share equally in the net operating and net capital costs associated with the PROJECT. Net operating costs is the total operating cost minus passenger fares, other operating revenues, and grants. Capital costs include vehicle replacements and supporting infrastructure to operate vehicles (i.e. fleet electrification as mandated by the state) for the PROJECT. Net capital costs is the total capital cost minus any grants, if any.

The primary sources of funding for the PROJECT are from Transportation Development Act, other local funds designated by the PARTIES, or other funding if it becomes available.

9. Annual Report

After the final close of each accounting year for the City of Santa Maria, Santa Maria will provide an Annual Report (ANNUAL REPORT) to the PARTIES. The purpose of

the ANNUAL REPORT is to evaluate the performance and to calculate an equal annual contribution from each PARTY for the PROJECT.

Santa Maria shall provide answers and additional data, as reasonably necessary in response to questions from any of the **PARTIES** regarding the ANNUAL REPORT. Santa Maria will respond to questions and request for clarifications up to sixty days after the release of the ANNUAL REPORT.

The ANNUAL REPORT shall clearly and accurately present the following, in sufficient detail for all **PARTIES** to understand the figures:

1. Audited financial from the prior fiscal year including actual total operating costs, actual operating and capital expenditures, actual direct and indirect costs, ted fares, revenues, capital reserve balances, net operating costs, and infrastructure costs specific to operate the PROJECT. In addition, the ANNUAL REPORT will include operating data from the prior year. The ANNUAL REPORT shall also include a comparison of the financial and operating data from the prior fiscal year to the two prior fiscal years.

2. Balance for the PROJECT and per **PARTY**.

3. Monthly and annual operating data and capital data necessary to evaluate the operating performance measures established pursuant to Section 14 of this MOU, and any other data that is readily available to evaluate the effectiveness of the service.

4. Audited deferred revenue balances, and a comparison of budget and audited actual operating costs.

5. Vehicle status report that includes the following for each vehicle for the PROJECT: date of manufacture, date placed into PROJECT service, expected service life years, extended life years, planned date of replacement, life miles, vehicle age, mileage from previous (reporting) year, length of bus, fuel type used, and status (i.e. spare, active, contingency, to be decommissioned).

6. An annual projection to operate the PROJECT for the next fiscal year, as described in further detail in Section 10 of this MOU.

7. Surplus balances reflected in the ANNUAL REPORT will be used for the capital reserve for future vehicle replacement and/or infrastructure improvements required to operate the PROJECT.

8. Total and equal share of the operating deficit from the prior year, total and equal contribution from PARTIES, and the related variances. The ANNUAL REPORT will also report the impact of operating deficit to the capital reserve to cover the operating costs. Operating deficit is when the net operating costs exceeds the annual operating contribution from the prior year. Capital contributions for vehicle replacements and infrastructure are held in reserve for future vehicle purchases and infrastructure needs to operate the PROJECT.

10. Annual Projection

Santa Maria will prepare an annual projection (ANNUAL PROJECTION) to operate the PROJECT for the next fiscal year and will provide it to the **PARTIES** as part of the ANNUAL REPORT. The purpose of the ANNUAL REPORT is to facilitate each **PARTY'S** TDA claims for the next fiscal year. The ANNUAL PROJECTION will include the following for the next year and an additional four years: operating costs, fares revenues, other revenues, vehicle replacement and infrastructure costs required to operate the PROJECT, and projected performance. The annual projected net operating costs will be equally divided to each **PARTY** as their contribution.

In the event Santa Maria does not provide a complete ANNUAL REPORT by February 1st or does not respond to all questions from the **PARTIES** in time to facilitate each **PARTY'S** Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claims for the next year, then, the **PARTIES** contributions will be limited to the amount approved by the Working Group for the prior year until such time as the ANNUAL REPORT is complete, the **PARTIES'** questions are answered with sufficient supporting data, and the Working Group has discussed and voted upon contributions for the next year.

In the event that the PROJECT incurred operating and/or capital deficits, the **PARTIES** will receive a detailed explanation and accounting within the ANNUAL REPORT of such deficits from the prior fiscal year to reimburse the PROJECT. Reserves will first be used to cover deficits from the prior fiscal year. The ANNUAL PROJECTION will include additional funds to cover future deficit plus the prior year deficit.

Prior year audited actuals will be used to set the baseline for the annual projection for the next fiscal year. The **PARTIES** agree to commit their contribution and direct annual payments to Santa Maria to cover operating and capital expenditures up to 5% above the amount approved by the Working Group for the prior year, subject to approval of the **PARTIES'** respective governing bodies. ANNUAL PROJECTION in excess of 5% will be reviewed, discussed, and subject to vote by the Working Group. In the event all **PARTIES** do not agree to increase the equal annual contribution more than 5%, then such annual contribution shall be limited to a maximum 5% increase as described above, and the Working Group will vote and decide upon reductions to capital expenditures or service (operating expenditures), or to use reserves to balance the projection with the agreed contributions. In event that the Working Group has not acted on the reductions to capital expenditures or operating expenditures within six months of the ANNUAL PROJECTION, Santa Maria will reduce expenditures equal to the deficit that is in excess of the 5% increase limit.

11. Securing Funding

The **PARTIES** will work cooperatively to pursue other federal or state grant opportunities where appropriate for the PROJECT in order to augment or reduce Transportation Development Act and local funds needed for continuation of the service.

Santa Maria will be responsible for submitting grant applications.

If a local match is required to receive grant funding, then subject to necessary Party approvals, the **PARTIES** will share equally in the matching funds needed to meet the required local match, and will execute the necessary paperwork to facilitate receipt of grants.

12. Records, Audit and Review

Santa Maria shall keep such business records pursuant to this Agreement as would be kept by a reasonably prudent transit operator, and where necessary shall require CONTRACTOR to keep such records, and shall maintain or require the maintenance of such records for at least five (5) years following the termination of this Agreement. Such records shall include documents necessary to show compliance with Paragraph 14 "Performance Measures." All accounting records shall be kept in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Any **PARTY** shall have the right to audit and review all such documents and records at any time during Santa Maria's or CONTRACTOR's regular business hours upon reasonable notice.

13. Working Group

A Working Group will be established consisting of staff representatives of the following agencies:

- Santa Maria
- County
- Buellton
- Solvang
- SBCAG (non-voting)

The Working Group may take any action by a vote of three (3) affirmative votes, with each agency receiving one vote, provided such action is consistent with the terms of this MOU.

SBCAG shall be a non-voting member of the Working Group.V SBCAG and additional non-voting members may be added and removed from the Working Group by majority vote.

The Working Group will assist in the development and evaluation of detailed service plans, routes, schedules, budgets, costs and schedules of capital expenditures, performance measures, and other service details. Santa Maria will inform the Working Group of awards of service contracts and extensions to existing services contracts within sixty days after execution. The Working Group will meet a minimum of once a year to discuss the performance, decide upon modifications to the PROJECT within the Working Group's approval authority, and make recommendations regarding fare

structures and other aspects of the PROJECT.**14. Operating Performance Measures**

The Working Group, as established in Section 13, shall develop operating performance measures and their benchmarks to evaluate the effectiveness of the service. The operating performance measures are listed as follows:

- farebox recovery ratio (goal of 20%)
- operating cost per passenger
- operating cost per vehicle service hour
- passengers per vehicle service hour
- passengers per vehicle service mile
- passengers per trip
- net operating and capital costs of PROJECT per each **PARTY**

Operating Performance Measures and their benchmarks along with associated performance data, will be included in the ANNUAL REPORT.

As required by the Federal Transit Administration, Santa Maria, as the administrator of the service will collect and report financial (operating expenses) and non-financial (ridership) data to the National Transit Database. Santa Maria will track data for the PROJECT separately.

In the event it becomes necessary to make changes to the PROJECT before the ANNUAL REPORT is ready with mutual agreement, then Santa Maria will schedule meetings and provide necessary data to evaluate service and make changes.

15. Bus Equipment

The PROJECT service will utilize Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant transit buses suitable for freeway operations.

If Santa Maria utilizes an existing bus from another agency, possession of the vehicle title shall be transferred to Santa Maria.

If Santa Maria purchases a new bus, it shall be registered to Santa Maria, for the specific use of the PROJECT. Santa Maria shall use the Capital Reserve to purchase buses. If additional funds are required, the PARTIES shall equally share the net costs pursuant to Sections 8, 9, and 10 of this MOU.

If this Agreement is terminated and the PROJECT is discontinued, then the PROJECT buses shall be sold by the Lead Agency, and all proceeds from the sale shall be equally split among the current **PARTIES** of the respective service.

If any bus is sold prior to the termination of this Agreement, all proceeds from the sale shall be directed to the Capital Reserve for future bus purchase and/or required for

bus infrastructure. If a simple majority of the **PARTIES** agree a Capital Reserve is not needed, the proceeds shall be equally split among the **PARTIES** of the **PROJECT**.

If another **PARTY** becomes Lead Agency, then title to **PROJECT**'s vehicles and insurance shall be transferred to new Lead Agency.

16. Service Contracting

Santa Maria will prepare any Request for Proposals (RFP) needed for the provision of operating services by a **CONTRACTOR** for the **PROJECT**. The RFP shall meet all applicable federal requirements. The Working Group will be provided the opportunity for review and input on the scope of work for service contracts. Santa Maria will also be responsible for the sale of advertising, if any, on the **PROJECT**.

17. Fares

One-way fares for the service will be set initially at \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for seniors and persons with disabilities. Monthly passes will be set initially at \$75 for adults and \$37.50 for seniors and persons with disabilities. All local transit agencies will work together to insure that transfers are free from the intercommunity service to local systems. Fare changes may be evaluated when determined necessary by a simple majority of the Working Group. The Working Group will evaluate data to formulate recommendations for fare changes subject to the approval of the Lead Agency's governing body.

18. Marketing

Marketing activities, promotional materials, printed schedules, etc. will be developed by Santa Maria. Marketing costs are included in the anticipated annual operating cost of the **PROJECT**. All **PARTIES** will work cooperatively to input marketing strategies that maximize ridership and effectiveness of the services. The service will be promoted by all **PARTIES**. All **PARTIES** will post the service schedule and other information on their websites. SBCAG's existing guaranteed-ride-home program will be available to users of the service through the Traffic Solutions program. The guaranteed-ride-home service is not the responsibility of the **PARTIES** and is not a part of this agreement.

19. Amendment

This Agreement may be amended or extended only by the written consent of all **PARTIES**.

20. Termination

Any **PARTY** to this MOU may terminate its participation under this Agreement by giving 90 days written notification to the other **PARTIES**.

21. Integration

This Agreement represents the entire and integrated Agreement between **THE PARTIES** and supersedes any and all other negotiations, representations, and/or agreements, either oral or in writing, between **THE PARTIES** hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof, and no other agreement, statement or promise relating to the subject matter of this Agreement which is not contained herein shall be valid or binding.

22. California Law to Apply

This Agreement shall be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of California. All obligations created under this Agreement are performable in California.

23. Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction and venue of all lawsuits over the terms of this Agreement shall be in the superior court of Santa Barbara County, State of California.

24. Warranty of Authority

Each person signing this Agreement on behalf of a **PARTY** warrants that he or she has authority to do so.

25. Waivers

The waiver by any **PARTY** to this Agreement of any term, covenant, or condition of this Agreement or of any provision, ordinance, or law, shall not be deemed to be a continuing waiver of such term, covenant, condition, or law, or of any subsequent breach or violation of the same, or of any other term, covenant, and ordinance of law. Failure to enforce with respect to a default shall not be construed as a waiver.

26. Severability

The provisions of this Agreement are severable. If any part of this Agreement is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the remainder of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect unless amended or modified by mutual written consent of **THE PARTIES**.

27. Points of Contact

All notices referenced in this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be given by first class mail addressed as follows, or at such other address or to such person **THE PARTIES** may from time to time designate in writing:

City of Santa Maria

Transit Services Manager
110 South Pine Street, Suite 101
Santa Maria, CA 93458

City of Buellton

Public Works Director
107 West Highway 246
Buellton, CA 93427

City of Solvang

Public Works Director
411 Second Street
Solvang, CA 93463

County of Santa Barbara

Alternative Transportation Manager
123 East Anapamu Avenue, 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

Director of Rail and Transit Programs
260 North San Antonio Road, Suite B
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

28. Counterpart Signatures & Effective Date

THE PARTIES agree that this Agreement may be signed in counterparts and shall become effective when fully executed by all **PARTIES**.

CITY OF SANTA MARIA

Mayor Alice Patino

Date

ATTEST

By: _____

Approved as to Form:
Thomas Watson
City Attorney
By: _____
Thomas Watson, City Attorney

CITY OF BUELLTON

Mayor [insert]

Date

Approved as to Form:
[insert]
City Attorney of Buellton

By: _____
[insert], City of Attorney of Buellton

CITY OF SOLVANG

Mayor [insert]

Date

ATTEST

By: _____

Approved as to Form:
[insert]
City Attorney

By: _____
[insert], City Attorney for City of Solvang

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

ATTEST:

Mona Miyasato
County Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA:

By: _____
Gregg Hart, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael C. Ghizzoni
County Counsel

By: _____
Deputy County Counsel

APPROVED AS TO ACCOUNTING FORM:

Betsy M. Schaffer, CPA
Auditor-Controller

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Ray Aromatorio
Risk Manager

By: _____

Attachment A

CONTRACTOR shall comply with the following requirements. CONTRACTOR shall not subcontract any services provided under this Agreement without the written consent of the City of Santa Maria and full compliance by any subcontractor with the requirements of this Agreement.

1. Indemnification –CONTRACTOR (TRANSPORTATION COMPANY) agrees to indemnify, defend (with counsel reasonably approved by legal counsel for **THE PARTIES**) and hold harmless **THE PARTIES** and their authorized officers, employees, agents and volunteers from and against any and all claims, actions, losses, damages, and/or liability arising out of this Agreement from any cause whatsoever, including the acts, errors or omissions of any person and for any costs or expenses (including but not limited to attorneys' fees) incurred by **THE PARTIES** on account of any claim except where such indemnification is prohibited by law. This indemnification provision shall apply regardless of the existence or degree of fault of indemnitees. CONTRACTOR shall notify **THE PARTIES** immediately in the event of any accident or injury arising out of or in connection with this Agreement. This Indemnification provision shall survive any expiration or termination of this Agreement.

2. Insurance. Insurance Specifications –CONTRACTOR agrees to provide insurance set forth in accordance with the requirements herein. If CONTRACTOR uses existing coverage to comply with these requirements and that coverage does not meet the specified requirements, CONTRACTOR agrees to amend, supplement or endorse the existing coverage to do so. The type(s) of insurance required is determined by the scope of the contract services.

Without in any way affecting the indemnity herein provided and in addition thereto, CONTRACTOR shall secure and maintain throughout the Agreement term the following types of insurance with limits as shown:

A Workers' Compensation/Employers Liability – A program of Workers' Compensation insurance or a state-approved, self-insurance program in an amount and form to meet all applicable requirements of the Labor Code of the State of California, including Employer's Liability with one million dollar (\$1,000,000) limits covering all persons including volunteers providing services on behalf of CONTRACTOR and all risks to such persons under this Agreement.

If CONTRACTOR has no employees, it may certify or warrant to **THE PARTIES** that it does not currently have any employees or individuals who are defined as "employees" under the Labor Code and the requirement for Workers' Compensation coverage will be waived by the County's Risk Manager.

B. Commercial/General Liability Insurance –CONTRACTOR shall carry General Liability Insurance covering all operations performed by or on behalf of CONTRACTOR providing coverage for bodily injury and property damage

with a combined single limit of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and a two million dollar (\$2,000,000) general aggregate limit.

C. Automobile Liability Insurance – Primary insurance coverage shall be written on ISO Business Auto coverage form for all owned, hired and non-owned automobiles or symbol 1 (any auto). The policy shall have a combined single limit of not less than three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for bodily injury and property damage, per occurrence.

D. Umbrella Liability Insurance – An umbrella (over primary) or excess policy may be used to comply with limits or other primary coverage requirements. When used, the umbrella policy shall apply to bodily injury/property damage, personal injury/advertising injury and shall include a “dropdown” provision providing primary coverage for any liability not covered by the primary policy. The coverage shall also apply to automobile liability. An Additional Insured Endorsement shall be provided on the Umbrella policy as it relates to the primary policies requiring an Additional Insured Endorsement.

3. Additional Insured – All policies, except for the Workers’ Compensation, Errors and Omissions and Professional Liability policies, shall contain endorsements naming and their officers, employees, agents and volunteers as additional insureds with respect to liabilities arising out of the performance of services hereunder. The additional insured endorsements shall not limit the scope of coverage for **THE PARTIES** to vicarious liability but shall allow coverage for **THE PARTIES** to the full extent provided by the policy. Such additional insured coverage shall be at least as broad as Additional Insured (Form B) endorsement form ISO, CG 2010.11 85.

4. Waiver of Subrogation Rights –CONTRACTOR shall require the carriers of required coverages to waive all rights of subrogation against **THE PARTIES**, their officers, employees, agents, volunteers, contractors and subcontractors. All general or auto liability insurance coverage provided shall not prohibit CONTRACTOR and CONTRACTOR’s employees or agents from waiving the right of subrogation prior to a loss or claim. SUBCONTRACTOR hereby waives all rights of subrogation against **THE PARTIES**.

5. Policies Primary and Non-Contributory – All policies required herein are to be primary and non-contributory with any insurance or self-insurance programs carried or administered by **THE PARTIES**.

6. Severability of Interests –CONTRACTOR agrees to ensure that coverage provided to meet these requirements is applicable separately to each insured and there will be no cross liability exclusions that preclude coverage for suits between CONTRACTOR and **THE PARTIES** or between any FUNDING PARTNER and any other insured or additional insured under the policy.

7. Proof of Coverage –CONTRACTOR shall furnish Certificates of Insurance to the CITY OF SANTA MARIA Department administering the Agreement evidencing the insurance

coverage, including Additional Insured Endorsements, as required, prior to the commencement of performance of services hereunder, which certificates shall provide that such insurance shall not be terminated or expire without thirty (30) days written notice to the Department, and CONTRACTOR shall maintain such insurance from the time CONTRACTOR commences performance of services hereunder until the completion of such services. Within fifteen (15) days of the commencement of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall furnish a copy of the Declaration page for all applicable policies and will provide complete copies of the policies and endorsements immediately upon request.

8. Acceptability of Insurance Carrier – Unless otherwise approved by **THE PARTIES**, insurance shall be written by insurers authorized to do business in the State of California and with a minimum A.M. Best's Insurance Guide rating of "A- VII".

9. Deductibles and Self-Insured Retention – Any and all deductibles in excess of \$10,000 shall be declared to the **THE PARTIES**. A Self-Insured Retention is not acceptable.