



*Antelope Valley Transit Authority*

## **Press Release**

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### **AVTA COOPERATES WITH ONGOING INVESTIGATION**

**LANCASTER – AVTA officials are cooperating with the District Attorney’s Office as their investigation continues into allegations of past mismanagement. The Los Angeles County District Attorney Bureau of Investigation served a search warrant this morning at the AVTA offices seeking computer files dating back to September, 2008. A team of seven investigators took part in the search which focused on past computer files of five former administrators. “We are cooperating in any way we can” stated AVTA’s Executive Director Julie Austin. “Our new administrative staff is committed to transparency and we welcome all efforts to set the agency right so that we may focus exclusively on serving the transit community.”**

**The D.A. began their investigation in October, 2010 after three administrators resigned when allegations surfaced of possible misappropriation of funds. “We are pleased to see and fully support this investigation moving forward,” AVTA Board Chair Norm Hickling stated. “This is an extremely serious matter for the Board of Directors. The Board ensured this matter was turned over to the District Attorney nearly a year ago and we are anxious to bring this matter to resolution so that we can focus on improving the organization for our ridership and dedicated staff.”**

**Former Executive Director Randy Floyd resigned in September, 2010 prior to a special meeting of the Board of Directors. Resignations were also tendered by former Chief Finance Officer Esmyrna Agustin-Jorge and former Administrative Services Manager Kim Hemperly.**