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## **ARVIN, TAFT AWARDED NEARLY \$1 MILLION FOR NEW TRANSIT SERVICE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Organization: Kern Council of Governments  
What: Job Access Reverse Commute transit grants  
Where: 1401 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, Bakersfield, CA. 93301

City officials in Arvin and Taft have received tentative approval for two projects totaling nearly \$1 million through the Federal Transit Administration's Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) capital program.

Arvin officials requested \$400,000 in JARC funds for three compressed natural gas-fueled buses to transport employees from the city to the Tejon Ranch Industrial Complex. An additional \$140,000 was approved to assist the city in operational costs.

Taft officials received tentative approval for \$400,000 to purchase one bus and three vans that will improve existing transit service.

Under a 2007 Kern COG-adopted Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan, Kern County rural transit operators have the opportunity to apply for JARC and New Freedom funding, both of which are distributed by the Federal Transit Administration.

The New Freedom program funds capital and operational projects for government agencies and non-profit organizations that transport elderly and disabled passengers.

To date, two Kern County agencies have applied for New Freedom funds: Desert Area Resources and Training; and the City of Taft. If approved, another \$475,000 in transit funding may be on its way to Kern County.

Tentative approval of the two New Freedom grants is expected before March 2009.