



Media Contact: Andrea Carter – 760.285.6828

## **Sixty Bikes, Helmets and Locks to be Presented to Mecca Boys & Girls Club Kids This Wednesday Through the SunLine Transit Agency Bike Refurbishment Program**

***(Thousand Palms, CA)***

**WHAT:** Presentation of 60 bikes, helmets and locks to Mecca Boys & Girls Club Kids.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, July 22nd; 1:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Boys & Girls Club  
91391 66th Avenue  
Mecca, CA 92254

**WHO:** Dignitaries, and SunLine Board Members, in attendance to include: Kristy Franklin, SunLine Chair, Mayor Pro Tem, City of La Quinta; Steven Hernandez, SunLine Vice Chair, Mayor, City of Coachella; John Benoit, Supervisor, County of Riverside; Troy Strange, Councilmember, City of Indio.

**WHY:** After meeting with community representatives who identified unmet needs for East Valley residents, SunLine developed a program to rehabilitate unclaimed bikes that had been abandoned in bus bike racks so they could be donated to kids in need of transportation.

SunLine worked together with community partners to identify bikes that could be reused, organized a work party to fix those bikes, and donated funds to buy some new bikes, helmets and locks for recipients.

Community partners include: City of Palm Springs Active Transportation Committee (Brett Klein and Vic Yepello, Co-Chairs); Coachella Valley Bicycle Coalition; City of Palm Springs Office of Sustainability (Michele Mician, Sustainability Manager); Hot Purple Energy (Nate Otto, owner); Palm Springs/Palm Desert Cyclery (Chris Cross, owner); SunLine Transit Agency (Lauren Skiver, CEO/General Manager); Incight.org (Judy May, Regional Director); CV Independent (Jim Boegle, Publisher); Hocker Productions (Jeff Hocker, owner) and Boys and Girls Club Mecca (Ray Amador and Alma Silva).

These donations will help provide kids with the transportation needed to get to the Boys & Girls Club to participate in the many beneficial programs. The Club has selected kids who live in the area and who currently must travel to the Club on foot. They have identified Club members ranging from 6 to 16-years old who will be present to receive their new bike.

For more information, call Norma Stevens at (760) 343-3456.

###

*SunLine Transit Agency is a joint powers authority formed in 1977 to operate the Coachella Valley's public transportation system. SunLine offers fixed route bus service and curb-to-curb paratransit for the mobility impaired. Its fixed route and paratransit vehicles travel more than 4 million miles per year, covering over 619 bus stops located throughout a 1,120 mile-service area, carrying approximately 4.82 million riders. SunLine Services Group regulates three taxi franchises who provide taxi services throughout the Valley. SunFuels alternative fueling station offers compressed natural gas and hydrogen for SunLine and the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To learn more, please visit [sunline.org](http://sunline.org).*