



TAMC chooses light rail for rapid transit line

MONTEREY WANTS MORE STUDY

By **JIM JOHNSON**
Herald Salinas Bureau

Transportation officials chose light rail Wednesday as the preferred alternative for a proposed rapid transit line from the Peninsula to Castroville.

Transportation Agency for Monterey County directors decided to focus on light rail for the environmental review of the proposed

Monterey Branch Line. They agreed to include a "visual simulation" of the proposed route and to evaluate alternatives for where it would end in Monterey.

On Tuesday, the Monterey council said it wanted TAMC to study light

Please see **Light rail page A11**

Familiar route

The proposed project includes a rapid transit line running along an old rail route purchased by TAMC in 2003.



JAMES HERRERA/The Herald



VERNON FISHER/Herald file

Fog rolls over the hills in Big Sur in August 2003. A new study says the Peninsula's summertime temperatures are cooling.

SCIENTISTS: GLOBAL WARMING MAKING PENINSULA COOLER

ONE THEORY IS HOT INLAND TEMPS INCREASE SEA BREEZES

By **JANE PALMER**
Herald Staff Writer

While polar ice caps are melting and inland farmlands are scorching, the Peninsula is experiencing its own mini-drama of global warming: coastal cooling.

In the summer months, specifically June, July and August, average daytime temperatures are dropping, say a group of Northern California scientists.

"Monterey is cooling," said Robert Bornstein, a meteorology professor at San Jose

HERALD QUESTION OF THE DAY

Do you believe in global warming?

Yes No

Go to: montereyherald.com to place your vote

Herald surveys are unscientific

State University. "And getting more breeze, more fog."

Bornstein is talking today at the National Oceanic and

Please see **Cooling page A11**



HERALD FILE

A kayaker is bundled up against the cold as he paddles into Monterey Municipal Wharf No. 2 in June 2008.

Cooling

From page A1

Atmospheric Administration's Climate Diagnostics and Prediction Workshop in Monterey. His findings have been confirmed by local meteorologists.

"I would say that the summertime temperatures from 1970 to the current time definitely show cooling," said Dave Reynolds, meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service forecast office in Monterey.

Bornstein and his collaborators analyzed nearly 30 years' worth of weather recordings from 253 National Weather Service stations throughout California. While they found that average temperatures were rising overall, at low-elevation coastal areas, temperatures were dropping.

"I keep waiting for this warming that everybody has been talking about, and it just doesn't seem to happen," said Bill Anderson, winemaker at Chateau Julien Winery in Carmel Valley. Anderson, 62, and a lifelong resident of California, receives monthly weather reports from the local weather station. The past few years have been "cooler, cooler," he said.

Ironically, the scientists hypothesize that the cooling temperatures are a "reverse

reaction" to global warming. As inland areas heat up quicker than the ocean, it creates a pressure difference that increases the sea breeze, explained Reynolds.

"The stronger the sea breeze, the more ocean air you pump into Monterey," he said. And these onshore sea breezes keep coastal areas cool.

Still, there is no chance that Monterey is going to plunge into an ice age anytime soon.

"The temperature drops are not overly dramatic," said Reynolds. "They are tenths of degrees over a period of time — not 5 or 10 degrees."

Bornstein's study shows the temperature decrease to be about three-quarters of a degree every 10 years. While this is not enough to warrant buying a fur coat, it does have implications for local farmers and vintners.

"I thought the wine industry would be ecstatic," said Bornstein.

In 2006, a study published by the National Academy of Sciences suggested that, because of global warming, the U.S. could lose up to 81 percent of its premium wine-grape growing acreage by 2100 — with the greatest losses being on the West Coast.

Anderson said he was not unduly worried.

"The French grow grapes in Morocco," he noted. But

he does value the information exchange between vintners and meteorologists allowing him to make adjustments to a changing climate.

"You can grow grapes just about anywhere that you want to, as long as you know what is going on," Anderson said.

Bornstein suggested that the cooling could result in decreasing energy costs.

"Basically you won't have to plan for such hot days because the frequency of these very hot days is going down," he said. "You won't have these brownouts of energy."

Reynolds pointed out that the opposite could be true.

"In Carmel and Pacific Grove, when the sun doesn't come out for days and days and the highs are in the 50s, your house will get very cold if you don't turn the heat on," said Reynolds.

Reynolds noted that other factors influence coastal temperature.

Every 20 to 30 years, the Pacific Ocean temperature switches between "warming" and "cooling" phases, said Reynolds. This natural variation could be adding to, or contrasting, the effects of global warming.

"Still, Mother Nature is out there," he said. "She is still doing her thing."

Jane Palmer can be reached at tpalmer@ucsc.edu.