

# Monterey Bay *Bulletin*

## Labor Contracts Update

### New Hotel Labor Contracts on the Monterey Peninsula

Hyatt Regency Monterey  
Park Hyatt Carmel Highlands  
Quail Lodge  
Hilton Garden Inn  
La Playa Hotel  
Monterey Beach Resort  
Bay Park Hotel  
Pine Inn Hotel  
Tally-Ho Inn  
Asilomar Conference Center  
The Lodge at Pebble Beach  
Casa Palmero

## Monterey Bay Travelodge: Price-Gouger

The Monterey Bay Travelodge charged nearly three times its usual room rates during the recent MotoGP weekend, according to the motel's own reservation website. The Travelodge, owned by Kilsoo Seo, advertised rates of \$319 for a one-bed room on Saturday, July 21, 2007, while charging \$109 for the same room on July 23. The listed prices on subsequent Saturday's, including August 11 and September 1, were \$129.

Such extraordinary price increases by motels like the Travelodge are a deep concern of area community leaders. The *Monterey County Herald* (7/17/07 & 7/23/07) reports that price-gouging by area hotels and motels could threaten the future of the Red Bull U.S. Grand Prix motorcycle in Monterey—the event John

McMahon, president and CEO of the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau describes as “probably one of the most revenue-generating weekends of the entire year.”

The *Herald* writes, “For months, race fans from around the country and outside of the U.S. buzzed ... about exorbitant hotel rates, about canceled room reservations, about whether a return trip to Monterey would be worth their while ... [J]ust how area lodgings will handle those fans — and their dollars — is an issue that could affect the event's presence in Monterey, said Gill Campbell, Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca chief executive officer.”

**Saturday, July 21 \$319 per Room**  
**Monday, July 23 \$109 per Room**

Monterey Bay Travelodge reservation price quotes for a one queen bed room, downloaded July 17, 2007, from the hotel's online reservation site <http://www.montereybaytravelodge.com/reservation/>

The *Herald* report points with particular concern to motels charging \$300 or more a night over the busy race weekend. Monterey Peninsula Reservations owner, Donna Ibens is quoted, “The prices are scaring people a bit. I've had a lot of calls and they don't want to pay \$300 a night.” Susanna Schick, a race fan interviewed by the *Herald*, is “fed up” with “unfair pricing” and says “a \$300 motel room is out of line.”

## 12 Hotel contracts settled; Carmel Mission Inn, Travelodge remain

Pebble Beach Lodge workers, members of UNITEHERE Local 483, delegate the company's CEO on June 6, a month before reaching a “best ever” 5-year contract agreement. With the Pebble Beach Lodge and 11 other long-term contracts signed, Monterey Bay travelers will find a risk of labor contract dispute only at the Carmel Mission Inn and Monterey Bay Travelodge amongst union properties. Local 483 and the AFL-CIO have called for a boycott of the Monterey Bay Travelodge, dating back to November 2004.



With the overwhelming union member approval of the Pebble Beach Lodge contract on July 12, 2007, twelve hotels are now under new multi-year labor agreements on the

Monterey Peninsula. Only two hotels are currently operating with an expired labor contract: the Carmel Mission Inn and the Monterey Bay Travelodge. Contract negotiations between Carmel Mission Inn management and UNITEHERE Local 483 continue. A 3-year dispute and boycott continues at the Travelodge.