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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### ***Monterey Bay Area – Two Big Lottery Wins!***

**SACRAMENTO** – Lottery retail locations in Monterey County are proving to be very lucky for some California Lottery players. There have been not one but two big wins on *Scratchers*® tickets sold at Monterey County stores!

Kenia Hernandez scored a whopping \$1 million on a *MONOPOLY*™ *Scratchers* ticket she purchased at La Morenita, which is located at 1876 Fremont Boulevard in **Seaside**. This lucky retailer will receive a \$5,000 bonus from the Lottery just for selling a ticket with a million-dollar prize.

Maria Ruiz Alvarado is thrilled with the \$750,000 she won playing the Lottery's *Mystery Crossword* game. She says this unexpected windfall is a blessing from God for her and her family. "Everyone dreams of buying a house, but it's too expensive. We thought we would have to wait a little more," the lucky winner said. Even with this new funding, Ruiz Alvarado told us that the family still plans to take their time selecting just the right place. She purchased her ticket at the appropriately named Lucky Zone, which is located at 2045 North Fremont Street in **Monterey**.

The California Lottery and its employees continue to serve an essential government function, providing supplemental funding to the state's public schools, colleges and universities. The Lottery also provides essential revenue to the more than 23,000 local retailers in California that sell tickets. Based on sales levels during late March/early April of this year, retailers across the state received over \$7 million per week in commissions and bonuses from the Lottery. This money directly helps local businesses – most of which are independently-owned.

*The California Lottery's mission is to provide supplemental funding to California public schools, including kindergarten and grades 1-12, community colleges, the California State University, the University of California, and other California public educational entities. The funds the Lottery transfers to public education total approximately \$1.8 billion for fiscal year 2018-19, which amounts to a modest percentage of education's overall budget. However, this funding is largely non-discretionary, meaning schools can use this for important, yet unfunded instructional programs they would otherwise not afford. During the same period the Lottery generated almost \$7 billion in sales, more than 95% of which goes back to the community in the form of prize payments, retailer commissions and bonuses, and contributions to education. The California Lottery urges its customers to play responsibly. Problem gambling resources are available to anyone at 1-800-GAMBLER.*

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