

BAY AREA COMMUTER BENEFITS PROGRAM



The Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission are developing a regional Commuter Benefits Program that will encourage the use of alternatives to driving alone to work.

Employers who offer commuter benefits can save money on payroll taxes, have higher retention rates and more productive employees.

Employees who take transit, carpool or vanpool to work are happier, healthier and more productive.

Transportation is the #1 source of air pollution in the Bay Area.

Employers with 50 or more full-time employees will have the flexibility to offer their employees one of the following*:

- 1 Pre-Tax Option**
The option to pay for their transit, vanpooling or bicycling expenses with pre-tax dollars, as allowed by federal law.
- 2 Transit/Vanpool Subsidy**
A transit or vanpool subsidy to cover the employee's monthly commute cost.
- 3 Employer-Provided Transit**
A free or low-cost bus, shuttle or vanpool operated by or for the employer.
- 4 Other Options**
An alternative program that provides similar benefits in reducing single-occupant vehicles.

**The Air District and MTC are authorized by Senate Bill 1339 to require employers with 50 or more full-time employees to offer one of the commute benefit options described above.*

Stay informed and get involved! Visit www.baaqmd.gov/commuterbenefits or send an email to commuterbenefits@baaqmd.gov for more information.

Program Development Timeline

SPRING 2013

Air District & MTC begin to develop Commuter Benefits Program.

Employers are encouraged to join in the program development process.

SUMMER 2013

The draft program is released for public review & comment. Staff will consider revisions to draft proposal in response to comments received.

A workshop schedule will be posted online.

FALL/WINTER 2013

Proposed program is released for public review & comment. Public hearing is scheduled.

Air District & MTC governing boards meet to consider adoption of proposed program.

After the program is adopted, employers will have at least 6 months to get their program up and running.



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