



Spare the Air ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

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More Free Rides! **Fourth *Spare the Air* Day of 2006**

Free Rides on 25 Bay Area Transit Agencies Offered All Day Tomorrow

Unhealthy air quality is forecast for tomorrow, Monday, July 17, 2006 in the Bay Area. High pressure, escalating temperatures, and low winds are bringing the fourth Spare the Air advisory of the 2006 "smog season." Because of additional funding, passengers on 25 Bay Area transit systems, including Muni, BART, AC Transit, VTA, Golden Gate Transit, ACE, SamTrans, Caltrain and ferries, can take advantage of the **free rides all day during regular hours of operation.** This is the fourth of six Spare the Air/Free Fare weekdays available this season.

On July 12, 2006, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Administration Committee and Programming and Allocations Committee authorized a \$5.3 million allocation of State Transit Assistance funds to extend the 2006 Spare the Air/Free Fare program. The new State Transit Assistance funding—combined with \$980,000 left over from the initial three-day promotion—makes available more than \$6 million to provide free travel for three more days on 25 participating Bay Area transit agencies.

"The public response to the free transit rides on the first three Spare the Air days demonstrates that using public transit, especially if it's free, is a viable clean air choice on smoggy days," stated Air District Executive Director Jack Broadbent. "On those days, ridership increased 10 percent regionwide, which means over 155,000 additional riders per day choose to use transit instead of driving alone. Once again, the Air District is encouraging commuters to use transit tomorrow in order to prevent unhealthy air," Broadbent added.

Hot and stagnant weather this week is expected to contribute to the production of ground-level ozone, the main ingredient in smog. Ground level ozone is formed when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) combine with oxides of nitrogen (NOX) in the presence of heat and sunlight. These smog-forming gases are emitted from tailpipes, evaporating gasoline, paints and household products.

Precautions

- **Vigorous outdoor exercise should be limited to the early morning hours or around sunset when ozone levels decrease.**

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“Clean Air Choices” You Can Make to Keep Air Healthy

- **Carpool or take transit. Call 511 or check www.511.org for transit information.**
- Refuel after 6 p.m. or wait until the following evening to pump gas.
- Limit driving as much as possible by combining errands into one trip.
- Put off yard work with gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- Postpone any painting projects when air quality is better.
- Reduce the use of consumer products like hair sprays, paints, and household cleaners, which emit smog-forming chemicals.
- Register for AirAlerts at sparetheair.org to get advance notice of the next Spare the Air day.

Participating Transit Agencies Include:

- Muni
- ACE
- AC Transit
- Alameda-Oakland Ferry
- Alameda-Harbor Bay Ferry
- BART
- Benicia Breeze
- Caltrain
- Cloverdale Transit
- County Connection
- Dumbarton Express
- Fairfield/Suisun Transit
- Golden Gate Transit and Ferries
- Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority (WHEELS)
- Petaluma Transit
- Rio Vista Breeze
- SamTrans
- Santa Rosa CityBus
- Sonoma County Transit
- Tri Delta Transit
- Union City Transit
- Vacaville City Coach
- Napa VINE
- VTA
- WestCat

For background and air quality information visit the website:

www.sparetheair.org

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