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NEWS RELEASE

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FREE RIDES FOR BAY AREA COMMUTERS ON JUNE 19

*Air District, MTC Team with 30 Transit Partners as
Spare the Air Program Takes New Approach*

San Francisco, June 12, 2008.... Bay Area commuters can circle next Thursday, June 19, on their calendars and start planning a free trip on transit.

June 19 will be a planned Spare the Air free transit day funded by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

“We wanted to provide an opportunity for the public to make plans to try transit, reset their alarms, use 511.org to plan their trip, and map out the route from transit to their office,” said Jack Broadbent, Executive Officer of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. “Once people try transit they will see just how easy and convenient it can be.”

Transit will be free all day on Bay Area bus and light-rail systems, and it will be free until 12 noon on BART, Caltrain, Altamont Commuter Express and Amtrak Capitol Corridor trains, and on the Golden Gate, Alameda-Oakland, Alameda-Harbor Bay and Vallejo Baylink ferries. This marks Capitol Corridor’s first year of participation in the Bay Area’s free transit promotion. To plan your trip on transit, go to 511.org, click on “Transit” and just type in your starting location and your destination.

The June 19 date for free Bay Area transit coincides with the third annual “Dump the Pump” day, a national promotion sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association to encourage the use of transit.

The Air District has declared today a Spare the Air Day. The single free-ride day reflects a major expansion of the Spare the Air program into a comprehensive campaign focused on reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollution every day. The District will be promoting little things the public can do to Spare the Air Every Day.

— more —

The goal of the free transit day is to have residents try transit June 19 and then stick with it. Cars are the Bay Area's number one source of both air pollution and greenhouse gases, and taking transit is one of the everyday choices residents can make to improve the environment. Each gallon of gas saved by taking transit eliminates the emission of 20 pounds of carbon dioxide.

The following Bay Area transit partners are participating in the June 19 *Free Transit* incentive:

- AC Transit
- ACE
- Alameda-Harbor Bay Ferry
- Alameda-Oakland Ferry
- Air BART
- BART
- Benicia Breeze
- Caltrain
- Capitol Corridor
- Cloverdale Transit
- County Connection (CCCTA)
- Dumbarton Express
- Fairfield/Suisun Transit
- Golden Gate Transit & Ferry (GGBHTD)
- Healdsburg Transit
- Wheels (LAVTA)
- Marin County Transit
- MUNI
- Napa VINE
 - American Canyon Shuttle
 - St. Helena Shuttle
 - Yountville Shuttle
- Petaluma Transit
- Rio Vista Delta Breeze
- SamTrans
- Santa Rosa CityBus
- Sonoma County Transit
- Tri Delta Transit
- Union City Transit
- Vacaville City Coach
- Vallejo Transit and Baylink Ferry
- VTA
- WestCat

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area. For more information about Spare the Air, visit www.sparetheair.org.

MTC (www.mtc.ca.gov) is the transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

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