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SPARE THE AIR CAMPAIGN AWARDS “CONFESSIONS OF A CARPOOLER” CONTEST WINNERS

SAN FRANCISCO – October 29, 2009 – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District today announced the winners of its “Confessions of a Carpooler” video contest. Bay Area carpoolers submitted videos of their commute and shared why they chose to carpool to work.

Grand prize winner, Marisa Saludes of Belmont, will receive a gift card for an iPhone, a Solio mobile electronics charger, an AutoNet Mobile WiFi system and a Dreyer’s Ice Cream party for her office. First prize winner, Carlos Bonilla from Vallejo, will receive a gift card of an iPod Touch, a Solio mobile electronics charger, an AutoNet Mobile WiFi system and a Dreyer’s Ice Cream office party.

“Carpooling is particularly important now with the Bay Bridge closed and increased traffic on all major Bay Area highways,” said Lisa Fasano, Air District communications director. “Carpooling advocates like Marisa and Carlos are critical to informing other commuters about the benefits of ridesharing. As more people learn about the advantages of carpooling, we are confident that participation will continue to increase which will help us all breath easier.”

The contest helped educate Bay Area commuters about reducing single occupancy vehicles through ridesharing and encouraged carpooling by demonstrating its benefits. In addition to protecting Bay Area air quality, carpooling offers many advantages: saving time on commutes, saving money on bridge tolls during peak commute hours, and saving car wear and tear by sharing driving responsibilities.

Winning videos are available for viewing on the Air District’s YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/bayareasparethear>). Visit www.SpareTheAir.org for additional information on the “Confessions of a Carpooler” contest.

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.

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