



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

## *Spare the Air* ADVISORY

Monday, July 25, 2005  
For Immediate Release

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### **Season's First *Spare the Air* Day 21 Transit Agencies offering Free Morning Rides Tomorrow from 4 AM to 9 AM**

High pressure, escalating temperatures, and low winds are bringing the first Spare the Air Advisory of the 2005 "smog season. **Unhealthy air quality is forecast for tomorrow, Tuesday, July 26, 2005 in the Bay Area.**

**This year, 21 transit agencies have joined together to offer free morning commutes on the first five non-holiday weekday *Spare the Air* days.** "This is the largest free transit for air quality program in the nation," stated Air District Executive Director Jack Broadbent. "Using transit tomorrow could actually *prevent* unhealthy air—and that means helping people breathe better. People with asthma, heart and respiratory problems, the very young and the elderly are especially impacted by poor air quality," Broadbent added.

The success of a pilot project in 2004 with BART offering free morning commutes on *Spare the Air* days was the springboard for the expansion of the program to such a large number of transit operators. BART saw ridership increase by 40,000 over two Spare the Air days last September.

"This unique partnership between the Air District, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the regional transit systems is made possible through special federal funding earmarked for the Bay Area," stated MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger.

The hot and stagnant weather is setting up the conditions that contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone. Ozone levels tomorrow are predicted to exceed health based standards. 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**

- **Protect your health – especially if you have asthma or emphysema. Vigorous outdoor exercise should be limited to early morning or very late afternoon when ozone levels are lower.**

#### **What to do**

- **Drive less!**
- **Carpool or take transit. Call 511 or check [www.511.org](http://www.511.org) for transit information**

(more)

**pg. 2 Seasons First Spare the Air Day**

- Postpone using gasoline powered lawn mowers and garden equipment
- Postpone using spray products that pollute including hair sprays, bug sprays and oven cleaners
- Avoid using barbeque lighter fluid
- Refuel your car after sundown
- Don't use oil-based paints
- If you must drive, link your trips together

**Transit agencies participating in the free morning commute program tomorrow include:**

ACE	LAVTA/Wheels	SamTrans
AC Transit	MUNI	Santa Rosa CityBus
BART	Napa County VINE	Sonoma County
Benicia Transit	Petaluma Transit	Transit
Caltrain	Alameda Harbor Bay	Tri Delta Transit
County Connection	Ferry	Union City Transit
Dumbarton Express	Alameda/Oakland	WestCAT
Emery Go Round	Ferry	VTA
Golden Gate Transit		

**For Spare the Air background and air quality information visit: [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org)**

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