



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

Spare the Air ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
August 28, 2007

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First *Spare the Air* Day of 2007 29 Transit Systems Offering Free Rides Tomorrow

Ride free on BART, CalTrain, ACE Train and
all Bay Area Ferries UNTIL 1:00 PM

Ride free on Bay Area bus systems ALL DAY

High temperatures and low winds are bringing the first Spare the Air Advisory of the 2007 summer smog season. **Unhealthy air quality is forecast for tomorrow, Wednesday, August 29, in the Bay Area.**

This year, 29 transit systems have joined together to offer free rides on the first four non-holiday *Spare the Air* weekdays. "We are asking Bay Area residents to take action to protect air quality," said Air District Executive Officer Jack Broadbent. "Although cooler than usual summer temperatures have provided the region with clear skies to date, that hasn't reduced the importance of making clean air choices every day. Especially on a Spare the Air day, the Air District appeals to all residents to use public transportation and reduce driving."

The 2007 Spare the Air/Free Transit incentive refines and expands the previous years' parameters to include all transit operators in the region. "This unique partnership among the Air District, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and the regional transit systems to provide free rides is made possible through special federal funding earmarked for the Bay Area," said MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger.

Motor vehicle exhaust, industrial emissions, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents contain volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides that recombine in the presence of heat and sunlight to form ground-level ozone. Breathing ozone can cause throat irritation, congestion, and chest pain. It can trigger asthma, inflame the lining of the lungs and worsen bronchitis and emphysema. Long-term exposure to ozone can reduce lung function. The Air District issues Spare the Air advisories whenever air quality is forecast to reach unhealthy concentrations.

Air District and transit operator representatives will be available at the Concord BART station tomorrow, Wednesday, August 29, from 4:45 am to 9:00 am to talk with media representatives.

(more)

Precautions

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

What to do

- **Don't Drive!**
- **Take transit. Call 511 or check www.511.org for transit information.**
- **If you must drive, carpool and refuel at dusk when gas vapors are less likely to recombine into ground-level ozone.**

The following Bay Area transit partners are participating in the *2007 Spare the Air/Free Transit* incentive program:

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

**For more Spare the Air and general air quality information visit:
www.sparetheair.org**

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