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Air District adds bike fleet to menu of employee transportation options

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, in conjunction with Bike to Work Day, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced the start of its new program to offer District employees the option of using bicycles for work-related travel.

A fleet of eight bicycles is the newest mode of transportation for Air District employees and joins a menu of other environmentally-friendly, low or no emissions options including hybrid and hydrogen vehicles. The bicycles are equipped with computers to help calculate emission reductions.

"Bicycles are a great transportation option," said Air District Executive Officer Jack Broadbent. "This program shows that it's possible to conduct business and travel for work in a way that promotes health, wellness and clean air."

The Air District supports the clean air choices of employees. The Air District's new bicycle program will allow employees to use bicycles to get to meetings and events during the work day. The use of safety equipment and the completion of a bicycle training program are required before employees can use bicycles for work-related travel.

Because Bike to Work Day coincides with the first Spare the Air day of the 2008 smog season, the Air District is recommending that residents delay their evening bike commute until after 6 pm. Ozone levels diminish in the evening when temperatures cool.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is committed to achieving clean air to protect the public's health and the environment. For more information, visit www.baaqmd.gov.