



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 5, 2023

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### **Air District and MTC launch improved Commuter Benefits Program website for Bay Area employers**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – The Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission have launched an updated and improved portal for registering their Commuter Benefits Program benefits that will help companies as employees continue to return to the worksite.

The Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program requires employers with 50 or more full-time employees in the Bay Area to offer commuter benefits to their employees. Employers must register and provide one of five commuter benefit options to their employees.

Through the new employer portal, companies can:

- Access and update their Commuter Benefits Program compliance information anytime rather than just once a year.
- Update their compliance information without making a customer service request.
- Send customer service inquiries directly through the employer portal, with past inquiries archived in the employer's profile for convenient reference.
- Employers can register or update their registration at:  
<https://511.org/employers/commuter-benefits-program>

“The Commuter Benefits Program is a requirement that can help employers improve productivity and retention by providing commuter benefits to their employees,” said Dr. Philip Fine, executive officer of the Bay Area Air District. “Smarter commute solutions help employees reduce stress and commuting costs, while providing employers with tax benefits, a win-win for all.”

“The Bay Area’s transit network is one of the region’s best assets for getting to work,” said Andrew Fremier, executive director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. “Companies recognize the value of providing commuter benefits to their employees and encouraging new thinking about how to get to work. Today’s updates to the Commuter Benefits Program portal make it easier for companies to register and update their commuter benefits.”

In 2016, the Legislature adopted Senate Bill 1128 allowing Air District Regulation 14, Rule 1: Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program to become a permanent mandatory program for Bay Area employers with 50 or more full-time employees.

The goal of the Commuter Benefits Program is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and traffic congestion by encouraging employees to commute using an alternative to driving alone. The law is designed to give employers flexibility in compliance. This includes offering employees the ability to pay for transit or vanpooling with pre-tax dollars, which can save employers and employees money through lower taxes.

The Commuter Benefits Program is enforced by the Bay Area Air District. Employers who fail to comply with the requirements of this program are subject to enforcement action. Information is available at: <https://511.org/employers/commuter-benefits-program>.

The [Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

[MTC](#) is the transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

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