

BAY AREA COMMUTER BENEFITS PROGRAM

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Bay Area Air Quality Management District



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

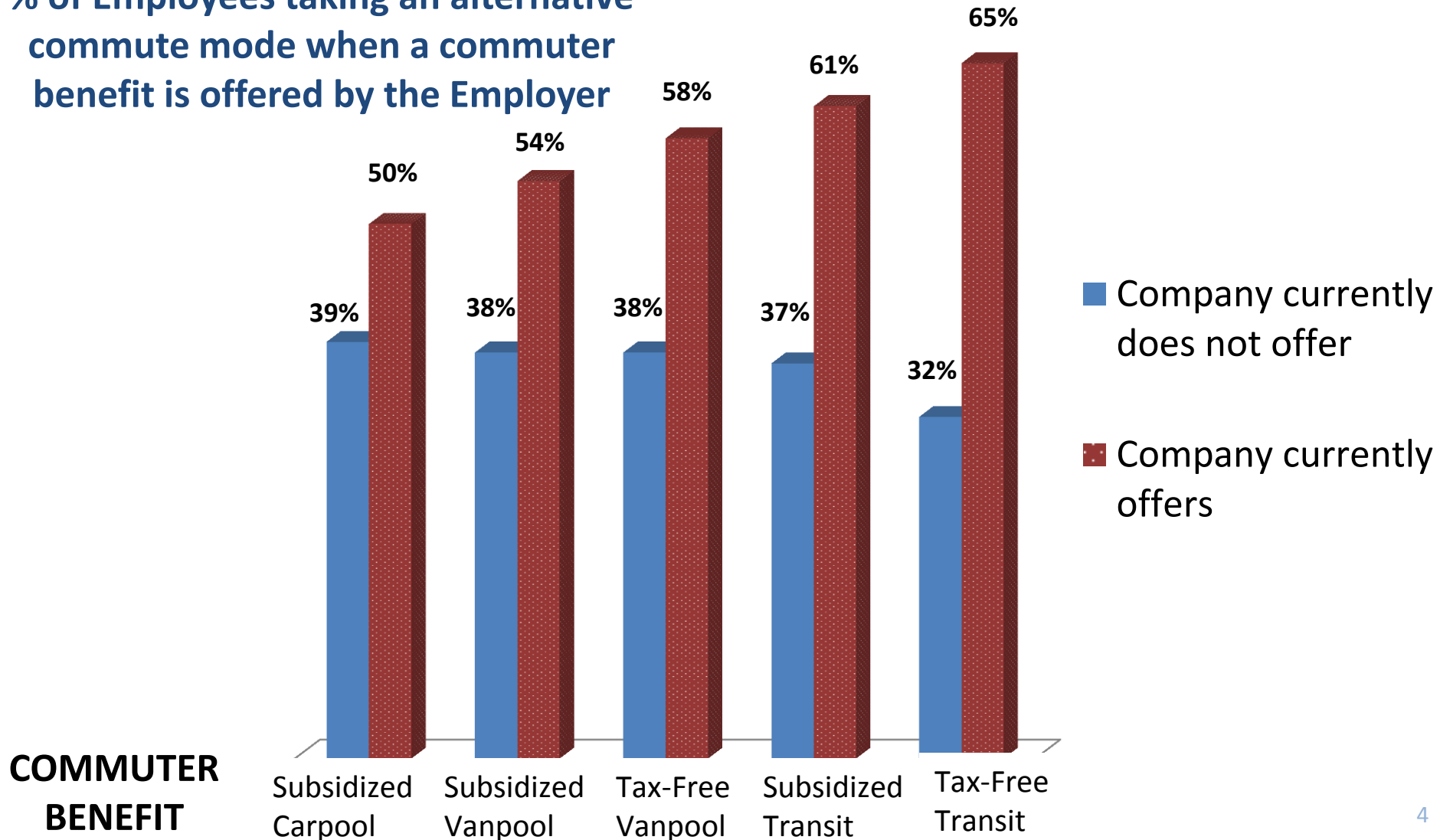
- Program based on Senate Bill 1339
 - signed by Governor in fall 2012
- Authorizes Air District & MTC to jointly adopt a regional commuter benefits ordinance
- Modeled on local ordinances in several Bay Area cities
- Program must be approved by Air District Board of Directors & MTC Commission in order to take effect
- Pilot program: 2014-2016
- Report to Legislature due by July 2016

PURPOSE / OBJECTIVES

- Reduce motor vehicle trips to worksites
- Reduce traffic congestion
- Improve air quality
- Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases
- Take advantage of federal commuter tax benefits
- Expand the number of employers that make commuter benefits available to their employees
- Provide tax savings to employers & employees
- Level the playing field; expand best practices

EMPLOYERS CAN INFLUENCE MODE CHOICE

% of Employees taking an alternative commute mode when a commuter benefit is offered by the Employer



**COMMUTER
BENEFIT**

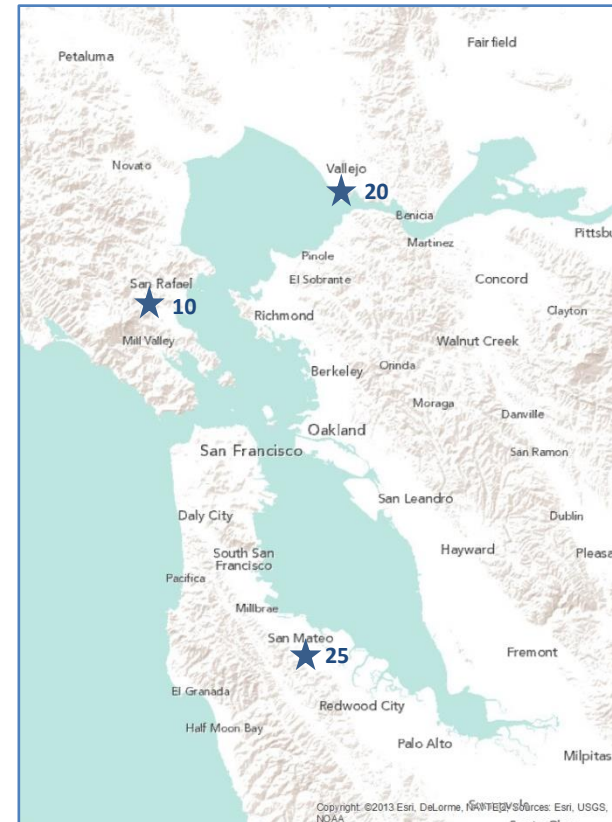
APPLICABILITY

Employers with 50+ full-time employees in Bay Area:

- Private business
- Public agency
- Non-profit organization

Employee count based on all Bay Area worksites combined

- Including branch locations with less than 50 employees



FOUR COMMUTER BENEFIT OPTIONS

- **Option 1:** Pre-tax payroll deduction for transit or vanpool
- **Option 2:** Direct subsidy for transit or vanpool
- **Option 3:** Employer-provided transportation
- **Option 4:** Alternative commuter benefit



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Key requirements:

- Select one of the four commuter benefit options
- Designate a commuter benefits coordinator
- Register with Air District/MTC
- Notify employees & make benefit available
- Provide information needed for Program evaluation

COMMUTER BENEFITS PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- New rule (Regulation 14, Rule 1) to serve as foundation for Program
- Guidelines to explain Program options & requirements
- Employer assistance via MTC 511.org program
- Web-based registration system & employer database

Objective:

- Make it easy for employers to comply
- Minimize administrative requirements

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Outreach to stakeholders: employers, benefit administrators, congestion management agencies, transit agencies
- Meetings & presentations with numerous employer groups throughout the Bay Area
- Issued draft rule & workshop report in late August
- Public workshops in all nine Bay Area counties in October 2013 to get input on draft Program

PROCESS & TIMELINE

Task / Milestone	Time Frame
Issue Notice of Public Hearing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Proposed Rule (Regulation 14, Rule 1)- Staff Report- Socio-economic analysis- CEQA doc (Initial Study/Negative Declaration)	January 2014
Deadline for public comments on proposed rule docs	(30 days)
Air District Board hearing	March 5 or March 19
Concurrence by MTC Commission	March 26
Implementation of Program	Begin April 2014
Employers choose option & implement program	6 months to comply

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

- Better air quality
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Employers save on payroll taxes
- Employees save on transit/vanpool fares - both existing & new riders
- Enhanced employee benefits
- Reduced traffic congestion
- Economy: more \$\$ stay in the Bay Area



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.BAAQMD.gov/commuterbenefits

**To submit comments or questions:
commuterbenefits@BAAQMD.gov**