

2003

BEST Workplaces for CommutersSM

Sacramento
Region

THE AIR DISTRICTS
of the SACRAMENTO
REGION

El Dorado County
Air Pollution Control District

Feather River
Air Quality Management District

Placer County
Air Quality Management District

Sacramento Metropolitan
Air Quality Management District

Yolo-Solano
Air Quality Management District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COALITION ANNOUNCES FIRST ANNUAL Sacramento Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM List

Coalition recognizes employers offering outstanding commuter benefits

Sacramento, CA (October 24, 2003)—Sacramento Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition today announced the first annual list of **Sacramento Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**. The list highlights employers in the Sacramento area offering superior commuter benefits to employees, thereby committing to reducing traffic and air pollution and improving health and quality of life for harried commuters.

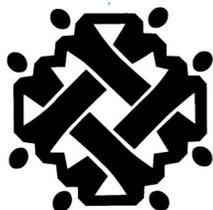
The coalition is comprised of Sacramento business, transportation, human resource, and environmental organizations in addition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This year marks the launch of Sacramento's first-ever **Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** list, which recognizes 45 Sacramento employers, including Hewlett-Packard, Northrop Grumman, CH2M HILL, and the University of California—Davis Medical Center, representing more than 60,000 employees.

"The **Sacramento Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** list was long overdue for this community and the support in the region has been overwhelming," said EPA Bay Area/Sacramento Region program manager Robin Snyder. "By offering commuter benefits, a company with 1,000 employees can lower its parking expenses by more than \$70,000 and save employees \$13,000 in taxes and \$160,000 in gas, parking, and vehicle costs each year. The list is a chance to recognize employers who have shown their commitment to alleviating these problems, saving their employees time and money, while reducing the congestion and pollution caused by so many cars on our roads."

Employers on the list offer employees key commuting benefits such as employer provided transit passes, vanpool subsidies, bike commuter facilities, onsite day care, and telework programs. Participating employers enrolled online by accessing a Web-based calculator to estimate the financial, environmental, traffic-related, and other benefits of offering commuter benefits. To learn more about the Best Workplaces for CommutersSM list, visit <www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov> or <www.bwc.gov>.

Sacramento Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition

Air Districts of the Sacramento Region • American Lung Association of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails
Sacramento Area Council of Governments • Sacramento Area Human Resources Association
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Sacramento Area
Human Resources Association



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of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails



Sacramento Area
Human Resources Association



To qualify as one of **Sacramento Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**, organizations must provide:

- At least one primary commuter benefit, which can include a monthly transit/vanpool pass subsidy, cash in lieu of free parking, or a significant telecommuting program.
- At least three supporting commuter benefits, which can include carpool/vanpool incentives, lockers/showers for bikers or walkers, incentives for living near work, or onsite amenities such as day care or dry cleaning.
- A central point of contact for information, who actively informs employees of commuter benefits available.
- Access to a regional or employer-provided Emergency/Guaranteed Ride Home program.

“The organizations on the Sacramento Region's **Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** list are doing their part to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion by offering excellent commuter benefits to their employees, said Martin Tuttle, executive director of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). “This program is right in line with SACOG's Blueprint efforts, the upcoming Community Design funding program and our Regional Rideshare Program, which all encourage more walk, bike and transit trips.”

About the Best Workplaces for CommutersSM

The Best Workplaces for CommutersSM is a free and voluntary program, recognizing employers nationwide that offer a comprehensive package of commuter benefits. Participating organizations must meet a *National Standard of Excellence* as defined by program criteria. The Best Workplaces for CommutersSM improve employee job satisfaction and save money from reduced payroll taxes. Employees enjoy reduced stress and delays caused by driving alone to work and save money by using employer-provided commuter benefits and reducing use of personal vehicles. Visit <www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov> or <www.bwc.gov> for more information.

About the Sacramento Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition

Sacramento Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition, led by EPA, includes Air Districts of the Sacramento Region, American Lung Association of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails, Sacramento Area Council of Government, Sacramento Area Human Resources Association, and Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. The coalition is working to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, cut global warming emissions, and make commuting less stressful and costly for employers and employees.

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