



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA
An Inter-League Organization of the San Francisco Bay Area



March 19, 2014

Nate Miley, Chairperson
Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board of Directors

RE: Item 13, Proposed Rule: Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program

I am Janice Gulley Blumenkrantz representing the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area.

The League supports the adoption of the proposed Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and also the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

The League has long favored measures that are designed to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and single-occupancy vehicle use, as well as programs to reduce the impact of air pollution. More recently, we place high priority on reducing carbon and other emissions from vehicles that worsen air quality and contribute to climate change. We support efforts to attain reductions of greenhouse gases in the Bay Area to meet the targets that have been established.

The Commuter Benefits Program establishes a pilot program in the Bay Area, which would require employers with 50 or more full-time employees to select one of four commuter benefit options. Included is the option to design their own alternative commuter benefit that would be similarly as effective as the other three options.

By promoting the use of alternative commute modes, the Program will decrease drive-alone commute trips to Bay Area worksites, thereby reducing traffic congestion, improving the speed of traffic flow during peak commute periods, thus reducing emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and criteria air pollutants.

We commend the District for the process by which this Program was developed including substantial outreach to businesses and public hearings around the Bay Area.

We look forward to the report to the Legislature, including measurable results from the pilot program as to the extent to which the intended objectives of reduced emissions of air pollutants, decreased traffic congestion, and greenhouse gases were achieved.

Therefore, the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area urges you to adopt the Commuter Benefits Program as proposed