

# BEST Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>

Bay Area



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## Two Developments Achieve **Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> District** Designation: First in California



**San Francisco (July 24, 2003)**—The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Coalition announced today that the Bishop Ranch Business Park and Hacienda Business Park have been designated as **Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Districts**, the first two such districts in California. Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Districts are unique geographic areas (e.g., a downtown center, business park, shopping mall) where commuter benefits are provided to tenants by the developer, property manager, or other administrator, rather than provided employer-by-employer directly to their own employees. Geographical regions such as these can achieve the Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> District designation if the level of commuter benefits meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) *National Standard of Excellence* for commuter transportation programs.



As Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Districts, Hacienda Business Park and Bishop Ranch Business Park will be included in the second annual list of The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>, which spotlights Bay Area workplaces that offer superior commuter benefits. These Districts offer employees, and residents as well in the case of Hacienda Business Park, true commuting choices that compete with single occupant vehicle use, while reducing traffic and air pollution and improving health and quality of life for harried commuters.



The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Coalition is a group comprised of Bay Area business, transportation, human resource, and environmental organizations. Last year, the first-in-the-nation list of Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> was launched in the Bay Area. The list included more than 80 Bay Area employers, including Sun Microsystems, Genentech, and University of California-Berkeley. (To view the 2002 list, go to <[www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov](http://www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov)> or <[www.bwc.gov](http://www.bwc.gov)>.)



“We are delighted to announce another ‘first’ for California,” said EPA National Program Manager Robin Snyder. “The Bay Area was the first place in the nation to develop a Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> list, and as we are gearing up for our second annual list, we're witnessing outstanding leadership from two valuable partners. The Bishop Ranch and Hacienda Business Parks are the first two Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Districts to be named in the State of California.” They join a select national group of four other districts, including locations in Denver and Atlanta, offering a superior level of service to commuters.



### The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters Coalition

Bay Area Air Quality Management District • Bay Area Council • Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Northern California Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation  
Northern California Human Resource Association • RIDES for Bay Area Commuters, Inc.  
Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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“Even established successful programs have unique challenges to overcome, and EPA’s Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> District designation provides a strong foothold to help us do this. Being classified as a District will help to maintain and increase the momentum of our program on several different levels, as well as provide a valuable, unbiased, and easily identifiable set of standards for measurement internally and externally,” said Marci McGuire, transportation program manager at Bishop Ranch Business Park in San Ramon. “With nearly 30,000 employees, plus natural employer and employee turnover, you never quite reach the end of the tunnel, but you can make serious progress in the right direction.”



“Hacienda Business Park has been actively involved in providing true commuting choices to our tenants for more than twenty years. Our programs seek to actively incorporate a variety of alternatives into the design and operation of Hacienda as we realize that these programs are necessary to meet the needs of today’s workforce,” says James Paxson, general manager for the park. “We are very excited that EPA and DOT have recognized this commitment and have allowed us to distinguish ourselves as a Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> District.”



“By offering commuter benefits, an organization with 1,000 employees can save its employees \$13,000 in taxes and \$160,000 in gas, parking, and vehicles costs each year. Employers that locate in Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Districts are saving their employees time and money, while reducing congestion and air pollution,” said Robin Snyder.



Employers can apply online to determine whether they can achieve the Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> designation; simply visit <[www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov](http://www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov)> or <[www.bwc.gov](http://www.bwc.gov)>.



### About the Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>

The Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> is a program that recognizes employers nationwide for offering a comprehensive package of commuter benefits. Organizations that earn the designation must meet the *National Standard of Excellence* as defined by program criteria. Employees working for the Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> enjoy reduced stress, avoid delays caused by driving alone to work and save money by using employer-provided commuter benefits to reduce use of personal vehicles. Visit <[www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov](http://www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov)> or <[www.bwc.gov](http://www.bwc.gov)> for more information.



### About the Bay Area’s Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Coalition

The Bay Area’s Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Coalition, led by EPA, includes the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Bay Area Council, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Northern California Chapter of the Association of Commuter Transportation, Northern California Human Resources Association, RIDES for Bay Area Commuters Inc., and Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group. 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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### About Hacienda Business Park

Hacienda Business Park is home to some 375 employers employing more than 17,500 employees. A true mixed-use development, the park is also home to nearly 3,500 residents in 1,550 units of housing. Hacienda has developed a comprehensive and award-winning program of commuting benefits for the park's employees and residents made available as amenities, which come with tenancy in the development. Commute program services include: free use of transit (local trips, regional service, and shuttle connections to rail), transit incentives, rideshare resources and amenities, cycling and pedestrian accommodations, an emergency ride home, and a comprehensive library of commute information. Incorporating the largest regional transit hub in the Tri-Valley into the development (serving as the convening point for over ten different transit and transit related operators), Hacienda has further sought to provide a high level of integration between commute services, onsite amenities and project design so that the use of alternatives is as or more attractive to driving alone. Hacienda Business Park can be found on the Internet at <[www.HaciendaBusinessPark.com](http://www.HaciendaBusinessPark.com)>.

### About Bishop Ranch Business Park

Each weekday nearly 30,000 employees travel from every corner of the Bay Area to work at 350 companies in the 585-acre Bishop Ranch Business Park. Better yet, more than 30 percent—or about 9,000—of them arrive on foot, by bicycle, in a carpool, in a vanpool or on one of 60 express buses designed to serve the park's commuters. As a Bay Area transportation leader for more than 20 years, Bishop Ranch has set the standard by providing a comprehensive, full-service transportation program free to employers and employees. The Transportation Centre's services begin before arrival for new tenants requesting onsite pre-relocation employee presentations. Commuting benefits offered to Bishop Ranch employees include new employee commuter kits, free BART Express Bus passes; free transit incentives on connecting local and regional buses, BART, and the ACE Train; free worksite delivery of transit ticket purchases; cash incentives to join or form carpools and vanpools; access to a free guaranteed ride home program; individual commute consultations; ridematching and vanpool formation assistance; 7 miles of walking/biking/exercise trails; free shower rooms with lockers in all 30 buildings and bike racks at each site. Employers are welcomed to schedule free onsite commuter fairs for their employees. Dining, shopping, medical and dental offices, conference facilities, and a full-service 300-room hotel are located within the park's boundaries. Visit <[www.BishopRanch.com](http://www.BishopRanch.com)> for more information.

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