

County of Santa Clara
Board of Supervisors
Supervisorial District Five
Supervisor Liz Kniss



BOSD5-102009-03

Prepared by: Paul Murphy
Senior Policy Analyst

DATE: October 20, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Liz Kniss
Supervisor, District 5

SUBJECT: Referral Regarding Commuter Tax Benefits

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Refer to Administration a report back through the Finance and Government Operations Committee that evaluates the potential opportunities and provides a cost/ benefit analysis of the County implementing IRS Tax Code Section 132(F), Commuter Tax Benefits, in order to increase commute alternatives for employees.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Santa Clara Air Quality Resource Team recently held a public forum that presented opportunities for employers to facilitate increased commuting by employees through IRS Code 132(F), Commuter Tax Benefits.

The requested report should include an analysis of the applicability of the commuter tax benefits to county employee benefits, the potential savings to employees of the county and to the county itself, and the steps necessary to include commuter tax benefits in future employee contracts as a means to increase commuting among county employees at no additional cost to the County.

BACKGROUND

The Commuter Tax Benefit has three primary components:

- 1) Pre-tax use of funds toward transit or van pool costs
- 2) Pre-tax use of funds toward parking costs
- 3) A bicycle benefit of up to \$20 per month