



Media fact sheet – Alternative Transportation at MBARI

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MBARI is located in Moss Landing, near the center of Monterey Bay. However, most MBARI employees live in the urban areas of Monterey, Santa Cruz, Salinas, and Watsonville. MBARI instituted a vanpool program to help reduce air pollution, gasoline consumption, and traffic on heavily-used Highway 1. The vanpool program was also designed to promote a sense of community and provide a chance for informal communication among MBARI's scientists, engineers, and other employees. In addition to participating in the vanpool program, several groups of MBARI employees ride bicycles to work at least one day a week.

Vanpools:

- The MBARI vanpool program started in Spring 1997, after months of employee meetings to determine best routes, number of vans, rules for riding, etc.
- MBARI purchased four large vans, which seat up to 12 people. MBARI also used an existing company mini-van to cover a route with fewer riders.
- MBARI outfitted each of its vans with cell phones, safety equipment, and first-aid kits, as well as bicycle racks, which have been a great benefit for those who bike to work or use bicycles to get around during the work day.
- MBARI pays for van maintenance and insurance; employees pay a fixed monthly fee to cover gasoline costs. Van drivers pay no fee.
- As of Fall, 2003, the vanpools cover five routes every day:
 - Monterey / Pacific Grove
 - Salinas / Marina
 - Santa Cruz
 - Capitola / Aptos
 - Prunedale (mini-van)
- Each year, MBARI human resources works with riders to re-evaluate the routes and make changes as necessary.

Bicycling to work:

Many MBARI employees have been bicycling to work for years, traveling up to 25 miles each way. Often these employees ride in groups, for mutual support and safety. During a 2 ½ -month period during summer 2003, these riders covered almost 7000 miles and saved hundreds of gallons of gas. Here are the details (for June 23, 2003 through September 11, 2003):

Employee town of residence	Approximate Distance	Number of bike trips	Miles ridden	Gallons of gas saved
Santa Cruz	25	109	2725	100.9
Monterey/PG	21	125	2625	97.2
Marina/Prunedale	10	48	480	17.8
Salinas	15	49	735	27.2
Other	50	3	150	5.6
Total		334	6715	248.7