

CENTRAL AND EAST COUNTY

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EAST BAY ROUNDUP

Bay Area -103 employers lauded as commuter-friendly

By Lisa Vorderbrueggen

The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters Coalition today released its second annual list of firms that go out of their way to help their workers find alternatives to driving alone.

The list commends 103 firms plus two business parks, Hacienda in Pleasanton and Bishop Ranch in San Ramon, that employ more than 188,000 people. The list has grown from last year's 84 firms.

In order to qualify for the designation, the firm must offer commuter benefits such as transit subsidies, car pool incentives, telecommuting opportunities or access to an emergency ride home.

New firms to earn the honor this year include Cisco Systems, city of Walnut Creek, Ditech Communications and Bayer Corp.

The coalition includes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and regional air quality, car pool, business and transportation planning agencies.

For a complete list of firms or information about how to qualify, visit www.bwc.gov/employ/list_of_employers-state.htm.