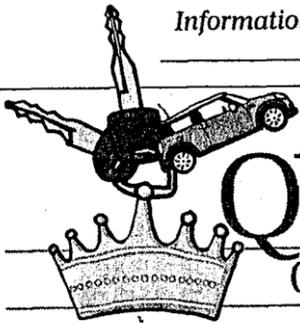


# The Commuter Page

Information and ideas to make the ride a little more comfortable

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and more traffic information  
around the clock at our Web site.



## QUEEN OF THE ROAD

**Queen:** Her Majesty, Most Royal Highness of the Asphalt, recently asked readers if they could identify the legal hand signal used to indicate a stop or sudden decrease of speed. The answers flooded in, and here's a big hand for the many loyal subjects who knew the answer. The first correct answer appeared at 5:47 a.m. (!) Wednesday, from Lindy Wille of Pittsburg. Congratulations, Lindy! As of this writing, the responses are still coming.

Just to be exact, here is the Vehicle Code's definition of the proper hand signal for a stop or sudden decrease of speed: "Hand and arm extended downward beyond the side of the vehicle." Here are some reader responses:

**Commuter:** I'm from a galaxy far away, but we kids were taught to use hand signals in our driving lessons from Dad. I think if one were to use the hand down, for slowing down, the drivers today would think you were drying your fingernail polish. Oh, for the simpler life, in

However, the Vehicle Code is clear: "Any signal of intention to turn right or left shall be given continuously during the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning." California Highway Patrol Officer Jason Gonzales was sympathetic and said he has never given a ticket for this, but "the answer is yes, you do have to give the signal," he said.

Here's a note from a kindhearted commuter.  
**Commuter:** Regarding the BMW who was alone in the carpool lane talking on his cell phone and tailgating: When this happens to me, I automatically assume that if someone is committing three grievous errors at once, it has to be because they are racing to the hospital where their child lies ill. We would all do whatever we needed to do to get there in such circumstances. If I were ahead of him I would move over straightaway so he could get there sooner. Why is it that we never assume the most compassionate scenario?

Lisa, Livermore

**Queen:** Well said, Lisa. You are a gentlewoman and a scholar.

### HOW TO CONTACT THE QUEEN

Got questions about your commute? Whether you drive, ride, bike or walk, write the Queen at The Commuter Page, c/o The Times, P.O. Box 8099, Walnut Creek, CA 94598, or [ccncommuter@bayareanewsgroup.com](mailto:ccncommuter@bayareanewsgroup.com).

## San Francisco's hybrid taxis prove worth

■ Cabs have shown to be durable and saved their drivers about \$9,000 a year

By Maria L. La Ganga  
LOS ANGELES TIMES  
SAN FRANCISCO—Even here, in the capital of true believers in one thing or another, Paul Gillespie stands out.

The veteran cabbie and former president of the San Francisco Taxicab Commission is one of the reasons this city's taxi fleet is vying to be the most environmentally correct in the country.

After years of advocating for hybrid taxis, Gillespie, who says he has "the carbon footprint of an Ethiopian child" now has proof that members to protect Vallejo's interests while negotiating the impending state takeover of the ferry service.

Council members were urged to give broad direction on a transition plan recently released by the state Water Emergency Transportation Authority. The group was formed to prepare the Bay Area for a future disaster and eventually take control of existing area ferry services.

Councilmember Stephanie Gomes said the plan should ensure that Vallejo remains the ferry terminal for area service, especially in light of scheduled waterfront parking structure construction.

The agency must approve the state's transition plan by June, according to state legislation passed in January 2008. The recently released transition plan calls for Vallejo to hand over the keys to its ferries by January.

— Jessica A. York



than one-third of the taxis, equipment and facilities of the nation's seven largest rail transit agencies are near the end of their useful life or past that point, the government said last week. Many have components that are defective or may be critically damaged.

A report by the Federal Transit Administration estimates it will cost \$50 billion to bring the rail systems in Chicago, Boston, New York, New Jersey, San Francisco, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., into good repair and \$5.9 billion a year to maintain them.

The study comes as Congress is gearing up to overhaul highway and transit programs over the next six years through soon-to-be-introduced legislation that some lawmakers estimated will seek about a half trillion dollars.

— Associated Press

ions of gasoline in January 2009 than in January 2008, a decline of 1.8 percent, the state Board of Equalization announced.

Californians used a total of 1.21 billion gallons of gasoline in January 2009, compared with 1.23 billion

ROBERT DURELL/LOS ANGELES TIMES  
2008 when it was \$3.30. C line sold at the lower price in January 2009 generate approximately \$184 million in sales tax during that month, an estimated \$117 million less than was generated in January 2008.

— ALB

## Gas prices

Here's a look at where prices stood as of Thursday. Prices are for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline.

SOME AREA STATIONS	UP OR DOWN	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK
Concord Chevron, 795 Oak Grove Road	□	\$2.29	\$2.29
Richmond Arco, 12890 San Pablo Ave.	↑	\$2.27	\$2.25
Livermore Tri-Valley Shell, 809 Stanley Blvd.	↑	\$2.33	\$2.31
Martinez Valero, 4141 Alhambra Ave.	□	\$2.29	\$2.29
Antioch Gas City, 4198 Lone Tree Way	↑	\$2.29	\$2.25

To find the lowest fuel prices in the East Bay, read the latest news on gas and views, visit the Gas Prices Page at [ContraCostaTimes.com/gasprices](http://ContraCostaTimes.com/gasprices).

Source: Individual stations



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Point Molate Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

The Department of the Navy (Navy) has partnered with environmental agencies and the community to coordinate the environmental restoration and cleanup of Point Molate under the Navy's Installation Restoration (IR) Program. The Point Molate Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) supports the IR Program. RAB meetings are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and are intended to provide an open forum for the community to attend and participate in the IR Program at Point Molate.

Join us on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Richmond City Library, Madeline F. Whittlesey Community Room, 325 Civic Center Plaza, for the next RAB meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Michael Bloom, BRAC Environmental Coordinator, Base Realignment and Closure, Program Management Office West, San Diego, CA at (619) 532-0967, or by e-mail at [michael.s.bloom@navy.mil](mailto:michael.s.bloom@navy.mil)

For more information on the Navy's environmental program at Point Molate, please visit the Navy's BRAC web site at: <http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/basepage.aspx?baseid=50&state=California&name=ptmolate>

West County Times  
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May 3, 2009

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\*Source: Scarborough Research, 2008



**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONTRACT  
TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM**

**Contract No. N-68711-03-D-5106**

**File Code: 132921-02/2**

**TO:** Contracting Officer  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
Southwest  
1220 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92132-5190

**DATE:** May 11, 2009  
**D.O. #** BAI-07-S-0007 - CTO 33  
**LOCATION:** Point Molate, CA  
**DCN #** BAI.5106.0033.0007

**Attention:** Cynthia Mafara

**FROM:** Betty Schmucker  
Project Manager

**DESCRIPTION:** Restoration Advisory Board Support – Public Notice for May 6, 2009, RAB meeting printed in the *West County Times* on Sunday, May 3, 2009

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