



A PROJECT UPDATE FROM THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY TOBACCO PREVENTION PROJECT

Spring 2013

The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance on 2/19/13 that will prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes at all places where smoking is prohibited and require a tobacco retailer's license for the sale of electronic cigarettes. Electronic cigarettes are battery-operated nicotine delivery devices designed to look like cigarettes. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and many communities are concerned about the safety of electronic cigarettes. For more information about electronic cigarettes, call Denice Dennis at (925) 313-6285 or email denice.dennis@hsd.cccounty.us.

San Ramon adopted comprehensive city-wide secondhand protections on 2/26/13. Smoking is now prohibited in the following areas in San Ramon: on sidewalks, if adjacent to public parks, schools or within 25 feet of residential or commercial buildings; in parks and recreation areas (except outdoor areas of golf courses); at public events such as farmer's markets; in service areas such as ATM ticket lines; in privately owned, unenclosed parking lots open to the public, if within 25 feet of a building; in taxis; in 75% of hotel rooms; within 25 feet of any entrance exit operable window or air intake of a neighboring single family home; inside single family homes licensed as a family day care facility and in the following areas of multi-unit housing with 2 or more units: on balconies and patios; in common indoor and outdoor areas; within 25 feet of an individual unit and within 25 feet of common outdoor areas. Special kudos to the San Ramon Youth Council for the work they did to advocate for these protections!

Tobacco Prevention advocates went to the 2/26/13 Concord City Council meeting to tell the City Council about the importance of city-wide secondhand smoke protections. As a result, the **Concord City Council directed staff to report to the Housing and Economic Development Committee of the Council on enforcement of the smokefree downtown ordinance and recommendations for possible stronger protections.** A total of eight (8) residents and organizational representatives spoke about the issue, including Edward Escobar and his two young children who are being exposed to drifting smoke in the home; Dave Pitman (Coalition member and Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board member); Colette O'Keeffe (resident); Tom Marx (Planned Parenthood); and Lauren Fultz-Stout (American Lung Association). To be notified of future advocacy opportunities in Concord, contact the Tobacco Prevention Coalition at cctobaccopreventioncoalition@gmail.com or call (925) 313-6825.

Next Tobacco Prevention Coalition Meetings

Monday, April 22, 2013

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Contra Costa Office of Education

Briones Room, 77 Santa Barbara Rd, Pleasant Hill

Meeting will include:

“Role of the Community in Advocating for Tobacco Policy”

by Wendel Brunner, Director of Public Health, Contra Costa Health Services

For more information, call (925) 313-6216 or email cctobaccopreventioncoalition@gmail.com

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COMMUNITY WELLNESS & PREVENTION PROGRAM

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The Walnut Creek City Council voted to move forward with exploring secondhand smoke protections. Ten advocates including a teen affected by secondhand smoke drifting into the condominium where she lives, provided testimony in favor of the proposed protections and ten advocates and organizations, including the Contra Costa Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board, the American Cancer Society and the Tobacco Prevention Coalition submitted letters in support of these protections. Staff was directed to begin gathering more information and community feedback on the secondhand smoke protections in a variety of outdoor areas including within 20 feet of entryways of buildings open to the public; in outdoor dining; and in all outdoor areas in the Pedestrian Retail Zone (downtown). Protections in multi-unit housing will also be considered. The next step will be a series of "Stakeholders" forums and then city staff will develop a draft ordinance and the Council will hold a public hearing to discuss and vote on the ordinance. To be notified of future advocacy opportunities in Walnut Creek, contact the Tobacco Prevention Coalition at cctobaccopreventioncoalition@gmail.com or call (925) 313-6216.

In the last few years, New York City and Providence, Rhode Island passed laws restricting the sale of flavored non-cigarette tobacco products, including cigars and chewing tobacco, with a minor exception allowing flavored non-cigarette tobacco products to be sold in certain adult-only areas. Both of these laws have been challenged by the tobacco industry. Last week, **the Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld New York City's ban on flavored tobacco products** — that law remains in effect in that city, as well as in Providence, Rhode Island, which had its ban upheld in December. Taken together, these decisions reaffirm the historical power of state and local governments to enact laws restricting the sale and distribution of tobacco products and to adopt restrictions that are more stringent than those contained in federal law.

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