

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR POLICIES LIMITING
SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE

WHEREAS, the California Air Resources Board of the California Environmental Protection Agency has designated secondhand smoke a toxic air contaminant; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies have concluded that cigarette smoking causes chronic lung disease, coronary heart disease, stroke, cancer of the lungs, larynx, esophagus, mouth, and bladder, and contributes to cancer of cervix, pancreas, and kidneys; and

WHEREAS, the use of cigars is known to cause lung, larynx, esophageal, and oral cancer; and

WHEREAS, more than 440,000 people die in the United States from tobacco-related diseases every year, making it the nation's leading cause of preventable illness; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found secondhand smoke to be a risk to public health, and has classified secondhand smoke as a group A carcinogen, the most dangerous class of carcinogen; and

WHEREAS, exposure to secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in this country, killing over 52,000 non-smokers each year, including 3,000 deaths from lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, between 4,200 and 7,440 nonsmokers die of ischemic heart disease from secondhand smoke each year in California; and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke exposure causes as many as 300,000 children in the United States to suffer from lower respiratory tract infections, such as pneumonia and bronchitis, exacerbates childhood asthma, and increases the risk of acute chronic middle ear infection in children; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of smoking in California was estimated to be \$475 per resident or \$3,331 per smoker per year, for a total of nearly \$15.8 billion in smoking-related costs in 1999 alone; and

WHEREAS, with certain exceptions, state law prohibits smoking inside an enclosed place of employment; and

WHEREAS, state law prohibits smoking in playgrounds and tot lots and within twenty feet of the main entrances and exits of public buildings while expressly authorizing local communities to enact additional restrictions;

RESOLVED that _____ endorses a policy protecting Contra Costa residents from secondhand smoke exposure, and be it further

RESOLVED to encourage and support efforts to limit secondhand smoke exposure by moving a comprehensive secondhand smoke ordinance in the county of Contra Costa.

Name of Signatory

Date

Please return to: Tobacco Prevention Coalition,
597 Center Avenue, Suite 115 Martinez, CA 94553,
Fax No. (925) 313-6864