



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Larry Meredith Ph.D.
Director

Date: January 25, 2007

From: Larry Meredith, Ph.D., Director,
Marin County Department of Health and Human Services

To: Marin County Business Owners and Managers

Re: New Smoking Ordinance Legal Requirements for Marin County Smoke-Free Air and Health Protection Ordinance # 7.70

On November 14, 2006, the Marin County Board of Supervisors approved amendments to the *Marin County Smoke-Free Air and Health Protection Ordinance*. This updated ordinance closes legal loopholes while expanding protections against second-hand smoke exposure to the public, specifically in outdoor gathering places. These amendments reflect practices used in many California counties, based on current scientific studies from CAL-EPA (California Environmental Protection Agency, January 2006) and the Surgeon General Report (July 2006) about the dangers of second hand smoke exposure.

The legal requirements of the amended Smoke Free Air Ordinance **will take effect on February 14, 2007**. The enclosed Information packet will help you comply with the law. (*Note: Home based businesses are exempt*). All areas that must be smoke-free are detailed in the enclosed informational brochure.

The enclosed sign is required by the law and must be posted by February 14, 2007.

The following tips may help make the compliance easier for you, your employees or customers:

- Review and provide copies of the brochure to your employees, customers, clients and visitors. Educating your employees will ensure expanded compliance with the ordinance and prevent you from being fined.
- Persons requesting additional information may be referred to our website: www.smokefreemarin.com for a full copy of the law, as well as scientific studies about the dangers of second hand smoke.
- Since smokers tend to smoke near ash trays, place these at least **20 feet** away from building. This is a minimum standard. California law permits you to make your entire property smoke free.

Research shows that 80% of all smokers would like to quit and that smoke-free public places provides a more supportive environment. Encourage employees to use this new law as a reason to go smoke-free, by offering to help pay half a cessation (quit smoking) program offered by Kaiser 444-2173 (\$90) or Bay Area Community Resources 444-5580 x 399 (sliding fee scale). The Smoker's Helpline also provides free phone cessation services to all California smokers, at their convenience: 1-800-NO-Butts or www.californiasmokershelpline.org.

We look forward to working with you to comply with this new law by creating a healthy smoke-free environment. If you have any questions, or need additional information and/or signage please contact the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco, Tobacco Related Disease Control Program at 499-3020.