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April 19, 2013

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J.E. Fielding MD*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **NATIONAL PLANNING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR BEST PRACTICE**

This is to inform you that the Department of Public Health (DPH) Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Division has been recognized with the American Planning Association's National Planning Achievement Award for Best Practice for the Model Design Manual for Living Streets. The Manual was identified as an outstanding example of a transportation project that encourages non-motorized transportation through the development of a comprehensive street design manual, including extensive guidance for active transportation and environmentally sustainable design practices.

The Manual was developed by DPH and partners including the Luskin Center at the University of California, Los Angeles and Ryan Snyder Associates, in collaboration with local design professionals and national experts. It was funded by DPH's RENEW LA County program, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Communities Putting Prevention to Work initiative.

The purpose of the Manual is to help cities comply with new State requirements like the California Complete Streets Act, which mandates that new circulation elements in general plans be based on complete streets principles. In addition, this guide is a template for jurisdictions to update existing street design manuals, and help guide street design on the individual building project level.

With more than 15,000 hits on the Manual's website (<http://www.modelstreetdesignmanual.com/>) and more than 7,500 downloads to date, dozens of cities are adopting the manual or customizing it to update their own guidelines. The Model Design Manual was also recognized by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's as a 2012 Exemplary Human Environment

Each Supervisor
April 19, 2013
Page 2

Initiative. Locally, due to the recommendation by your Board, the Manual has spurred ongoing collaboration between DPH other County departments including the Departments of Public Works, Regional Planning, and Parks and Recreation.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

JEF:ps/mh

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
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