

SYN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

March 11, 2008

In 2002, the State of California enacted legislation prohibiting smoking within 25 feet of playground and sandbox areas to protect children against the harmful effects of secondhand smoke. Unfortunately, state law does not safeguard children and adults from the potential exposure to secondhand smoke at state, county, and/or city parks. As a result, many local jurisdictions have adopted stricter policies making their parks 100% smoke-free including the cities of Los Angeles, Pasadena, Gardena, Palmdale, Huntington Park, and Cerritos. Los Angeles County adopted a policy banning smoking at beaches in 2004 but has yet to consider a similar policy at our parks.

According to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's *Health Effects of Outdoor Second Hand Smoke* report, cigarette smoke saturates the area surrounding the smoker and then spreads downwind to nonsmokers who, in turn, breathe in the carcinogens and toxicants contained in the smoke. Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse health effects on adults and children.

In addition to being a toxic air contaminant, discarded cigarette and cigar butts become environmental pollutants in our public parks. As one of the most littered items in the world, cigarette butts do not decompose naturally, but rather can take about ten years to disintegrate. Until then, they remain strewn across our parks as an unsightly

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

BURKE \_\_\_\_\_

threat to humans and wildlife alike.

Safeguarding the public's health against the harmful effects of cigarette smoking and secondhand smoke in public spaces is important. The creation and adoption of a smoke-free policy in county parks is another important step towards improving the health of our children and families.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board instruct the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Public Health to analyze the advisability of a ban on smoking in the County's public parks, and to report back to the Board within 90 days with their findings and recommendations. The report shall include an analysis of the effect on public health, the potential costs including enforcement and any impact on golf revenues, the experiences at other local jurisdictions that have adopted such an ordinance, and a list of all county-operated public parks that would be impacted by such an ordinance.

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