

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

Subject

Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Device Use, Prevention and Cessation

**Policy
Number**

A-99

Page

1 of 3

Purpose

To establish policy guidelines for programs dealing with tobacco and electronic smoking device use, prevention and cessation.

Background

The use of tobacco constitutes a major and serious public health hazard. Tobacco use exacts an increase burden of disease, disability, and death. Smoking causes approximately one of every five deaths nationally as well as in San Diego County (19.4%). Smoking has been determined to be a causal factor in over 480,000 premature deaths a year nationally, 49,000 in California and 3,800 in San Diego County. The California Air Resources Board declared environmental tobacco smoke or secondhand smoke (SHS) a toxic air contaminant which may cause or contribute to an increase in morbidity or mortality. Each year, SHS is responsible for 41,000 deaths nationally, 4,000 in California and 302 in San Diego County. It is associated with increased risk of lower respiratory tract infections in children. The costs associated with smoking exceed \$300 billion per year, including \$170 billion for direct medical care, \$156 billion in lost productivity and \$5.6 billion related to SHS. These costs are borne by taxpayers through federal, state and local programs. The opportunity and responsibility exists for the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego to take social, educational and legislative action to discourage tobacco use, restrict tobacco industry influence, eliminate exposure to SHS, and thereby protect and promote the health of the citizens of San Diego County. Electronic smoking devices include electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic cigarillos, electronic pipes, and electronic hookah. Electronic smoking device use is rising in popularity, including among youth. Data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Tobacco Products (CTP), in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (April 2015), reported that the use of electronic cigarettes by U.S. middle and high school students tripled from 2013 to 2014. The 2017 National Youth Tobacco Survey shows that e-cigarette use (use on at least 1 day in the past 30 days) among middle school and high school students continued to be the most commonly used tobacco product for the fourth year in a row. The survey shows that more than 2 million youth currently use e-cigarettes, with most choosing the devices because of the many flavors available. Young people who use electronic cigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.

The CDC states that the use of an electronic cigarette device is unsafe for kids, teens, and young adults. Most devices contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development. There is a similar effect on serum cotinine levels, a by-product of nicotine, in those who are exposed to tobacco and electronic cigarettes, as both a user and passive bystander. The aerosol released from electronic smoking devices contain known toxins, with some metals at even higher concentrations than in cigarette smoke. A 2016 Report of the Surgeon General on *E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults* revealed that using nicotine in adolescence can harm parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood, and impulse control

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

Subject

Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Device Use, Prevention and Cessation

**Policy
Number**

A-99

Page

2 of 3

The County of San Diego is committed to improving the health of its more than 3 million residents, and identifies tobacco use as a primary impediment to achieving optimal health. Tobacco use is one of the three behaviors identified by the 3-4-50 initiative (poor nutrition and lack of physical activity being the other two behaviors) that contribute to four diseases (cancer, heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes, and respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) that result in more than 50 percent of all deaths in San Diego County.

This policy supports the County's *Live Well, San Diego* vision of a healthy, safe, and thriving region, by providing direction for pursuing policy changes for a healthier environment.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors to:

1. Support and strengthen the County tobacco regulatory ordinances as an ideal vehicle for promotion and operation of tobacco use (including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, snuff, chewing tobacco, electronic, or other tobacco products), prevention, cessation, and enforcement programs.
 - An "electronic smoking device" is defined as an electronic and/or battery-operated device, the use of which may resemble smoking, which can be used to deliver an inhaled dose of nicotine or other substances.
 - An "electronic smoking device" includes any such electronic smoking device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an electronic cigarette, an electronic cigar, an electronic cigarillo, an electronic pipe, an electronic hookah, vapes, vape pen, or any other product name or descriptor. Some devices look like regular cigarettes, cigars, or pipes; some may look like USB flash drives, pens, and other everyday items
 - An "electronic smoking device" does not include any product specifically approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease.
2. Support utilization of the media, such as radio, television, outdoor advertising, print and the Internet, in presenting focused and timely information on anti-tobacco issues and tobacco-free lifestyles.
3. Direct the Health and Human Services Agency (the "Agency") to work with other County departments to provide tobacco use prevention and cessation information to County employees.
4. Support school and youth peer-oriented approaches for the development of both tobacco use prevention and cessation activities in San Diego schools and youth agencies.
5. Support coordination of countywide tobacco control efforts between local organizations.

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

Subject

Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Device Use, Prevention and Cessation

**Policy
Number**

A-99

Page

3 of 3

6. Encourage city and county fire departments to continue public education on the hazards of careless smoking habits in the home.
7. Direct the Agency to collect, tabulate and analyze vital, morbidity, mortality, and other data related to tobacco use for the planning and implementation of local tobacco control programs.
8. Support federal, state, and local legislation, regulations, and programs that promote and support efforts to implement tobacco use prevention and cessation activities, reduce access to tobacco products, reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, and restrict the promotion and advertising of tobacco products.
9. Address policy conflicts between government support of medical care and tax generation, and tobacco growth, sales, and advertising.
10. Authorize the Agency Director to carry out any additional activities necessary to reduce the impact of tobacco and electronic smoking device use in San Diego County, including but not limited to:
 - Limiting tobacco promoting influences;
 - Reducing the availability of tobacco and tobacco products;
 - Reducing exposure to second-hand smoke, tobacco smoke residue, tobacco waste, and other tobacco products; and
 - Promoting cessation services and 100% tobacco-free environments on County properties.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-25.

Board Action

06-05-84 (25)
12-13-88 (73)
12-05-96 (36)
07-10-01 (15)
04-25-06 (4)
12-09-08 (33)
01-24-12 (10)
11-05-13 (24)
03-11-14 (7)
11-13-18 (17)

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

Subject

Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Device Use, Prevention and Cessation

**Policy
Number**

A-99

Page

4 of 3

CAO Reference

1. Health and Human Services Agency
2. County Counsel