



County of Yolo

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Smoke-Free Housing Movement is Continued in Yolo County

Winters, Ca – The City officials of Winters took a proactive step on April 20, 2010, by passing a resolution encouraging the multi-unit housing complexes of Winters to designate at least half of their property as smoke-free. They are the second city in Yolo County to pass this resolution, following the City of Woodland which passed it in April of 2008. As many California cities debate laws to ban smoking in outdoor and indoor spaces, more and more Yolo County multi-unit housing complexes are going smoke-free. At least 16 Yolo County multi-unit housing complexes restrict smoking in at least 50% of individual units according to the Smoke-Free Apartments Project of the Yolo County Health Department. A 2009 survey of Woodland residents showed that 79% of respondents agree that apartment complexes should have 50% of the units smoke-free by law.

Exposure to secondhand smoke kills over 49,000 nonsmokers each year in the United States. It is well known that cancer causing chemicals drift between units in apartment complexes through windows and under doors, and even through electrical outlets and shared ventilation systems, putting neighbors at risk. In addition, smoking in a unit increases the risk of fires, complaints from other tenants, and turnover costs due to chemicals in smoke that stay on surfaces such as walls, carpets, and counters.

“It is wonderful that the Winters City Council is working with the Smoke-Free Apartments Project to encourage apartment owners and managers to protect children and families from secondhand smoke exposure in their homes,” states Dr. Joseph Iser, Director-Health Officer of the Yolo County Health Department.

The Yolo County Health department offers free support and resources for the managers and owners of multi-unit housing complexes who want to adopt smoke-free policies. For more information about local smoke-free apartment complexes or assistance in going smoke-free, call the Smoke-Free Apartments project at Yolo County Health Department at 530-666-8616.

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