



# County of Yolo

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### **Smoke Free Rental Trend in Yolo County Continuing To Grow**

**Woodland, CA.**— As many California cities debate laws to ban smoking in outdoor and indoor shared spaces, some Davis apartment complexes are going smoke-free.

In March 2008, King Properties of Davis decided to prohibit smoking inside all of its 300 properties, including multi-unit complexes, single family homes, and duplexes. It doesn't stop there. At least eight other Davis apartment complexes currently restrict smoking in at least 50% of individual units according to the Smoke-free Apartments Project of the Yolo County Health Department.

"We decided to go smoke-free because we value the health and safety of our residents." says Rebecca King owner of King Properties.

A 2004 poll of Davis residents showed that 84% of people felt that smoking restrictions should be in place in shared housing complexes. In addition, 70% supported completely smoke-free shared housing complexes. In the past year, at least eight other Davis complexes have made some or all of their units smoke-free including Americana Arms, Camellia Apartments, Davis Townhouse Apartments, Lexington Apartments, Pepperwood Apartments, Redwood Tree Apartments, Russell Park Apartments, and University Village Apartments.

It is well known that cancer causing chemicals drift between units in apartment complexes through windows, under doors, and even through electrical outlets and shared ventilation systems, putting neighbors at risk. In addition, smoking in a unit increases risk of fires, complaints from other tenants, and turnover costs due to chemicals in smoke that stay in surfaces such as walls, carpet and counters.

"It is wonderful that these housing agencies in Davis are voluntarily making the decision to protect children and families from secondhand smoke exposure in their apartments," states Dr. Bette Hinton, Director-Health Officer of the Yolo County Health Department. "We encourage other apartment complexes and rental units to do the same."

For more information about local smoke-free apartment complexes or assistance in making your apartment smoke-free call the Smoke-free Apartment Project of the Yolo County Health Department at (530) 666-8645.

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