

Palomar Health Community Action Council of San Marcos
.....Promoting wellness through partnership
555 E. Valley Parkway, Escondido, CA 92025



August 11, 2014

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of San Marcos
1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069

RE: Support for prohibiting the use of Electronic Vaping Devices (e-cigarettes or e-hookahs) in locations that are currently smoke-free

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers:

The Palomar Health Community Action Council of San Marcos supports prohibiting vaping in all smoke-free locations within the city. About half of the cities in San Diego County and the San Marcos Unified School District have recently moved to prohibit the use of Vaping Devices in their smoke-free locations. Vaping tobacco and other illicit drugs have rapidly grown in popularity. As a result we are concerned about the negative health effects, lack of health and safety standards and regulation, and the increasing number of people vaping in public areas.

Vaping liquid tobacco, marijuana, heroin or other drugs is harmful, even if used in a vaporizer. Regardless if a person vapes or smokes drugs, toxic chemicals are emitted into the body and air. Vaping illicit drugs are growing in popularity, in part because it is harder to detect than smoking. Vapors dissipate in the air quicker than smoke and have little, if any, smell. You could be sharing a park bench or outdoor patio area with someone vaping marijuana or heroin and you likely wouldn't even know it.

Electronic Vaping Devices, E-cigarettes and E-hookahs, are marketed with unsubstantiated health claims that mislead consumers. Some device manufacturers claim vaping can help tobacco smokers quit or are a safe alternative to traditional cigarettes. None of these claims have been reviewed by the FDA or any other public health authority. According to the Center for Disease Control, *"There is currently no conclusive scientific evidence that e-cigarettes promote long-term cessation, and e-cigarettes are not included as a recommended smoking cessation method by the U.S. Public Health Service."*

No federal agency currently regulates how vaping devices are made or how and to whom they are marketed and sold. With no regulation of what is in liquid nicotine, these products contain widely varying levels of nicotine. Delivered in high doses, nicotine can be lethal. Analyses of some liquid nicotine have found toxic chemicals. Liquid nicotine can be made by anyone, anywhere, posing a threat to the health and safety of its consumers. The CDC recently released a report that said calls to poison centers involving e-cigarette liquids with nicotine rose from **one per month in September 2010 to 215 per month in February 2014.**

Many of our community action council members are reporting an increase use of vaping devices in parks and public spaces. Technically, someone can vape in our parks, libraries, or civic center. In order to maintain the health and safety of the public, and send a message that vaping in public spaces is not allowed or appropriate, **we urge you to prohibit vaping in all the of the city's smoke-free locations.**

Sincerely,

Nadine Kaina, Chair