



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNANIMOUSLY PASS UPDATED TOBACCO ORDINANCES FOR
SLO COUNTY UNINCORPORATED**

San Luis Obispo, CA- On January 14, 2020, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed amendments on two tobacco ordinances to ban electronic cigarettes and to expand the secondhand smoke ordinance. This will directly affect the unincorporated jurisdictions in San Luis Obispo County.

The ordinance amending Title 8, Chapter 8.23 of the County Code will prohibit the sale of electronic smoking devices in the unincorporated areas of the County. The ordinance amending Title 8, Chapter 8.22 of the County Code will prohibit smoking in all public areas in the unincorporated areas of the County. The amended ordinances will go into effect on February 13, 2020.

County Health Officer, Dr. Penny Borenstein, M.D, MPH, applauded the Board of Supervisors for passing both ordinance amendments stating, "the approval of the ordinances mark a historic, and unfortunately, necessary action to protect the health of our residents against the continued evolution of smoking. The ordinances will further the health and wellbeing of our community, especially youth, by limiting tobacco and nicotine exposure in two important ways: reducing exposure to second hand smoke and reducing availability of e-cigarette devices."

In an effort to protect the youth of our community from a lifetime of addiction, the e-cigarette ban is intended to help curb the rapid rise of youth usage and reduce the initiation of e- cigarettes. The Board of Supervisors move to ban the sale of e-cigarettes follows a similar policy adopted by Arroyo Grande in November. E-cigarette use among youth has reached epidemic proportions, both nationally and according to local statistics: In 2018: San Luis Obispo County statistics indicated that 22% of 11th Grade students reported use of e-cigarettes in the past 30 days, with 72% of them reporting that e-cigarettes are easy or very easy to get.

For more information or details on the amended ordinances, visit www.slocounty.ca.gov and/or 805-781-5500.

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