



**COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Date: July 1, 2008

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Policy Change for Smoking on County Property:
County of Riverside Ordinance No. 866**

Effective June 1, 2007, County Ordinance No. 866 changed the policy in regard to smoking on County owned or leased property. The ordinance states:

“Smoking is prohibited on all County Property, whether enclosed or unenclosed, except in a Smoking Area. Any violation of this chapter is deemed an infraction, punishable by a fine of twenty-five dollars. A second violation of this chapter shall be punishable by a fine of fifty dollars. The third and any additional violations perpetrated by the same person shall constitute a misdemeanor offense and shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or six months in jail, or both.”

This ordinance is intended to protect nonsmokers to the maximum extent possible from the health hazard, annoyance and discomfort of secondhand smoke in public places. This ordinance is intended to be supplemental to Government Code section 7597 and Board of Supervisors Policy A-23 which already prohibits smoking in public buildings.

Facilities Management in collaboration with the County’s Tobacco Control Project will begin designating “smoking areas” this month. Until signage is posted, employees must adhere to the California law which states that smokers must stay at least 20 feet from building entrances. Once areas are designated, violations will be enforced by Ordinance Enforcement Officers.

For questions about Ordinance No. 866 or attending smoking cessation classes, please call the County’ Health Promotion and Professional Development Branch at 951.358.4977.

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