

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553-1293

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Contra Costa County



David J. Twa
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

November 3, 2009

Dr. William Walker, MD
Director
Contra Costa Health Services
50 Douglas Drive, Ste 300
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Dr Walker:

The Board of Supervisors is delighted to support Contra Costa's application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Communities Putting Prevention to Work initiative to address obesity and physical activity in our communities.

The Board of Supervisors has taken a strong leadership position in promoting ordinances and policies to improve the health of county residents, beginning with the first uniform ordinance in the country restricting smoking in the work place and public places in our county and all 18 cities in 1984, and continuing with supporting local farm- to- city efforts by declaring June "Buy Fresh, Buy Local," Month. In June the Board joined all 19 other Contra Costa Cities in the "Wellness City Challenge," resolving to adopt an Action Plan of practical, affordable and healthy nutrition guidelines.

The Contra Costa Board has been a leader in California in recognizing and addressing the epidemic of obesity and adopted a county-wide Childhood Obesity Prevention Plan in 2006. The Board of Supervisors promoted the work of community coalitions like Healthy and Active Before Five, and worked in partnership with Kaiser and others to sponsor an Obesity Summit in 2008, which developed a community-wide Obesity Action Plan. The Board monitors the progress of the Plan through regular reports and discussion at Board meetings and supports important policy efforts, including endorsing the state bill requiring menu labeling in chain restaurants and lobbying the legislature and Governor for its successful passage.

The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of community planning and the built environment on health. In February 2007, the BOS directed the Departments of Conservation and Development (Planning), Health Services, and Public Works to form a Planning Integration Team for Community Health (PITCH) to address issues of the built environment and public health. PITCH reports regularly through the Smart Growth Committee of the BOS, and has implemented a "complete streets" policy and a Bay Point Healthy

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Community Pilot Program, among other activities. Health Services is now also working with the Redevelopment Agency. The PITCH Board Order has been distributed nationally by academics and state and national public health groups as a model for local planners and health departments.

Contra Costa needs to set an example through county government. We have a policy, approved by the Board in 1993 requiring healthy options like fruit to be served at any event county programs schedule. In December 2004, we approved a policy requiring any food or beverage sold in vending machines on county owned, operated or leased properties meet nutritional guidelines. Our hospital and clinics grounds are all non-smoking areas, and our health facilities are all becoming sweetened beverage-free zones.

Contra Costa and our Health Services Department project staff will comply with all the reporting requirements of this project.

We look forward to working with Health Services and its coalition and partners as you bring forward additional policies and proposals to prevent obesity. We are particularly aware of the major role sweetened beverages like soda play in obesity, and we are eager to work with you to address that issue.

Sincerely,

SUSAN BONILLA, Chair
Board of Supervisors