



SUTTER COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Public Health Division



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**American Lung Association Report Card:
Local Tobacco Control Grade**

Sutter County – The American Lung Association (ALA) in California released its annual local control grades for all 480 cities and unincorporated areas of California's 58 counties in January 2011. Local grades are awarded in three categories: smokefree outdoor air, smokefree housing and reducing sales of tobacco products. These three grades are averaged for one overall local tobacco control grade.

Sutter County received an overall grade of "F". Some points were awarded for the City of Yuba City prohibiting smoking in parks or other recreation areas, allowing the incorporated city to receive a grade "D" in the smokefree outdoor air category.

Michele Blake, Project Director of the Sutter County Tobacco Control Program, did anticipate a low grade for not having local laws in place for reducing the sales of tobacco products to minors, an area in which she says work is just in the beginning stages in the community. Keeping tobacco out of the hands of minors is an important measure to help prevent them from embarking on a lifelong addiction.

Sutter County Tobacco Control Program will continue community efforts to reduce outdoor smoke exposure. On December 9, 2010, the Surgeon General's Report released important new information that indicates there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Breathing even a little secondhand smoke can be harmful to your health. The science now demonstrates just how deadly cigarettes are and how quickly they can damage your body. Kathleen Sebelius, US Secretary of Health and Human Services, states, "The largest impacts (to reduce the deadly effect of cigarette use) come when we increase tobacco prices, ban smoking in public places, offer affordable and accessible cessation treatments and services, and combine media campaigns with other initiatives."

For help with quitting tobacco, please call 1-800-NO-BUTTS or contact Sutter County Tobacco Control Program at 530 822 7215 or visit www.suttercounty.org/publichealth

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