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Health and Human Services

Division of Public Health

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Rental housing industry honors Tobacco Control Coalition for promoting smoke-free housing

SACRAMENTO, CA – The Rental Housing Association of Sacramento Valley has given the Sacramento County Tobacco Control Coalition its annual partnership award for the coalition's efforts to encourage apartment owners and property managers to offer smoke-free units.

Since its inception in 2005, the coalition and its partners have worked with the rental association to establish a website, www.smokefreerental.com, which lists smoke-free apartments; created an online training course on how to implement nonsmoking policies; and educated rental owners and property managers on the benefits of offering partial or complete smoke-free apartment communities.

The partnership persuaded owners and managers of more than 5,000 rental units in the Sacramento area to adopt smoke-free policies. Smoke-free policies help to protect babies, young children, seniors and people with respiratory conditions from exposure to second-hand smoke, which can travel into patios, windows, and vents in apartment communities.

The Tobacco Control Coalition is staffed by Sacramento County Public Health with funding from the California Tobacco Control Program.

"Implementing nonsmoking policies in rental housing has been a contentious issue in other communities, but in Sacramento County, we've worked closely with the Tobacco Coalition to show rental housing owners the advantages of having non-smoking policies in properties they own," said Jim Lofgren, Executive Director of the Rental Housing Association.

"“Smoking is the number-one cause of preventable death in the United States,” said County Health Officer Glennah Trochet, M.D. “This partnership shows that it is possible to work together with the business community to address this serious public health issue.”

More people in the U.S. die from tobacco-related illness than perish from AIDS, car accidents, illegal drugs, murders, and suicide combined. The Tobacco Control Coalition advocates for policy changes which support smoke-free environments.

