

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

**For Immediate Release: April 24, 2015**

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### ***Turlock Kicks Off Parks Season by Protecting Kids from Secondhand Smoke***

The City of Turlock is kicking off this year's parks season by protecting kids, families, and parks visitors from secondhand smoke exposure by adopting a resolution that prohibits the use of all tobacco products (including electronic vaping devices) in all Turlock parks and public facilities. The city will celebrate the adoption of the resolution during the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual NAKLand Children's Health Fair scheduled for **Sunday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Columbia Park** (595 High Street, Turlock). **A special media event will be held at 11:30 a.m.** to kick-off the new resolution, with city and community leaders. "The Girl Scouts did a great job leading this effort to make our parks healthy and tobacco-free," said Turlock Councilmember Matthew Jacob. "We are excited to take this important step to protect the health of our community."

Girl Scouts Troop 3289 championed the resolution that was adopted in January, by presenting to city leaders and community members to express the importance of protecting youth and other parks visitors from secondhand smoke. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke even in outdoor areas.

Tobacco free parks also help adults model healthy behaviors for kids and reduce the amount of tobacco litter. Over the past three years, Stanislaus Advocacy Action Team (StAAT) Project volunteers and members of the Protecting Health And Slamming Tobacco (PHAST)

Youth Coalition have collected more than 65,000 cigarette butts in parks across the county. More than 7,000 of these were found in Turlock by PHAST club members from Turlock and Pitman High Schools.

The StAAT Project is grant-funded by the California Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control Program and coordinated by the **Stanislaus County Office of Education Prevention Programs department**. The project strives to educate the community about advocacy and raise awareness about smoke free outdoor areas.

For more information on the StAAT project visit [www.stancoe.org/go/StAAT](http://www.stancoe.org/go/StAAT).

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