E-Cigarettes in San Mateo County

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Presentation to the North Fair Oaks Community Council

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Presentation Objectives

- General background on e-cigarettes
- E-cigarette use in San Mateo County
- Recent developments in media
- Proposed ordinance provisions
Also called E-cigs, vapes, e-hookahs, vape pens, electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)

Available in the US starting in the mid-2000’s; by 2014, e-cigs were the most commonly used tobacco product among middle and high school students

Current cigarette use for high school students in San Mateo County is 3.1%. The current e-cigarette use rate for SMC high school students is 20.8%
Concerns about E-Cigarettes

- Research not complete on effectiveness for quitting smoking (not FDA approved)
- Can be used to deliver cannabis or other drugs
- Virtually all e-cigarettes sold today entered the market after 2007 and have not been reviewed by the FDA to determine if they are appropriate for public health
E-Products: What do they look like?
What is in the Aerosol?

The e-cigarette aerosol that users breathe from the device and exhale can contain harmful and potentially harmful substances:

- **Volatile Organic Compounds**
- **Ultrafine Particles**
- **Nicotine**
- **Cancer-causing Chemicals**
- **Heavy Metals such as Nickel, Tin, and Lead**
- **Flavoring such as Diacetyl, a chemical linked to a serious lung disease**

Source: CDC
Are E-Cigarettes Less Harmful than Regular Cigarettes?

- Contain fewer than the 7,000 chemicals in cigarette smoke, but
- E-cig aerosol contains harmful substances including nicotine, volatile organic compounds, and cancer-causing agents
- And...
E-cigs can have Unintended Consequences

- Batteries have caused fires and explosions.
- Acute nicotine exposure can be toxic. Children and adults have been poisoned by swallowing, breathing, or absorbing e-cigarette liquid (CDC).
Recent Developments in the Media

- Researchers find e-cigarettes cause lung cancer in mice in first study tying vaping to cancer (NYU)
- Kroger supermarkets and Walgreens pharmacies will no longer sell e-cigarettes, citing regulatory uncertainty
- As of Oct. 15th, 1,479 lung injury cases across US were associated with use of e-cigarettes
- Thirty-three deaths in 24 states (3 in California) confirmed with more under investigation
Ordinance Provisions
No person, tobacco retailer, or other entity shall sell or distribute any electronic cigarette to a person in unincorporated San Mateo County unless the electronic cigarette:

- Is a New Tobacco Product which requires premarket review under 21 U.S.C. section 387j;
- Is covered by a premarket review and approval under 21 U.S.C. section 387j (c)(1)(A)(i);
- Is not a flavored tobacco product prohibited by Chapter 4.99 of the San Mateo County Code.
Effective 30 days after enacted
Operative and enforceable 6 months after effective date
Ordinance Process

- Letters sent out to retailers in unincorporated areas of San Mateo County week of Oct. 7th
- Presentation to the Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council Oct. 8th
- In-person visits to coastside retailers
- NFOCC Review and Recommendation, October 24, 2019
- First reading November 5, 2019
Thank You!

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