

## *For Immediate Release*



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## Los Altos: New Smoking Ordinance Bans Smoking in Outdoor Dining Areas

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LOS ALTOS, CA -

On March 27, 2018, Los Altos City Council, with a unanimous vote of 4-0, passed a smoke-free environments ordinance. [View the discussion at the meeting for more information.](#)

The ordinance includes prohibiting smoking in public places, public events, outdoor dining areas, recreational areas, service areas, Civic Center Campus, and areas of the Downtown Triangle. Additionally, smoking is prohibited 25 feet from enclosed areas and unenclosed areas where smoking is prohibited. Previously, Los Altos only prohibited smoking in some areas of the Downtown Triangle and recreation areas, in recognition of the U.S. Surgeon General's pronouncement that there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure.

The definition of smoking in the ordinance includes electronic smoking devices and cannabis. Research shows that secondhand aerosol from electronic smoking devices is not simply harmless water vapor, but also contains toxins and high concentration of ultrafine particles. Exposure to the ultrafine particles has been linked to heart attacks and can also worsen respiratory issues, such as asthma.

In collaboration with the Los Altos Village Association, Breathe California of the Bay Area conducted a Public Opinion Survey at the 2017 Los Altos Art and Wine Festival. Of those surveyed, 88% of respondents preferred to visit a restaurant with a no-smoking outdoor dining policy and would support an ordinance to ban tobacco use in outdoor dining patios.

Breathe California will be working with the City of Los Altos to support the implementation of the ordinance, including the maintenance of a Secondhand Smoke Helpline that can be reached at 408-999-0500. Those with questions,

complaints or other issues regarding secondhand smoke are encouraged to call the helpline to learn what they can do to safeguard their health. The Secondhand Smoke Helpline provides callers with solutions to problems posed by exposure to secondhand smoke or electronic cigarette emissions/aerosol. Breathe California will also inform responsible parties, such as restaurant owners, about complaints of smoking and tobacco use on their premises, while keeping the identities of complainants anonymous. Education will be provided via telephone or in-person visits.

### ***About Breathe California of the Bay Area***

Breathe California is a 501© 3 non-profit organization that is dedicated to fighting lung disease, and to advocating for clean air and a tobacco-free tomorrow through education, patient support, research and advocacy. Breathe California offers tobacco prevention and cessation programs for individuals, and assistance to organizations that want to implement new tobacco control practices.

For help to implement a smoke-free environment in your organization or city, contact Michelle Lam at (408) 998-5865 or [michellel@lungsrus.org](mailto:michellel@lungsrus.org)

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