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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**City Approves Smoke-free Parks**

The city of Corona has approved a policy prohibiting tobacco products from all city parks. It is now a violation and illegal to smoke any tobacco products from curbside to curbside at all parks within the city. Californian's overwhelmingly support smoke-free outdoor areas: 88% of Californians support smoke-free playgrounds; 82% of Californians support smoke-free zones at sports stadiums, amusement parks, zoos and fairgrounds.

Over 4.5 trillion cigarettes are littered worldwide each year. They are the most littered item in the world. Cigarette butts are non-biodegradable and the filter tips take many years to decompose. In 1995, the American Association of Poison Control Centers received 7,917 reports of nicotine ingestion among children under age six. Soon after eating a tobacco product, a child will show signs of poisoning. Although many will vomit and recover, some will experience severe effects such as irregular heartbeat and seizures.

The County of Riverside, Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control Project, congratulates the city of Corona for promoting healthier and cleaner city parks for the enjoyment and safety of families and children.

For more information on smoke-free parks, please call the County of Riverside, Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control Project at (951) 358-7153.

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