Dear {Decision Maker / Elected Official},

Thank you for this opportunity to provide public input on the upcoming {General Plan / Housing Element / Environmental Justice Element / Safety Element}.

Community health and business success are closely related. Companies depend on communities to provide healthy employees, consumers, and business partners. Communities depend on companies to offer jobs, stability, and opportunities to create wealth. Both must thrive if either is to be strong.

Our {organization / chamber / EDC} supports the inclusion of language and goals in the {General Plan / Housing Element / Environmental Justice Element / Safety Element} that address the overall health of all our community members for the following reasons:

- Businesses pay 20% of the nation's medical care costs through providing health insurance to employees and their dependents.[i] Poor health habits, such as smoking commercial tobacco, add additional costs to employers. (Best estimate annual costs are $5,816[ii])
- Three behaviors (No physical activity, poor diet and tobacco use) contribute to four diseases (cancer, heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes and lung disease) which account for more than 50% of the deaths in California.[iii]
- While individual behavior is a contributing factor to poor health, 80 - 90% of health outcomes are the results of conditions in communities.[iv] Most of these conditions can be addressed through planning and policies.

Disadvantaged communities are at higher risk for poor health outcomes. Lack of access to education, jobs, healthy housing, and clean air and water are underlying causes of illness, injury and disease that are found in concert with health risk factors such as commercial tobacco and nicotine product use, inactivity, and exposure to violence. All of this impacts our

community's ability to have a strong, resilient, and ready workforce, which is crucial to our economic success.

We encourage you to consider community health in all planning and policy decisions. In particular, we would like you to consider:

- Creating conditions for easy access to green spaces and healthy foods in *all* neighborhoods.
- Creating secondhand and thirdhand smoke and vapor protections for families through smoke- and vapor-free multi-unit housing (apartments, condominiums, duplexes and other shared wall living spaces) and smoke- and vapor-free public spaces, including parks, parking lots and other shared spaces.
- Limiting the number of tobacco and vape retailers in our community to the California average of 2 per 2,500 residents.
- Restricting tobacco and vape retailers within 1,000 feet of youth friendly locations, such as parks, schools, and activity centers.

If you would like more information about specific policies and language, visit NorCal 4 Health at www.NorCal4Health.org or ChangeLab Solutions at www.ChangeLabsSolutions.org.

Thank you, again for this opportunity to have input in this important process.


Sincerely,

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[i] Community Health and Economic Prosperity The Problem, the Causes, the Opportunities, and the Solutions—At a Glance. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. January, 2021.

[ii] Berman M, Crane R, Seiber E, et al. Tob Control 2014; 23:428–433.

iii https://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/media/en/gsfs_general.pdf

iv Hood, C. M., Gennuso, K. P., Swain, G. R., & Catlin, B. B. (2016). County health rankings: Relationships between determinant factors and health outcomes. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 50(2), 129–135. Retrieved from: https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/chep-sgr-causes-health-disadvantage-fs3.pdf