

**Health Commission
Resolution No. 13-13**

**ENDORISING AN ORDINANCE TO UPDATE SF HEALTH CODE ARTICLE 38, ENHANCED VENTILATION
REQUIRED FOR URBAN INFILL SENSITIVE USE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AIR POLLUTANT EXPOSURE ZONE,
AND CORRESPONDING DIRECTOR'S RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Whereas it is the mission of the Department of Public Health to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans, including the implementation of public health strategies that promote health equity;

Whereas scientific studies have found an association between exposure to particulate matter and significant human health problems, including: aggravated asthma; chronic bronchitis; reduced lung function; irregular heartbeat; heart attack; and premature death in people with heart or lung disease; and whereas exposure to air pollutants that are carcinogens can also have significant human health consequences;

Whereas exposure to outdoor air pollutants may be a contributing factor to the leading causes of death recorded for San Francisco's population, which are ischemic heart disease; lung, bronchus and tracheal cancers; cerebrovascular disease; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; hypertensive heart disease and lower respiratory infection;

Whereas the San Francisco Community Health Improvement Plan and the Population Health Division's Strategic Plan includes the priority to ensure safe and healthy living environments, including the goal of reducing the proportion of San Francisco's population exposed to air pollution;

Whereas the Environmental Health Branch has collaborated with the City's Planning Department and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to update the methodology used to identify zones with outdoor air pollutants of concern, including busy roadways, area and stationary sources;

Whereas the BAAQMD CARE Program has analyzed data for the nine-county region, identifying five zip codes in San Francisco that are among the worst quintile of Bay Area health vulnerability scores, based on two years of State-captured hospitalization and emergency room visit records and estimated costs for various air pollution related conditions combined with the non-accident mortality rate;

Whereas the proposed air pollutant modeling criteria has included a provision to extend Article 38 protections to additional areas within the five San Francisco zip codes with more health vulnerable populations;

Whereas SF Health Code Article 38 currently defines requirements for the development of greater than 10 units of infill housing near busy roadways to model anticipated exposure to particulate matter of 2.5 micron size and smaller and based on modeling results, for a professional engineer to sign off on proposed enhanced ventilation that would reduce such particulate exposure by 80 per cent;

Whereas the Board of Supervisors in considering an ordinance which amends Health Code Article 38 to allow the Department of Public Health to redefine its air pollutant modeling criteria, to use these criteria to provide updates to a designated Air Pollutant Exposure Zone at least every five years, to clarify the required performance standards for Enhanced Ventilation proposals for the development of any infill

housing or sensitive use developments located within the Air Pollutant Exposure Zone, regardless of the number of units, and to provide oversight and enforcement to ensure the public health protections required by Article 38; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Health Commission endorses the Ordinance amending Article 38 of the Health Code and its accompanying Director's Rules and Regulations; and

Further Resolved, that the Health Commission forwards this resolution to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting of December 17, 2013, adopted the foregoing resolution.

Mark Morewitz
Executive Secretary to the Health Commission