

## PUBLIC OPINIONS ON SMOKE-FREE OUTDOOR AREA POLICIES

### There is Strong Support for Smoke-Free Outdoor Areas

Many cities and counties in California are working to protect their residents from the dangers of secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure by passing ordinances that limit smoking in outdoor areas, especially in places where people congregate. 75.8% of Californians agree that outdoor dining areas should be smoke-free; 74.9% of Californians agree that smoking should not be allowed in outdoor entertainment settings. Californians visit parks, attend public events, dine outdoors, and use service areas such as ATM lines and bus stops only to find themselves and their children exposed to toxic SHS and cigarette litter.

### Secondhand Smoke is Dangerous

The dangers of SHS are well documented, especially for children and adults with respiratory disease, pregnant women and the elderly. The California Air Resources Board has put SHS in the same category as the most toxic automotive and industrial air pollutants by categorizing it as a toxic air contaminant. A recent study concluded that the levels of exposure to SHS outdoors can be comparable to SHS smoke exposure indoors.

### Cigarette Litter is Harmful

86.8% of respondents said tobacco litter is a problem. Discarded cigarette butts can take up to 10 years to disintegrate. Cigarette litter damages the environment and poses a hazard to children, pets and wildlife that may pick up or swallow these cigarette butts. Recreation areas suffer from cigarette trash but also from the risk of fire. In May 2007, a fire started by a discarded cigarette butt in Griffith Park in Los Angeles burned over 800 acres of land.

### Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Outdoor Areas

- 92.0% of respondents have been exposed to SHS in outdoor areas.
- 89.3% of respondents believe that SHS in outdoor areas is harmful to their health.
- Due to the exposure to SHS in outdoor areas, 86.3% of respondents moved to another location, 18.5% asked the smoker to move away, 66.2% left earlier than planned, and 18.7% asked the smoker to stop smoking.

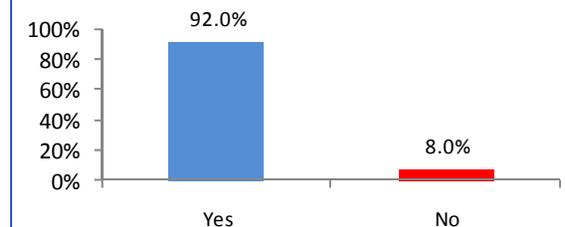
### Characteristics of the Survey

This report is based on data collected from residents of Manhattan Beach between August 2010 and December 2011.

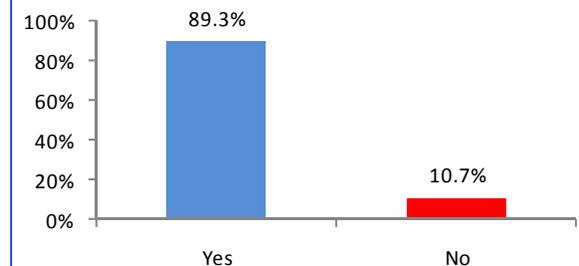
534 Manhattan Beach residents completed the survey, whose age distribution represents the general Manhattan Beach population. Also, the survey respondents were of varied sex, racial/ethnic groups, and tobacco use status. 10.6% of the respondents were current tobacco users and 89.4% were non-tobacco users.

Please keep in mind that this is not a scientific survey, hence findings may not be representative of all Manhattan Beach residents.

### Exposure to Secondhand Smoke in Outdoor Areas



### Belief that Secondhand Smoke is Harmful to Your Health



## PUBLIC OPINIONS ON SMOKE-FREE OUTDOOR AREA POLICIES

### Support for Smoke-Free Outdoor Areas

- Among different outdoor areas, more than 80% of the respondents would favor a law that would ban smoking in service areas (82.1%), at public parks (82.8%), around doorways and windows (84.5%), on dining patios (87.2%), and at public events (87.3%).
- 56.1% of respondents would feel more comfortable asking someone to stop smoking in an outdoor area if it were illegal.
- 75.8% of respondents would dine outdoors more often if it was smoke-free. 35.7% of current smokers and 78.3% of non-smokers would dine outdoors more often if it was smoke-free.

