



## Matrix of Smokefree Housing Authority Policies in Rural California

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Smokefree multi-unit housing is the next frontier in California's ongoing effort to protect its citizens from the harmful health effects of secondhand smoke. Although California has made great progress in getting secondhand smoke out of workplaces, many Californians living in multi-unit housing are breathing secondhand smoke drifting from neighboring units, balconies and outdoor areas. Although rural areas have higher rates of smoking and reported exposure to secondhand smoke, smokefree housing policies in rural communities have not gained the same traction as they have in other areas of the state. This leaves residents of multi-unit housing in rural communities without the same protections as other Californians.

One place where there has been success in rural California however, is in housing for low income residents run by local housing authorities. In 2011 the US Department of Housing and Urban Development released a memo encouraging owners and managers of rental assistance programs to implement smokefree housing policies. Since then, there has been an increase in the number of housing authorities across California that have gone smokefree, including in rural areas.

Smokefree policies have been adopted by twenty-four California housing authorities, and four of those are in rural communities, as defined by the California Tobacco Control Program. This matrix details the policies that rural housing authorities across the state have adopted. It includes information about implementation timelines, provisions for units and common areas, disclosure and enforcement. The housing authorities on this document all prohibit smoking within at least some of their units, ensuring that their residents are protected from the harmful effects of drifting secondhand smoke.

For specific questions about a city or county policy, please contact the Center. Additional smokefree housing materials produced by the American Lung Association in California Center for Tobacco Policy & Organizing are available at [www.Center4TobaccoPolicy.org/localpolicies-smokefreehousing](http://www.Center4TobaccoPolicy.org/localpolicies-smokefreehousing).

| Community/Date Passed                                   | Length of Implementation Period  | Units  | Common Areas  | Enforcement Provisions   |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <b>City of Madera</b><br>September 2013/<br>August 2002 | New: January 1, 2014<br><br>Existing: January 1, 2014                                | Prohibits smoking in 100% of units   | Prohibits smoking in all indoor and outdoor common areas and entryways.   | A violation of this policy may be considered a material breach and grounds for immediate termination of the lease.                             |
| <b>City of Imperial Valley</b><br>March 2013            | New: Immediately<br><br>Existing: Immediately  | Prohibits smoking in 100% of units.  | Prohibits smoking in all indoor and outdoor common areas and entryways.   | Repeated violations of this policy may be considered material noncompliance with lease requirement and may result in termination of the lease. |
| <b>City of Eureka</b><br>January 2013                   | New: Immediately<br><br>Existing: Immediately  | Prohibits smoking in 100% of units.  | Prohibits smoking in all indoor and outdoor common areas, including patios and decks.   | A violation of this policy may be considered a material breach and grounds for immediate termination of the lease.                             |
| <b>Plumas County</b><br>July 2008                       | New: 1 year<br><br>Existing: 1 year<br><br>Current smokers are not grandfathered in. | Prohibits smoking in 100% of units.<br><br>Any units that become vacant before July 1, 2009 were declared nonsmoking when a new lease was signed.<br><br>Low literacy cessation services will be offered to all residents. | Allows smoking outside but encourages residents to keep away from windows and doorways.<br><br>Designated smoking areas with weather covers will be created at each location. |  |